



The 4th WCRP International Conference on Reanalysis *7-11 May 2012, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA*

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The 4th WCRP International Conference on Reanalysis, held on 7-11 May 2012 in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, provided an opportunity for the global community to review and discuss the major observations and modeling research associated with reanalysis, including the current uncertainties, such as the consistency of the time series.. The conference attracted around 250 participants from 26 countries. Among the attendees 24 were students and 55 early career scientists. The daily poster sessions (see: <http://icr4.org/posters.html>) played the major role in the conference program and were complemented by comprehensive oral sessions (see: <http://icr4.org/agenda.html>)

The program explored aspects and development plans for many of the international reanalysis centers. The venue was chosen, in part, to acknowledge the three recent US based atmospheric reanalysis: NASA MERRA, NOAA NCEP CFSR and NOAA ESRL 20CR.

The week started with a welcome introduction addressed by Dr. Michael Bosilovich, Conference Chair, and Dr. Ghassem Asrar, Director of the World Climate Research Program. Of particular interest was the keynote talk by Dr. Bernard Barnier, CNRS France, that discussed the growing ocean reanalysis community - well represented during this conference. The European Geophysical Union sponsored a Young Ambassador, Brigitte Mueller from ETH Zurich, to present her latest results on Land Evapotranspiration in Reanalysis.

The program was multi-disciplinary by design and made possible the interaction among various reanalysis communities. It covered the many aspects of atmosphere, ocean, land and ice reanalysis but also the developing field of Earth System reanalysis, a comprehensive review of various user-applications and an in-depth discussions on data assimilation, the statistical technique to merge models and observations into reanalysis.

The conference ended with a panel discussion on Agencies Priorities with representatives from DOE, EC, ECMWF, ESA, JMA, NASA, NOAA and NSF. The panel, chaired by Dr. Asrar, took account of the outcome of the sessions held during the week and discussed the following topics with the audience:

- Current and future plans, programs and priorities for developing and/or fostering the use of reanalysis products

- Agency perspectives on associated opportunities and challenges so as to develop a common understanding
- Requirements of agencies/entities and the scientific community to fulfill their respective mission
- How the agencies and the scientific community can sustain each other in this process in a collaborative way.

The output of conference will be a WCRP report on reanalysis highlights, challenges and way ahead based on inputs from the various senior and junior teams who have contributed to the conference reporting effort. The report will be open to the community for inputs, review and comments.



Agency Priorities: Open Panel discussion with the Conference Participants