



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

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17 April 2026

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Invitation to the Open Monsoon Conference 2026, co-organized by WMO and CMA, from 18 to 20 May 2026, in Shanghai, China

Action required: To kindly confirm your participation (in person or online) in the Conference at your earliest convenience, but preferably before **24 April 2026**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of WMO and in collaboration with the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), I have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the Open Monsoon Conference 2026, to be held from 18 to 20 May 2026 in Shanghai, China.

Recognizing the critical importance of the global monsoon system and its impacts on a large proportion of the world's population, the Conference will provide a forum to bring together WMO Members, including representatives from its technical commissions and Regional Associations' (RA) subsidiary bodies as well as relevant scientific and operational communities from monsoon regions to discuss emerging priorities in monsoon research and services, and to strengthen coordination across research, observations, operations, and service delivery in support of WMO strategic priorities, including the United Nations Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.

The Concept Note is included in the [annex](#) of this letter.

It is hoped that the cost of your participation will be borne by your organization. If, however, this is not possible, upon request WMO can consider providing financial support within available resources.

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: Permanent Representatives of Members of RA I, RA II, and RA V with WMO

I would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your participation (in person or online) at the Conference at your earliest convenience but preferably before **24 April 2026** and whether financial assistance is required. For any further information or clarification you may need please do not hesitate to contact WMO Staff Dr Liye Li at lli@wmo.int and/or the local organizer at aaam@cma.gov.cn.

I look forward to your active participation in the Conference.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Saulo', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General

Concept Note

Open Monsoon Conference 2026 (Shanghai, China, from 18 to 20 May 2026)

1. Introduction

The global monsoon is a fundamental component of the Earth's climate system, spanning multiple regions and influencing weather and climate even beyond these regions. Given that approximately two-thirds of the world's population are directly or indirectly affected by monsoon variability and extremes, monsoon-related weather and climate services are of critical importance for early warning, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and climate change adaptation.

Improving understanding of the mechanisms driving extreme weather and climate phenomena within the global monsoon system under climate change, including the roles of natural and anthropogenic drivers, together with enhanced monitoring and prediction capabilities, is essential to support reliable forecasting and climate services.

WMO Members and their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are under increasing pressure to cope with climate change and extreme events, while also facing rapid technological advances and rising expectations for more impact-oriented, accurate, timely, and decision-relevant/actionable services. These evolving requirements place growing demands on effective and rapid coordination and integration of research, operations, and services.

The need to advance an integrated understanding and coordination of monsoon research has been validated by expert groups within the WMO scientific activities, including the Monsoon Panel under the Climate and Ocean Variability, Predictability and Change (CLIVAR)/Global Water and Energy Exchanges (GEWEX) core projects of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the Working Group on Tropical Meteorology Research (WG TMR) under the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP), together with existing regional cooperation mechanisms.

In parallel, the eighth session of the WMO International Workshop on Monsoons (IWM-8), hosted by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), was held in March 2025 in Pune, India. The event, led by the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) and jointly organized by WCRP and WWRP, identified a set of recommendations for both research and operational communities. These recommendations call for strengthened international coordination, improved data sharing, closer research/operations integration, and more impact-oriented monsoon forecasting and services.

Taken together, those endorsements and recommendations provide a strong foundation for monsoon research cooperation, while also highlighting the need to further strengthen integrated, cross-regional collaboration, particularly in connecting research with operations and services and wider stakeholder cooperation. It presents an opportunity to demonstrate full integration and rapid delivery of research into the United Nations Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative², accelerating climate services within a WMO-coordinated, Member-driven framework.

In this context, WMO, in collaboration with the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), proposes to convene an Open Monsoon Conference as a forum to bring together relevant Members, partners, and key scientific and operational communities from various regions. The Conference aims to identify shared challenges and emerging needs in global monsoon research and services, and to foster a collective effort among Members and partners to address these challenges through strengthened collaboration across research, operations, and service delivery, including in support of EW4All.

