# Activity Report by Rick Lawford

In 2008, the IGWCO became the IGWCO Community of Practice within the GEO framework





### A GEO Water Cycle Workshop for the Americas was held in Lima Peru at 'CONIDA' (the Peru 'National Aerospace & Development Commission'), Nov. 30 to Dec. 4, 2009

Some Workshop Outcomes:

- 1) A dynamic web site has been developed for listing of data sets & services, project summaries with interactive capabilities.
- 2) Launched a "Coalición para la Información Espacial e Hidrológica en Latinoamérica y el Caribe" ('CIEHLYC'). Includes reps from Argentina, Mexico, Columbia, Haiti, Brazil, USA & Canada. Petition to GEO in the Americas to be a formal Working Group.
- 3) A 'Water Cycle Federation of America' to help integrate existing projects and develop new projects and initiatives. Issues identified including floods, droughts, glacier retreat & climate impacts.
- 4) Contacts have been made with the WB small grants programme to seek funding for several small projects.













SeaWiFS Productivity MODIS Land Cover Change



La Plata **Basin Area** Flooding



# **IEEE "Water for the World" Program**



- Developing country focus
- In the field within one year
- Sustainable
- Scalable
- Reusable
- Fundable



Food Security: Water and Sustainable Agriculture - India

Urban Water - Ghana



# Assessment of the status GEO of data integration activities

|                             |             | In-si    | tu       |              | Satell | ite      | Inte  | gration               |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|--------------|--------|----------|-------|-----------------------|
| Soil<br>Moisture            | ISMWG       |          |          |              |        |          |       |                       |
| Precip-<br>itation          | IPWG        |          |          |              |        |          |       |                       |
| Runoff                      | WMO<br>Lead |          |          |              |        |          |       |                       |
| Ground<br>water             | GWWG        |          |          |              |        |          |       |                       |
| Water<br>Quality            | WQ<br>WG    |          |          |              |        |          |       |                       |
| Possible<br>New<br>Products | Evapo       | otranspi | ration ? | ' Water      | Vapou  | r ? Skin | Tempe | rature ?              |
|                             | Success     |          |          | Good<br>Prog |        |          |       | More effort<br>needed |

#### Translation of Landsat ET to MODIS ET for Local to Regional Applications (R. Allen)



#### One of Two NASA MODIS & Related Products in Near Real Time towards a Global ET. U Wash. Continental US 2001-2009.(to 1-km)



### Right – USDA-ARS 'Alexi-DisAlexi' for Regional to Loca ET. Applied to Nile. {30m – 25km}



Normalized Evaporative Stress Index USDA/ARS



# Experience in using surveys of data centres to a establishing data centers alliances



Services

**Data Collection** 

## Meetings where reference was made to GWSP

November 30 – December 4, 2009: GEO Water Cycle Capacity Building Workshop – Lima, Peru

December 2009: IEEE/IGWCO Workshop on the use of water cycle information (San Francisco)

March 2010: IGWCO COP Planning Meeting at CCNY in New York

May 2010: DRI (Drought Research Initiative) – GEO Meeting on drought in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

## **Planned Meetings for 2011**

February 2011 – African Water Cycle Coordination Initiative (Ethiopia)

March 2011 – IGWCO COP Planning Meeting

**April 2011 – Workshop on Evapotranspiration (NASA/ USDA)** 

April 2011 – Workshop on Global Drought Monitoring (NASA)

**April 2011 – TRACE Workshop** 

**Others:** 

Date? - IEEE Water Quality and Health workshop Date? – Latin and Caribbean Americas Water Cycle Capacity Building

# User Engagement: Linking Earth Observations (Drought Monitoring) to Societal Benefits



# Future focus: develop a plan for integrating regional drought monitoring products into a global drought monitor.



Drought on the western Canadian prairies is an episodic event that occurs several times each decade. The talk will provide a brief overview of the drought phenomenon with perspectives on the past, present and future characteristics of the cause, intensification and demise of these events.

