

U.S. THORPEX Executive Committee Meeting
June 8, 2009
1:00 – 4:00 pm ET
NASA HQ, 300 E Street S.W. (between 3rd and 4th Streets)
Metro subway stop Federal Center, S.W. on Orange or Blue lines
Washington, DC
Room MIC6A
Dial in number 1-877-954-1015
Passcode: 183997
Summary

Attendees:

Members: Zoltan Toth (Chair), John Gaynor (NOAA Representative), Jared Entin (NASA), John Haynes (NASA), Jay Fein (NSF, on phone), Simon Chang (NRL)

Other Attendees: Mitch Moncrief (NCAR), Brian Orndorff (Executive Secretariat), Fred Toepfer (NOAA), Jim Hansen (Chair, U.S. THORPEX Science Steering Committee, on phone), Yucheng Song (NOAA, on phone), Duane Waliser (NASA, JPL, on phone)

Review of agenda and action items from previous meeting (Zoltan Toth)

Action Item 1: Jay will send NSF alternate representatives name/contact information to Brian by August 2009

Winter T-PARC update (Yucheng Song)
One airline sampling data
Russian Radiosondes
C-130 from Anorage
NOAA G-IV
Want to catch perturbations in eastern Pacific
Strong mapping into the US THORPEX Science Plan (13 of 15 priorities)
Propose joint meeting with summer T-PARC next year
YOTC may be able to get involved

Action Item 2: John Haynes will check into ROSES to possibly fund analysis of TPARC data for FY10 cycle

Action Item 3: Jared Entin will check with GMAO regarding their interest in W-TPARC data evaluation

Action Item 4: John Gaynor will check with JCSDA regarding their interest in W-TPARC data evaluation

Year of Tropical Convection (YOTC)
YOTC update (Mitch Moncrieff and Duane Waliser)

Seamless weather prediction problem
Integrate parameterized, super parameterized and fully explicit convection in regional to global models

NASA is trying to get YOTC modeling/data to fit into programs
Need to recognize that it's more than weather but also climate
Implementation plan will help

Recommendation for Mitch and Duane: After implementation plan is done to articulate to NASA the weather/climate connection

Funding for administration of YOTC and NCEP archive (Zoltan Toth and John Gaynor)

NASA may be able to come up with 20k for YOTC
ONR cannot easily fund 20k because they fund T-PARC and other programs

Action Item 5: John Gaynor to do an interagency budget preparation sheet (listing also in-kind contributions, etc) for THORPEX (including THORPEX and YOTC PO support and YOTC data archive support) to help all agencies in budgeting (AUG 09)

Update of and discussion on the Third THORPEX International Science Symposium – now scheduled for September 14-18, Monterey, CA (Jim Hansen and Istvan Szunyogh)

No loss of money due to changing the date due to swine flu
Lost 20% of participants but only a handful of presenters
Proposal with NSF for post doc support – will be funded (Jay Fein)
Strong agenda for speaker and poster sessions

Discussion and approval of the US THORPEX Science Plan (Jim Hansen summarizes), Zoltan Toth leads discussion)

Science plan was used to facilitate T-PARC
Climate weather connection may need to be changed and added to the Science plan
Need to be careful not to get plan absorbed into climate, not lose the weather aspect
HEPEX needing updating
GEO and USGEO documents may need updating
Connections section needs updating
Need to complete the science plan within a few months
Look into SERA section to see if it needs updating
TIGGE/GIFS needs updating?

YOTC connection needs to be added (Mitch/Duane to help)

Action Item 6a: USTEC members send any possible additional written specific suggestions to Jim by end of June 09

Action Item 6b: NASA & NSF USTEC Representatives to send brief (couple or paragraphs) of agency interest statements to Jim by end of June 09

Action Item 6c: Jim Hansen revises a draft of Science Plan by September (based on notes above)

Role of THORPEX in research/development for NUOPC (Fred Toepfer, NOAA NUOPC manager)

Coordinate AF, Navy and NOAA to develop an American joint agency ensemble
Opportunity for THORPEX and NUOPC to work together – THORPEX is the research portion

To include agency reports, including FY2009 activities and plans/collaborative opportunities for FY2010 and beyond

NSF (Jay Fein)

The community pressure for THORPEX has been moderate
Tropical component of transition plan is moving along well
Cannot look to NSF only for PI's to be funded

Action Item 7: Jay to invite social science program manager(s) to next USTEC meeting for SERA discussion

NASA (including ROSES update) (Jared Entin/John Haynes)

NASA weather applications program aims towards goals of NEXTGEN

300 proposals received in Applied Sciences Program

Next ROSES solicitation 2010

Next strategic plan will involve more emphasis on climate change

Action Item 8: Jared to keep us updated on when AOS to hit the street on airborne instrumentation

Navy (Simon Chang)

FY10 ITOP10 interaction of tropical cyclone and ocean, tropical cyclogenesis and feedback of ocean response to atmosphere

Slight increase of 6.1, 6.2 funding

Mesoscale predictability
Cloud and aerosol interaction

Expect increases in global modeling effort
North American ensemble first step for NUOPC

Action Item 9: Jim Hansen ask Pam Johnson to set up web page and keep it updated on opportunities to note

NOAA (John Gaynor)

Began NOAA THORPEX internal program review
Ensembles and data assimilation
Model error in ensembles
Observations
Statistical post-processing

2009 NOAA THORPEX budget (\$1.23 M)
Research and Development (\$840 k)
Infrastructure (\$225 k)
Management (\$210 k)

International THORPEX

TIGGE and GIFS update (Zoltan Toth)

Not done. No time to present

Upcoming international meetings (Zoltan Toth)

HEPEX Workshop in Toulouse, France, June 15-19 2009
2nd THORPEX EC meeting in Exeter, England, July 29, 2009
THORPEX Science Symposium in Monterey CA, Sept. 14-18, 2009
5th WMO DA Symposium, Melbourne Australia, Oct. 5-9, 2009
NOAA THORPEX Workshop, Boulder CO, Spring 2010
5th NAEFS Workshop (possibly jointly with North American Regional Committee meeting), Mexico, spring 2010

Executive Session (USTEC members and staff)

- Leadership of science team
 - o Reconfirm existing chair (Jim Hansen, or suggest new chair) – June 09
 - o Appoint co-chair for international affairs & NA Regional Committee co-lead – June 09
 - Istvan Szunvogh
- Rotate existing members as needed to reinvigorate committee

- USTEC agencies nominate their USTSSC representative – July 09
 - Tom Hamill for NOAA
- USTEC members suggest names from academic community – July 09
 - Ron Gelaro, Greg Hakim, Tony Eckel, Rebecca Morss, Edmond Chang
- USTSSC co-chairs prepare recommendation for USTEC on membership – Sep 09
- USTEC approves reconstituted membership – Oct 09
- Charge renew USTSSC with defining main thrusts for next 5 yrs to implement US THORPEX Science Plan
- Brief document highlighting opportunities for synergistic collaboration among agencies – Dec 09
- Consider NAEFS, NUOPC, and GIFS as opportunities
- Define need for demo or field program if appropriate
- Submit for USTEC discussions – Jan 10
- Submit revised version for USTEC approval – April 10

Topics for next USTEC meeting

- Briefing of TIGGE/GIFS & NAEFS developments (Z. Toth)
- Report from ICSC meeting (Toth, Gaynor)
- Report on revision of Science Plan (Jim Hansen)
- Approve Science Plan (All)
- Recommendation on US THORPEX Science Team membership (Hansen and Szunvogh)
- Presentation and discussion of interagency budget plan (Z. Toth)