



ASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK FOR
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

FINAL REPORT

Engagement of Asia-Pacific Early-Career Professionals in the WCRP Open Science Conference 2023



AOA2022-03SY-WCRP

2023



Australian
National
University

Project Reference Number: AOA2022-03SY-WCRP

Project Duration: 1 year

Funding Awarded: USD40,000

Grant DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30852/p.24346>

Date of Publication: 26 February 2024

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Recommended Citation: Sparrow, M., Stammer, D., Cleugh, H., & Detemmerman, V. (2023). *Engagement of Asia-Pacific Early-Career Professionals in the WRCP Open Science Conference*. Project final report. Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research.



Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

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1. Summary

The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) Open Science Conference (<https://wcrp-osc2023.org/>) was a once-in-a-decade opportunity to jointly explore the transformative actions urgently needed to ensure a sustainable future. Held in Kigali, Rwanda, it showcased advances in climate science, helped identify gaps and opportunities, and provided a forum for communities to develop future activities jointly. Scientists, practitioners, politicians, policymakers, intergovernmental agencies and NGOs showcased their work, learned from each other, and explored new ways to work together.

The five-day conference attracted over 1400 participants, online and onsite. Several side events were held during the conference, including many Learning Labs that provided further opportunities for capacity development. Additionally, early and mid-career researchers (EMCR) had an exclusive symposium hosted by the African Institute for Mathematical Science in Rwanda (AIMS), spread over two days to discuss a path forward for an inclusive, diverse, equitable, and sustainable future for the planet (see Appendix).

The conference linked strongly to APN's first four Goals (Research, Capacity Development, Science-Policy Interactions, and Community Engagement). The grant from APN focussed on Asia-Pacific-based early career professionals in APN member countries in the region. Fourteen early career scientists were supported (one had to pull out because of unforeseen circumstances), all of whom found it an extremely useful experience, as seen from their testimonials (see Appendix 1).

2. Objectives

The funding from this project was used to support attendance at the WCRP Open Science Conference and Symposium of Asia-Pacific-based Early Career professionals working in an institution based in an APN member country in the Asia-Pacific Region. In the end, thirteen participants were funded, six women and seven men, from India, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, Australia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Indonesia.

3. Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts

Based on the objectives of the project, the outputs, outcomes and impacts are as follows:

- New collaborations between WCRP Core Projects, Lighthouse Activities and external partners, leading to new scientific advances:

The OSC was the opportunity to discuss new collaborations and activities. In particular with the involvement of Early and Mid-Career Scientists, and scientists from the Global South.

- Innovation in useful and useable climate data and information

One concrete example was discussions to plan a workshop on the "Robustness of Climate Change Information for Decision Making" led by WCRP's Regional Information for Society (RIS) Core Project. This is now being held jointly with the Green Climate Fund in Brussels on April 22-24.

- Improved understanding and prediction of precipitation in regions around the world through launch of a global experiment/WCRP Decade of Water Research

The WCRP Lighthouse Activity on a Global Precipitation Experiment (GPEx) was successfully launched at Kigali (see e.g. <https://www.wcrp-climate.org/gpex-overview>).

- Improved assessment of climate risks and extremes

Progress was made on a number of activities with regards to climate risks and extremes, in particular under RfS and its Global Extremes Platform, and the WCRP Lighthouse Activity on Explaining and Predicting Earth System Change (on annual to decadal timescales).

- Innovative ways to bridge science and society and build a Global North/South dialogue

This was a major theme of the conference, with 65% of the onsite and 72% of the online participation from the Global South. WCRP is also in the process of launching a new Global South Fellowships scheme, the first of which will be focussed on Africa.

- Increased climate science leadership from the Global South and around the world

It is hoped that the OSC will be a catalyst to ensure an increase in science leadership from the Global South. WCRP's membership rules and the makeup of its joint Scientific Committee are striving to help make this a reality.

- Input to the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP 28), taking place in the United Arab Emirates in November 2023

WCRP led a dedicated science pavilion event (Climate Science for a Sustainable Future: The Kigali Declaration) as well taking part in a number of other side events (<https://www.wcrp-climate.org/cop28-2023>)

- A journal article out of the EMCR symposium on how WCRP can help connect climate science and society through Early and Mid Career professionals.

As one of the outcomes of the Early and Mid-Career Symposium, a publication is being written by the EMCRs entitled "The role of EMCRs in connecting climate science and society – a WCRP OSC perspective"

4. Key facts/figures

Main Conference:

Over 1400 on-site and online participants attended the main conference, with the majority from the Global South (see Table 1 and Figure 1 below). Early Career scientists made up approximately 35% of the in-person attendees.