The objectives of DRI are: -To better understand the physical characteristics of and processes influencing Canadian Prairie droughts, and - To contribute to their better prediction.



## DRI Legacy (Enhancing the DRI footprint):

In process:

- -The DRI Glossy
- The DRI data system and DRI website
- A lecture series
- Methodologies for user engagement through Table Top exercises

Under consideration:

- A museum exhibit at a provincial museum
- Development of a curriculum on climate and Extremes
- Workshop on Climate and Extremes.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction..... Richard Lawford, Ronald Stewart, and John Pomeroy

### **Overviews**

A drought research initiative for the Canadian Prairies......**5** *Ronald Stewart, John Pomeroy, and Richard Lawford* Physical characterization of the 1999-2005 drought......**13** *John Hanesiak, B.D. Amiro, E. Atallah, A.G. Barr, T.A. Black, B. Bonsal, et al..* What effects do droughts have in Canada? Highlights of the repercussions of a major, multi-year drought......**23** *Elaine Wheaton* 

Atmospheric Sciences...... (7 chapters) Hydrologic Sciences ....... (5 chapters)

### Impacts

### DRI Contributions to Data Legacy, Outreach, and Policy

| Facilitating drought data access, management and archiving through the DRI data management |
|--|
| framework  |
| Phillip Harder and Patrice Constanza   |
| Drought preparedness and information assessment through tabletop simulations               |
| Jeremy Pittman, Nancy Lee, Phillip Harder, Tom Harrison, and Harvey Hill                   |
| DRI research and its contribution to sustainable development during times of drought97     |
| Richard Lawford  |
| Conclusion   |
| Summary of Science, Impacts, and Lessons 103   |
| Ronald Stewart, Richard Lawford, and John Pomeroy  |

# Collaborations with the International Institute of Sustainable Development

- RBC funded the IISD Water Innovation Centre
- emphasis on the use of innovation to address environmental problems in the Lake Winnipeg basin

The IISD (Winnipeg) would be happy to host a GWSP/GCI Workshop in Winnipeg.

Would GWSP like to take them up on this invitation?



### **Opportunities:**

1. There is a window of opportunity to submit an item to the 2012-2015 GEO Work Plan. Indictors would provide an excellent opportunity to link GWSP and GEO interests. Would GSI be willing to work with IGWCO to Develop a proposal for a work plan item.

2. DRI has been advancing its legacy during the past year. What is the legacy of GWSP 1 and how will it be developed?

3. There is considerable potential for convergence between GWSP GCI basins, RHPs and GEO CB and Demonstration Basins. GCI could provide a framework for bringing together those aspects of these basin activities that can inform GWSP objectives and questions. I would recommend that GCI in its next phase consider working towards this goal.

## GCI Phase 2 (Scoping only):

Phase 2 of GCI is being implemented to address questions that are of concern for both the natural sciences and the social sciences. Key basins from Phase 1 and new basins that meet certain criteria will be surveyed to assess their Practices, constraints and vulnerabilities in 5 distinct areas:

- Tipping points and thresholds in relation to climate change.
- Methodologies for assessing risk from climate change, land use change, population growth.
- Characterization of the basin (drawing on inputs from Phase 1).
- Assessment of management practices and their relation to basin characteristics.
- The nature of governance in the basin and the factors controlling the evolution of basin governance principles.

Approach:

- A meeting with the principals will be held to develop the hypotheses to be tested.
- The questionnaire will be developed to address these questions and to obtain any missing information that has not been included from Phase 1.
- A preliminary analysis will be undertaken followed by a workshop where the responses to the analysis will be discussed with survey participants.
- Based on the results from this meeting a book on Phase 2 would be written.

### Recommendations (not vetted by the CLB panel):

- GWSP should explore the effect of the transfer of water-related information between regions, basins, cultures, etc in facilitating convergence in the provision of information and in the nature of decision making. (This could be part of GCI Phase 2)
- 2. GWSP should consider a comprehensive project to assess the value of water and develop a strategy for dissemination of the results to ensure they are used in priority setting in national and river basin plans.