

Short report on HEPEX meeting in Beijing, China, October 22-24, 2012

Thursday, 08 November 2012

HEPEX conducted a successful well-organized meeting in Beijing and enjoyed a large number of scientific presentations and energetic discussions related to ensemble prediction. The HEPEX organizers and attendees are grateful to our hosts and sponsors, which included Beijing Normal University, the National Meteorological Center of Chinese Meteorological Administration and the Bureau of Hydrology of the Ministry of Water Resources.

One outcome of the meeting is that HEPEX is now working towards an updated science plan - watch this space for more details. Other HEPEX specific outcomes included the following:

- HEPEX governance: The HEPEX community is still active but requires a more structured approach for the coming years to sustain the momentum of prior years and to focus the research activities and outcomes. The leading co-chairs (JRC, NOAA and ECMWF) remain but the leadership group will expand to include regional chairs representing the different continents. The regions loosely follow the geographic/administrative divisions of WMO. The role of the regional chairs is to act as focal points and to liaison with and grow HEPEX-related activities within the region.

Regional chairs: Prof. Duan (BNU) will be leading the region Asia which represents a strong support for HEPEX. QJ Wang (CSIRO) will be leading the Oceania region and M.H. Ramos (IRSTEA) will be regional chair for Europe. So far South America has been little represented in HEPEX and Africa not at all. Efforts will be made to improve that over the next two years.

- Improved communication and dissemination: We will add features to the HEPEX webpage such as mapping centres where ensemble prediction is being operationally used (called case studies). This will be accompanied with a short description of how the systems are being run. We hope that this recognition promotes the use of ensembles in operations.
- Summary of achievements so far: In order to demonstrate what has been achieved in HEPEX so far, a summary of the existing and expired testbeds and case studies will be made and put on the HEPEX webpage. Also, a leaflet, a brief 2-3 page summary of HEPEX aims, objectives, achievements and future goals are going to be produced and put on the HEPEX webpage.
- Links to other programmes: There was consensus that HEPEX should develop more straightforward ties with other programmes such as the research initiatives within WMO, and in particular, GEWEX. These would augment HEPEX's framework for international interactions and provide greater context to support research funding applications. To facilitate promotion of HEPEX to

complementary programs and initiatives, HEPEX will work to focus its mission statement and scientific objectives and to present a clear concept to potential partners.

- Update on WMO-hosted HEPEX expert workshop and guidelines: J.Thielen reported that WMO has not fully responded to overtures to WMO (the Hydrology and Water Resources Branch of the Climate and Water Department) regarding holding an HEPEX expert workshop at Geneva. The rationale for the meeting was to demonstrate HEPEX progress to various programme managers including GEWEX, World Climate Research Programme, WMO Hydrology Commission, etc. J. Thielen will revive the idea and propose to hold the workshop next year. The proposed outcome of the meeting would be to design guidance documents on the use of ensemble prediction systems, a document that could then be distributed via WMO.

Next workshop: The next international conference is being tentatively planned for 2014, with potential locations including the United States and England among others. The 2014 meeting would celebrate the 10th anniversary of HEPEX. Preparations for the workshop will begin in 2013. Efforts will be made to invite a balanced audience for this workshop including scientists, decision makers and policy makers as well as striking a balance between meteorologists, hydrologists and other disciplines such as earth observation, modelling, etc.