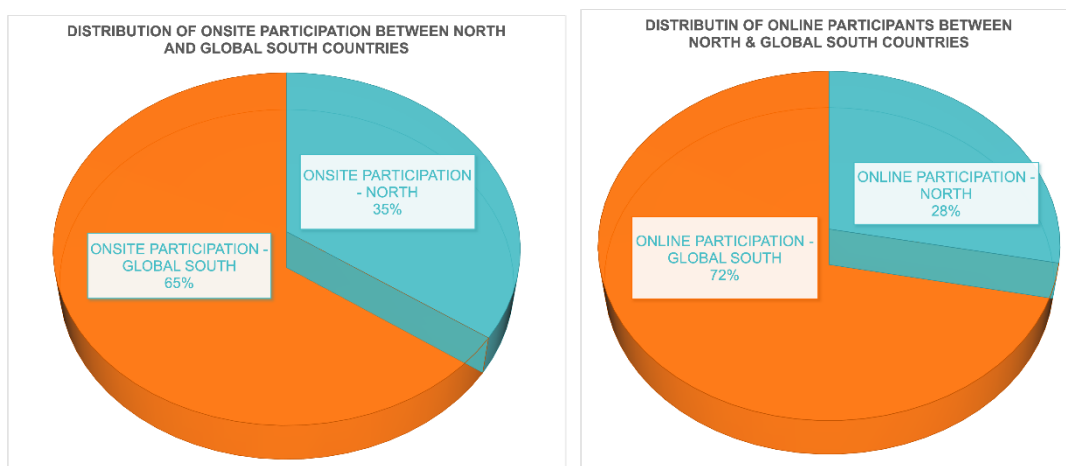


Figure 1: Distribution of onsite and online participation between Global North and Global South countries

Table 1: Registrations onsite and online by continent

Continent	Number of participants	Number of Countries
Africa	492	35
Asia	325	18
Europe	377	21
North America	192	2
South and Central America and the Caribbean	66	12
Oceania	37	5
Middle East	20	7
Total	1509	100

Over 1700 abstracts were submitted to 40 sessions over the course of the conference. Of the oral presenters about 25% presented remotely, half were from the Global South and a third from the African continent. Added to the oral sessions were poster sessions, side events and other activities, with the sessions being fully hybrid.

Early and Mid-Career Symposium

The symposium was hugely popular and oversubscribed: Over 800 applications were received for just under 100 places. The final attendees were selected based on their abstract review scores. Of the final 94 attendees, 62 received funding from APN and other sources, with the remaining being self-funded.

