

AOGS 2008 Atmospheric Science Session (AS06): *Numerical Weather Prediction and Data Assimilation in Southeast Asia*

In conjunction with the program of *International Research for Prevention and Mitigation of Meteorological Disasters in Southeast Asia* (see Newsletter No. 1, Dec. 2007), Shigeo Yoden (Kyoto University,) Tieh Yong Koh (Nanyang Technological University), and Tri Wahyu Hadi (Institut Teknologi Bandung) has successfully convened a session (AS06) entitled *Numerical Weather Prediction and Data Assimilation in Southeast Asia* at the 5th Annual Meeting of Asia-Oceania Geoscience Society (AOGS) that was held in Busan, Korea during 16-20 June 2008 (Photo. 1). This session was aimed at strengthening and widening the network of researchers interested in weather and climate prediction in Southeast Asia.

As many as 13 presentations were registered to the A06 session of the AOGS 2008 and only one was cancelled. The core members of the *International Research for Prevention and Mitigation of Meteorological Disasters in Southeast Asia* research team who attended this session are : Shigeo Yoden and Shigenori Otsuka (Kyoto University), Kazuo Saito and Shugo Hayashi (MRI), Tieh Yong Koh (NTU), and Tri Wahyu Hadi (ITB). An invited talk by Hongwen Kang of APEC Climate Center (APCC) highlighted some new results in *Multi-Model Outputs Statistical Downscaling Prediction*. In addition, there are contributed talks by Fredolin Tangang (National University of Malaysia), Der Song Chen (Central Weather Bureau of Taiwan), Kevin Kei Wai Cheung (Macquarie University, Australia), Che-Kiat Teo (NTU), Bhuwan Chandra Bhatt (NTU), and Ok-Yeong Kim (Pukyong National University, South Korea).

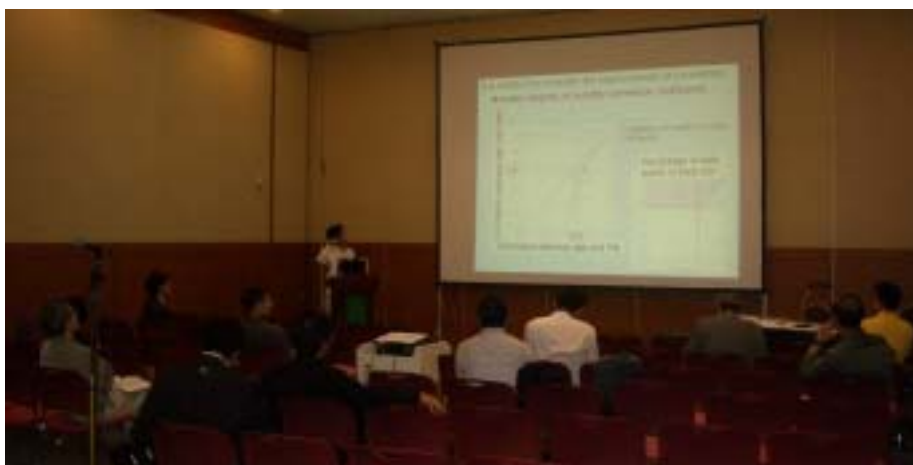


Photo. 1

The A06 session of the AOGS 2008 has highlighted one fundamental problem in lieu of advanced NWP modeling i.e. the predictability of weather system in the Southeast Asian region. This confirms that the complexity of weather systems in Southeast Asia, that comprises the Maritime Continent, is one of the most challenging problem in atmospheric predictability due to dominant role of the mesoscale convective system. The very same problem that is also actually addressed by Taroh Matsuno in his Axford Lecture of AOGS 2008 “*Modeling of Tropical Convection by Use of an Ultra-High Resolution (3.5-7 km) Global Atmosphere Model – New Age of Tropical Meteorology*”. In such a situation, the “*International Research for Prevention and Mitigation of Meteorological Disasters in Southeast Asia*” is an excellent program to provide a knowledge hub for young scientists in Southeast Asian countries to access latest information on the ever developing science and technologies of weather and climate prediction.

As a side activity, the core members of the *International Research for Prevention and Mitigation of Meteorological Disasters in Southeast Asia* research team also visited the APEC Climate Center (APCC) in Busan on 16 June 2008 (Photo. 2). We would like to thank Dr. Hongwen Kang and Dr. Karumuri Ashok for their kind arrangement of the visit. Beside us, it turned out that many other scientists attending the 5th AOGS Annual Meeting were also interested in the program, so that in total there were more than 20 participants visiting APCC in the afternoon of 16 June 2008. Inline with the goals of our collaborative international research program, APCC has an excellent ensemble climate forecast data center that could help scientists in the APEC region (including those in Southeast Asia) to conduct research in the application of climate prediction. APCC has also been developing data management and data processing tools to make climate prediction more amenable for developing Asia-Pacific countries. Undoubtedly, closer collaboration with APCC in the future is necessary for the success of our program.

(Tri Wahyu Hadi, ITB)

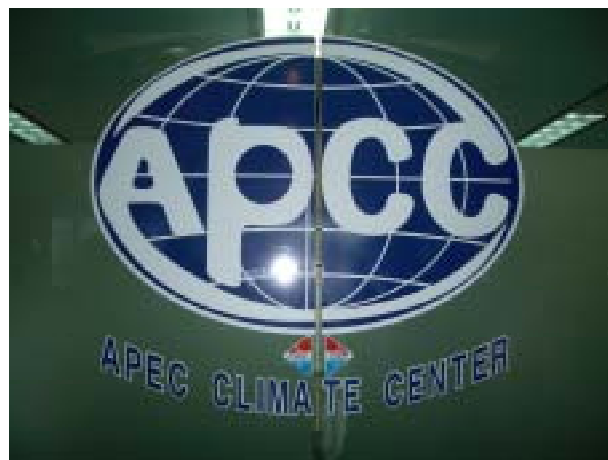


Photo. 2