



Announcement

Twelfth Session of the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-12) Pune, India, 13-20 April 2018

South Asia is home to about one fourth of the world's population and occupies only 3% of the global land area, making it both the most populous and the most densely populated geographical region in the world. The weather and climate of South Asia is dominated by the South-West monsoon. Almost 70-80% of the total annual rainfall occurs during the monsoon season (June–September) and the monsoon greatly affects the socio-economic sectors of the countries of this region. Seasonal to inter-annual variability of monsoon rainfall, both in amount and distribution, often results in severe droughts or floods over this densely populated region, with large-scale impacts on the agrarian societies in terms of agricultural production and food security. As there is a strong link between the impacts of the summer monsoon and the overall economic condition of South Asian countries, in order to plan and implement programmes to encourage sustainable economic growth, South Asia requires ever more accurate and reliable information about the monsoon as well as early warnings about monsoon activity.

The monsoon is a strongly coupled phenomenon in which ocean, atmosphere and large land area are integral components of the system. The science behind the South Asian monsoon and its variability on different time and space scales is quite complex and monsoon prediction is still considered to be a difficult problem. That said, the last few decades have seen remarkable advances in the understanding and prediction with more lead time of several aspects of the monsoon, mainly the rainfall strength and its pattern.

Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) are being conducted in many parts of the world with the aim of providing consensus seasonal climate information on a regional scale. In line with the goals of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), RCOFs also provide an opportunity for the providers of climate services and sectoral users to interact in order to strengthen the use of climate services in sectoral decision-making. The South Asian Seasonal Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF) was established in 2010 by the South Asian members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Since 2010, SASCOF sessions have been organized every year just prior to the summer monsoon season. Given the large benefits derived from the annual summer SASCOFs, the first winter SASCOF was organized in October 2015. Based on the recommendation of SASCOF-, capacity building training workshop for participants from South Asia was started from SASCOF-2. Conducting of Climate Services User Forums In conjunction with SASCOF forum meeting was started in 2014. The Table below presents various events conducted associated with all the 11 sessions of SASCOF in brief.

Year (SASCOF Session) & Place	Associated Events Held with Duration	Main Sponsors
2010 (1) Pune, India	Main Forum Meeting, 13-15 April	India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
2011 (2) Pune, India	Main Forum Meeting: 13-15 April & Training Workshop (TW) in Seasonal Prediction: 8-12 April	IMD, IITM, WMO
2012 (3) Pune, India	Main Forum Meeting, 19-20 April & TW in Seasonal Prediction: 16-18, April	IMD, IITM, WMO
2013(4) Kathmandu, Nepal	Main Forum Meeting, 18-19 April TW in Seasonal Prediction: 15-17 April	Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), Nepal, IMD, WMO, NOAA-USAID
2014 (5) Pune, India	Main Forum Meeting, 22-23 April TW in Seasonal Prediction: 14-21 April, First Climate Services User Forum for the Water Sector (CSUF-Water): 23-25 April	IMD, IITM, WMO, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), New Delhi, & Department of the Environment (DoE), Government of Canada
2015 (6) Dhaka, Bangladesh	Main Forum Meeting & 2 nd CSUF-Water: 21-22 April Training Workshop (TW) in Seasonal Prediction 19-20 April	Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), IMD, WMO & DoE, Canada.
2015 (7) Chennai, India	Main Forum Meeting & First CSUF-Agriculture, 14-15 October	IMD, IITM, WMO & Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES)
2016 (8) Colombo, Sri Lanka	Main Forum Meeting, 25-26 April Training Workshop (TW) in Seasonal Prediction 19-23 April 3 rd CSUF-Water and 1 st CSUF-Health: 27-28 April	Department of Meteorology (DoM), Sri Lanka, IMD, WMO & DoE, Canada.
2016 (9) Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Main Forum Meeting & 2 nd CSUF-Agriculture, 27-29 September	Department of Meteorology & Hydrology (DMH), Myanmar, IMD, WMO, RIMES & DoE, Canada
2017 (10) Thimphu, Bhutan	Main Forum Meeting, 24-26 April & 9 th International Training Workshop on Climate Variability and Prediction (9ITWCVP) at Pune, India	IMD, IITM, WMO, NOAA-USAID, RIMES & DoE, Canada
2017 (11) Male, Maldives	Main Forum Meeting, 25-27 September.	Maldives Meteorological Service, IMD, WMO, RIMES, & DoE, Canada.

The main objectives of SASCOF are the following:

1. To review the progress made in understanding and long range prediction of South Asian monsoons both regionally and globally;
2. To assess the available information on climate variability in South Asia and the associated predictions and prepare consensus-based seasonal outlooks for dissemination;
3. To provide a platform for the stakeholders to share and exchange experience and knowledge on South Asian monsoons and their prediction;
4. To initiate capacity building/human resource development activities for the South Asian region, particularly in seasonal prediction;
5. To build collaboration and partnerships among the members of SASCOF for mutual benefit;
6. To identify needs of user sectors through a dialogue among different groups.

SASCOF-12 main forum meeting will be held in Pune, India during 19-20 April 2018 and hosted by IMD & IITM with the support of WMO & RIMES. SASCOF-12 will be preceded by a Capacity Building Training Workshop on climate data management and seasonal forecasting during 13th to 18th April, 2018. SASCOF-12 is expected to provide a climate outlook for the 2018 summer monsoon season. Experts from the SASCOF member countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) as well as several regional and global experts will participate. The Forum will offer appraisals of country perspectives; assess capacity building needs; examine global and regional indicators; and generate a consensus outlook. The participating national climate experts will receive guidance in using, interpreting and downscaling global seasonal prediction products and developing a consensus outlook.

Participation in SASCOF-12 is mainly by invitation, and by nominations from the Permanent Representatives of the respective countries with WMO as well as partner agencies, especially from user sectors. WMO and IMD are making efforts to secure resources to support the travel and local hospitality expenses of participants, but these will be very limited and participants are encouraged to find their own resources, at least to partially cover the expenses. Expressions of interest by self-supported participants, if relevant to the topics of the various sessions, may be considered subject to the availability of space.

For more details and updated information including the agenda, please visit <http://www.imdpune.gov.in/>.

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