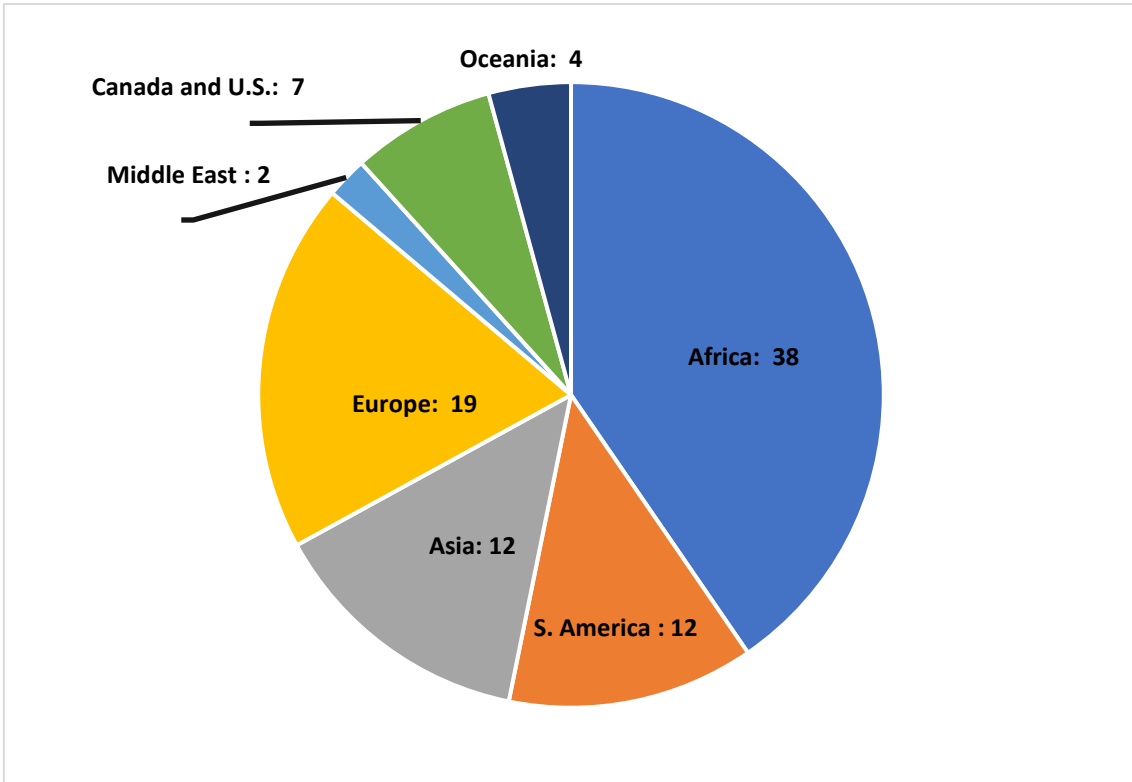


Figure 2: Distribution of attendees to Early and Mid-Career Symposium

5. Publications

The Kigali Declaration, a major outcome of the conference, was recently published: <https://www.wcrp-climate.org/news/wcrp-news/2123-kigali-declaration>

The Kigali Declaration calls for immediate climate action, amplification of the relevance and benefits of climate research to society, and increased accessible and equitable investments towards climate mitigation.



With 734 signatories, the majority of whom were conference participants, the Declaration is the collective voice of the participants of the Open Science Conference. The conference aimed to discuss the present state and future evolution of climate science, as well as the actions urgently required to mitigate against and adapt to climate change. The participants acknowledged that human-induced climate change and other human impacts on the environment are among the major reasons behind the world's polycrises and rising inequalities.

Adding that the failure to limit global warming is one of the greatest threats to humanity, the Kigali Declaration issues three calls for action:

1. A call upon the global community to urgently act now to address climate change;
2. A call upon the climate science community to accelerate and amplify the relevance, impact and benefit of its research for science and society, enabling transformative actions; and
3. A call upon agencies, governments, and the private sector to substantially increase their multilateral, accessible and equitable investment in the development of actionable climate information and the implementation of climate adaptation options and loss and damage assessments founded on climate science.

The Declaration also includes a Science Supplement that dives into the discussions from every conference session.

Many other publications, including around 20 concept papers, from the Open Science Conference are currently being drafted to be published in a special edition of Frontiers.

6. Media reports, videos and other digital content

- **Conference website:** <https://wcrp-osc2023.org/> (many additional resources included)
- **Interdisciplinarity, inclusivity, and collaboration as goals for the future** (a view from Early and Mid-Career researchers): <https://www.wcrp-climate.org/news/wcrp-news/2126-emcr-reflections>
- **The Kigali Declaration:** <https://www.wcrp-climate.org/news/wcrp-news/2123-kigali-declaration>

7. Pull quotes

Mouhamadou Bamba Sylla (AIMS Network Research Chair, and host of the EMCR Symposium):

“The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), a network of Centres of Excellence, is dedicated to finding solutions for climate resilience in Africa using mathematical sciences through the establishment of a research and services hub. We are particularly thrilled to contribute to the success of the conference and fully endorse the Kigali declaration highlighting the role of human activities in the adverse climate change impacts faced by African countries and the need for more investments in climate research for developing countries, and in particular, for Africa.”

Leandro Díaz (Chair of the WCRP Early and Mid-Career organizing Committee):

“The Early and Mid-Career Symposium was a unique opportunity to bring together EMCRs from around the world to reflect on the main challenges that climate science faces in generating better information that can be used at different decision-making levels. This event and all the activities of the WCRP OSC will be unforgettable for all of us who participated, as it facilitated the generation of new connections and collaborations, and allowed us to acquire new ways of thinking about how we conduct our science and for what purpose.”

Salvatore Aricò (Chief Executive Officer of the International Science Council):

“The WCRP 2023 Open Science Conference with its Kigali Declaration has been an important milestone in defining the future directions for climate science in Africa and globally, expanding the global scientific community and engaging a new generation of scientists in the WCRP work! The Conference has emphasized the critical importance for the global scientific community to promote greater use of evidence in decision making and accelerate societal transformations towards sustainability if we are to keep the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement alive. To succeed, insights from social scientists, political scientists, economists as well as a stronger engagement with the society will be key. This is an important moment in the evolution of the climate science and the International Science Council is confident that WCRP will pursue its mission in advancing climate science for the greater benefits of the society, and that the programme will continue to be recognized as an influential collective voice for climate science.”

Celeste Saulo (Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization)

“As outlined in the Kigali Declaration, the aim of the conference was to discuss the present state and the future evolution of climate science, and the actions urgently required to mitigate against and adapt to climate change. It recognises that those most affected by our changing climate now and in the future are those in the Global South and young people.