2. Objectives

- Building on the substantial body of monsoon research undertaken under WCRP and WWRP, encourage monsoon research and cooperation within a WMO-coordinated global framework, bringing together key monsoon regions to address shared challenges with clear relevance to early warning and DRR
- Enable WMO Members, the Research Board, and Regional Associations (RAs, in particular their research structures) to jointly articulate shared monsoon-related priorities and needs across research, operations, and services, and to build collective ownership and alignment through a Member-driven, multilateral process
- Promote the development of a sustainable, Member-driven model for international collaboration on monsoon research and services under WMO, with clear mechanisms for Member participation and benefits, leveraging existing WMO-supported structures and regional cooperation mechanisms, strengthening international coordination and close collaboration with ongoing WCRP and WWRP research efforts, ensuring complementarity, and reinforcing the pathway from coordinated research to operational applications and services
- Strengthen coordination among monsoon researchers, operational communities, and service users across Asian, Australian, and African regions to build an inclusive and action-oriented community prepared to engage in jointly identified priorities and collaborative initiatives
- Facilitate a collective discussion on the potential added value, scope, and alignment of an internationally coordinated science programme on the Asian, Australian, and African Monsoon (AAAM), with a view to integrating it into existing WMO-supported structures and ensuring broad Member participation

3. Expected outcomes

The Conference is expected to deliver the following:

- Academic consensus on key scientific issues of the broad monsoon, and identification of regional research priorities and cooperation directions
- Actionable recommendations on how to bridge gaps between monsoon research and operational services, including early warning and DRR, in the context of climate change and technological transformation
- Exchange of Member and partner needs, interests, and collaboration opportunities, and the encouragement of cross-regional engagement as well as the emergence of clear, sustainable, Member-driven mechanisms for cooperation on monsoon research and services under WMO
- A shared framework for coordination between WMO Members and existing academic and research communities on global and regional monsoons, clarifying roles, interfaces, and mutual benefits, and strengthening the integration of scientific research with operational priorities and service delivery

4. The Open Monsoon Conference is co-organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the China Meteorological Administration (CMA)

5. Date, venue and format

- A three-day hybrid event from 18 to 20 May 2026 in Shanghai, China
- Working language: English
- Format: Hybrid (on-site presentations and discussions encouraged, with online zoom webinar available)

6. Proposed agenda and sessions

1 half day (Monday, 18 May A.M.)	2 full days (Monday, 18 May P.M. to Wednesday, 20 May A.M.)	1 half day (Wednesday, 20 May P.M.)
<p>Opening ceremony and plenary session</p> <p>Overview of WMO research priorities and key scientific challenges related to monsoon research</p>	<p>Scientific sessions</p> <p>Topics related to global monsoon variability and physical processes</p> <p>Topics related to human influences and prediction of extreme weather and climate events</p> <p>Services: Forecasting, Early Warning and DRR</p> <p>Discussion on links between monsoon research, forecasting and services</p>	<p>Member discussions and cross-regional collaboration</p> <p>Exchange of Member needs and potential collaboration opportunities</p>

7. Funding support

Potential funding may be considered upon request and depending on the availability of limited resources.

8. Scientific Steering Committee

Name	Country	Organization
Renhe Zhang	China	Fudan University
Thomas Stocker	Switzerland	University of Bern
Matthew Wheeler	Australia	Bureau of Meteorology
Zhuo Wang	United States	University of Illinois
Annalisa Cherchi	Italy	The Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate, CNR-ISAC
Bin Wang	United States	University of Hawaii
Wen Chen	China	Yunnan University
Ousmane Ndiaye	Senegal	African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development
V.S. Prasad	India	National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting
Jian Li	China	Chinese Academy of Meteorological Science
Suryachander Rao	India	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
Qingchen Chao	China	National Climate Center of China Meteorological Administration
Oswaldo MORAES	Brazil	National Center for Monitoring and Alerting of Natural Disasters

9. Focal Points

Dr Liye Li (lili@wmo.int), Junior Professional Officer, Science, Services and Capacity Development Department (SSCD)

Mr Jun Yu (jyu@wmo.int), Regional Officer at the WMO Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific (RAP)

Local organizer (aaam@cma.gov.cn)
