

MEETINGS

Year of Tropical Convection

The IPRC hosted the *Year of Tropical Convection Implementation Planning Meeting* July 13–15, 2009, at the East-West Center. A joint initiative of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme, the “Year of Tropical Convection” (YOTC) began August 1, 2008. The initiative calls for an extended period of coordinated observing, modeling, and forecasting with a focus on organized tropical convection, its prediction, and predictability (<http://www.ucar.edu/yotc/index.html>).

A central component of the project is the preparation of high-resolution global reanalysis data sets during YOTC by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), the US National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), and the NASA Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO). These centers will also conduct experimental extended-range forecasts for the YOTC period. NASA will provide a special portal to access relevant satellite data (e.g., NASA A-Train, TRMM, geostationary) using the NASA “Giovanni” web-based interface.

The July workshop provided a forum to review relevant field programs that overlap the YOTC period, such as the VAMOS Ocean-Cloud-Atmosphere-Land Study (VOCALS), the Asian Monsoon Year (AMY), and the THORPEX Pacific

Asian Regional Campaign (T-PARC). Although the focus is on tropical convection and its effects, the reanalyses and other data products produced for YOTC will have wide application in weather and climate research.

The July meeting identified specific events that occurred during the YOTC period and that will be targets for special analysis, for example active MJO phases, tropical easterly waves and tropical cyclones. Specific modeling and analysis projects to be conducted as part of YOTC were also discussed. These projects include 5-day initialized forecasts for each day of the YOTC period. The forecasts are to use a wide range of climate models; some experimental forecasts are to use very fine-resolution global models.

Participants unanimously recommended that YOTC be extended through April 2010 to include what appears to be a developing El Niño in winter 2009–10. The extension will complement the beginning of the YOTC period when La Niña conditions prevailed.

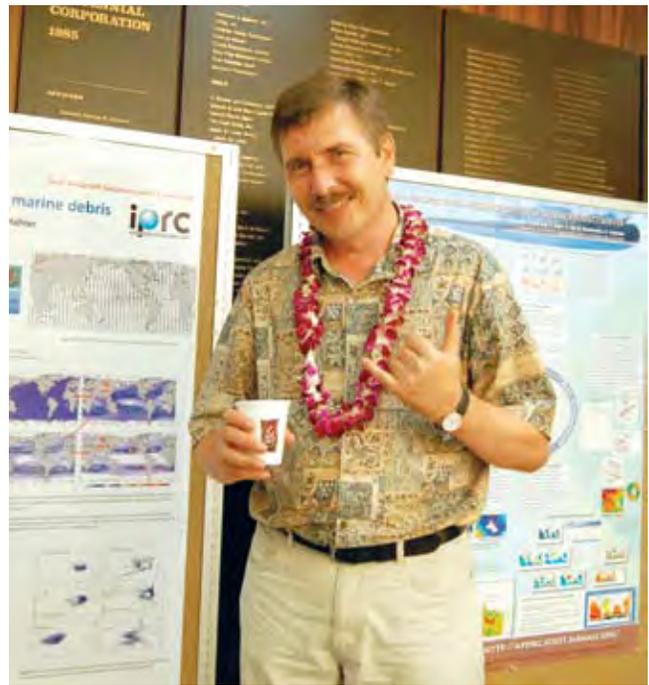
The meeting attracted 28 external participants from several countries as well as many IPRC and other University of Hawai‘i scientists. The meeting agenda can be downloaded from <http://iprc.soest.hawaii.edu/meetings/workshops.php>.



Organizers of the YOTC planning meeting from left, Jim Caughey (World Meteorological Organization), Mitch Moncrieff (NCAR), Kevin Hamilton (IPRC), and Duane Waliser (Jet Propulsion Laboratory).

9th Annual Symposium

The 9th IPRC Annual Symposium was held at the East-West Center in Honolulu June 1–2, 2009. As in previous years, the symposium featured presentations from a large number of IPRC faculty, researchers, and postdoctoral fellows, each covering a highlight of recent research efforts. This symposium had two new features: one was a poster session, which included interactive computer presentations and animations displayed on IPRC’s Magic Planet spherical projection system; the other was a webcast of the entire proceedings using the “GoToMeeting” software. This allowed web browser access to real-time audio and video-camera feeds as well as to an image of the computer screen of the presenter. The symposium was organized by an energetic committee led by IPRC Senior Researcher **Nikolai Maximenko**. The workshop agenda is at <http://iprc.soest.hawaii.edu/meetings/workshops.php>.



Symposium organizer Nikolai Maximenko at the IPRC Poster Session.



Participants at the 9th IPRC Annual Symposium.

IPRC Website Has New Design

On October 16, 2009, we launched our redesigned IPRC website, which includes a new IPRC mission statement and statements of the IPRC vision and unique role in the climate research community. Another novel feature is the presenta-

tion of our research as it is captured in our quarterly reports. We invite you to visit the redesigned site (<http://iprc.soest.hawaii.edu/>) and give us feedback on its usefulness and clarity, and how we might make it better.

