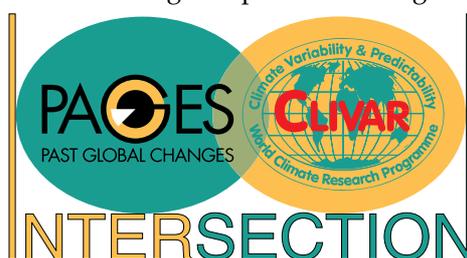


PAGES–CLIVAR Intersection

Climate variability on seasonal to century scales has inherent societal implications and importance. Climate predictability on these scales is potentially of enormous economic value. In part for these reasons, the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) has prepared a science plan for a fifteen year research program, Climate Variability and Predictability (CLIVAR). CLIVAR's task is to study climate variability and predictability and the response of the climate system to anthropogenic forcing. This task cannot be accomplished without paleodata. Although not all of PAGES data are directly relevant to the CLIVAR program, there is a substantial amount of paleoclimate data, available at annual or higher resolution, which extends the historical climate record well beyond the instrumental period and provides valuable information about past epi-

sodes of abrupt climate change. In addition, paleoclimate problems provide an excellent test for climate system models. The PAGES–CLIVAR working group, jointly established by PAGES and CLIVAR serves specifically to bring members of the modern and paleo climate dynamics communities together to formulate and promote the use of paleoclimatic information for meeting CLIVAR goals.

As this newsletter issue went to press the CLIVAR program had scheduled its inaugural public meeting for



national representatives at the UNESCO center in Paris, December 2–4. The PAGES–CLIVAR intersection will be represented there with two posters, an oral presentation by Jean Jouzel, as well as the presence of several members of the PAGES scientific steering committee in attendance. In support of this new joint initiative a website has been established (<http://www.pagesclivar.unibe.ch>). Members of the PAGES community interested in playing a role in the development of the PAGES–CLIVAR initiative are encouraged to keep abreast of developments using this website. Additional comments or requests for more detailed information should be sent to Keith Alverson.

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PEP III News

PEP III now has a scientific steering group that met recently in Gent, Belgium, to discuss strategy for the next three years. The committee includes Rick Battarbee and Françoise Gasse (joint coordinators), Keith Briffa, Stein-Erik Lauritzen, Fekri Hassan, Frank Sirocko, Eric Odada, Louis Scott, Frank Oldfield and Catherine Stickley. Catherine is a full-time administrator based in the Environmental Change Research Centre at University College London, and we hope with her help to make rapid progress in implementing PEP III plans.

With such a large number of countries involved, one of Catherine's first jobs is to help set up a network of na-

tional PEP III representatives. Their principal role will be to keep the PEP III office aware of national research developments and at the same time help to spread the PAGES/PEP III gospel.

We now have a PEP III web page and hope this will develop into the main vehicle of communication for all PEP III activities. A key task will be to set out the full PEP III implementation plan. Although this may well take some time, we hope an outline plan will be ready by the time this newsletter appears. We would like to encourage as much feedback as possible on the plan as to continue to modify and update it.

The next step will be to take advantage of the INQUA congress in Durban, South Africa, next summer to publicize PEP III and illustrate PEP III scientific themes. We expect to have our own poster session and a dedicated workshop. For the poster session there will be a sequence of generic thematic posters (e.g. on causes of climate change, climate impacts on society, multi-proxy archives) as well as individual project-based posters. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone whose work falls within the PEP III remit to present a poster in this session. For the workshop session we hope to focus specifically on

climate change and its effects in Africa, with the discussion being led by Françoise Gasse, Fekri Hassan, Dirk Verschuren, Louis Scott and others.

Looking to the future, we plan to hold a major open meeting sometime in the year 2001 to summarize and synthesize progress in our understanding of PEP III climate change problems. The date and venue has not yet been agreed but as soon as we have news about this or any other PEP III matter we will post it on the new web page.

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PEP III WEBSITE

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