



Our ref.: 6434343/2025/SI/WWR

28 August 2025

Annexes: 2

Subject: Invitation to attend the WWRP Urban-PREDICT Project Steering Group Meeting and Urban City Workshop in Hong Kong, China

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to invite you to attend the Urban City workshop and the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP) Urban-PREDIC Project Steering Group meeting of WWRP, which will be hosted by the Hong Kong University (HKUST) in China, from 3 to 7 November 2025. Additional details regarding this event can be found in the attached Concept Note (ANNEX I) and the list of participants (ANNEX II).

For this meeting, the Urban-PREDICT International Coordination Office (ICO) has generously provided full board, covering accommodation, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. WMO will provide travel support in the form of the most direct and economical air ticket, as well as Terminal Expenses (TER), which cover transportation to and from the airport at both the departure and arrival points.

You are responsible for obtaining the necessary visas to enter China and any other countries you may be transiting, if appropriate.

Regarding insurance coverage for non-staff members, may I draw your attention to the following:

"Non-staff members of WMO who are authorized to travel at the Organization's expense and/or who are receiving a DSA from WMO must ensure they are fully responsible for expenses incurred in the event of death, illness or injury during official travel and attendance at meetings on behalf of the Organization. They are, therefore, fully responsible for arranging life, health, accident, as well as any other forms of insurance with an adequate level of coverage for the duration of such meetings and events. WMO liability is limited to the performance of services or attendance at a meeting on behalf of the Organization, is covered by an injury and illness benefit insurance which provides a limited coverage for medical, emergency and supplementary official travel expenses."

To: Participants to the WWRP Urban-PREDICT Face-to-Face Meeting and Urban City workshop (see list in ANNEX II)

Should you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Hellen Msemu, WWRP Scientific Officer, by email (hmsemu@wmo.int).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E de Coning'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'E' and a long, sweeping tail.

Dr Estelle De Coning
Chief, World Weather Research Section
Science and Innovation Department

Concept Note

WWRP Urban-PREDICT Project Steering Group Face-to-Face Meeting and Urban City Workshop

Hong Kong, China, 3 - 7 November 2025

We are delighted to announce that the Urban-PREDICT Steering Group Meeting will take place from 3 to 5 November 2025 in Hong Kong, China. This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss ongoing research, strengthen collaborations, and outline future priorities for our working group. A detailed agenda and logistical information will be shared in due course. The information about the hotel can be found here [CONFERENCE LODGE | STUDIO SEA VIEW](#).

Following the Steering Group meeting, two complementary activities are planned: a Public Day on 6 November 2025, featuring presentations from the URBAN group, WMO/WWRP, and local Hong Kong experts on climate risk management and urban resilience, with the participation from government agencies (e.g., Hong Kong Observatory, Development Bureau, Drainage Services Department), academia, corporate sectors (banking, utilities, real estate, insurance), and humanitarian organizations such as the Hong Kong Red Cross.

On 7 November 2025, participants will join a Sponge City Visit, gaining first-hand exposure to Hong Kong's pioneering "sponge city" approach — an innovative stormwater management system that mitigates flooding, optimizes land use, and promotes sustainable urban development. Together, these events will foster dialogue between science, policy, and practice, while highlighting sponge city solutions as a key pathway for building climate resilience in urban environments.

List of participants

**WWRP Urban-PREDICT Face-to-Face Meeting and Urban City workshop
Hong Kong, China, 3 - 7 November 2025**

Name	Organization	Country	Role
Lewis BLUNN	UK Met Office	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Member
Valery MASSON	CNRM, METEO-FRANCE	France	Member
Soledad Garcia FERRARI	University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Co-chair
Gabriela Marques DI GIULIO	University of Sao Paulo	Brazil	Member
Gilbert SIAME	University of Zambia	Zambia	Member
Fei CHEN	HKUST	Hong Kong, China	Co-chair
María Eugenia IBARRARÁN VINIEGRA	Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla	Mexico	Member
Shouraseni Sen ROY	University of Miami	United States of America	Member
Olga WILHELM	NCAR	United States of America	Member
Negin Nazarian	University of New South Wales	Australia	Member
Mariano RE	Instituto Nacional del Agua	Argentina	Member
Andrea Laura PINEDA ROJAS	Centro de Investigaciones del Mar y la Atmósfera, UBA-CONICET, CNRS IRL 3351 IFAECI, IRD, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires	Argentina	Member
Sara HARRISON	Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited	New Zealand	Member
Hellen MSEMÖ	WMO	Switzerland	WMO Secretariat