With more than 2/3 of the attendees from the Global South and 1/3 being Early Career Scientists, the WCRP Open Science Conference has been a unique opportunity to actively and meaningfully engage these communities. In the words of Petronille Dusingizimana, one of the Early Career Scientists who attended the conference “the OSC provided a unique space for Early and Mid-Career Researchers to contribute insights and engage with established researchers and policymakers, fostering a shared sense of responsibility in shaping the trajectory of climate research.” WMO will continue to support under-represented communities in all of its work.”

8. Acknowledgments

WCRP would like to thank the many sponsors of the conference, as well as the local hosts, organisers and the many scientists, practitioners and others who helped make the conference a success.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: WCRP OSC Early and Mid-Career Symposium Summary

It is pertinent to recognize the potential among the early and mid-career climate researcher community and to acknowledge the challenges they face in building a resilient and dynamic response to climate emergencies. This message dominated Sunday's first day of the EMCRs symposium at the WCRP Open Science Conference 2023, Kigali, Rwanda.

The session saw an attendance of around 60 EMCRs working across disciplines related to climate science and policy. Dr Pascale Bracconot (WCRP Vice-Chair), Dr Mouhamadou Bamba Sylla (JSC Member), and Prof Maria Ivanova (JSC Member) welcomed the researchers and presented their opening remarks.

This was followed by three simultaneous breakout sessions in which the participants were divided into groups and given a theme to discuss.

The first breakout session dealt with the key climate research and knowledge gaps in the global South, and how the scientific community can advance climate science in and for the global South.

The broad observations made by the participants in this regard included the lack of access to up-to-date and quality data and information for researchers in the 'global South', the dominance of the 'global north' in controlling access to this data, especially data about countries in the 'global south', the need for climate literacy in the community and building climate resilience bottom-up, the importance of intentional collaboration between research institutions especially in an era where funding is scarce etc.

The second breakout session was about creating robust climate science information used at local scales. In this session, the EMCRs expressed the critical nature of training and education in climate discussions. They added that the definitions of "who" and "what" are central when dealing with climate adaptation. The participants further concurred that to bridge this gap between scientists and the larger community, data needs to be made more accessible, stakeholders need to be identified and mediators like the media need to be trained.

The third breakout session dealt with the role of EMCRs in supporting policymaking with climate science and knowledge in the upcoming decade, also called the "decade of decisions?"

Here, the participants underlined the importance of orienting their research towards policy and to make their work available in simpler language to a broad range of audiences. Collaborating with interdisciplinary scholars was also mentioned as a way forward to improve the relevance and visibility of their own work. Apart from pushing

for their inclusion in platforms like the COP, the EMCRs also highlighted a pressing need for systemic change in which more opportunities in the form of internships and engagement with policymakers are made available.

The day progressed with a rich panel discussion/workshop on science communication. The panellists and the participants engaged in discussion about the different aspects and nuances of communicating science to a variety of audiences. EMCR volunteers then closed the session, presenting their work in creative forms, e.g., poetry, to the group. This workshop was followed by a poster presentation session by the EMCRs. The day ended with an ice-breaker dinner organized at a local restaurant.

One of the broad discussion points that emerged during the breakout sessions is the accessibility of different data sources. One of the participants stated that the researchers in the Global South particularly struggle to access data, even when it pertains to countries in the Global South and added that the complexities of the different languages and countries must be taken into account while gathering data and working on it. This restriction seeps into access to the latest climate models, too. A remedial approach in this regard was to focus on departmental collaborations across institutions and geographies instead of on money.

Another primary concern outlined by early career researchers in this breakout session was the language barriers that resulted in prominent scientific journals rejecting their papers.

Highlighting the need for environmental rights to be at the centre of human rights, a lawyer who was part of the EMCR flagged the real issue of how the victims of climate change are often left to fend and fight for themselves. She emphasised the need for an impartial justice/umpire in this realm, to address this systemic issue. Another researcher also stressed the need to work with political decisionmakers as they tend to have the final word on policy matters.

The group finally addressed the need for climate literacy, especially at the ground level. It was asserted that as young researchers, climate scientists need to engage with the local communities that often bear the brunt of climate change. This includes communicating with them about the risks of climate change and empowering them with the correct information needed to take action to protect themselves.

The second day of the EMCR symposium was split into two parts. In the first part, the participants were directed to divide themselves into groups of 4-10 and reflect on the outcomes of the OSC and the role of EMCRs in WCRP. Despite attending a week-long conference with interesting sessions and networking events, the energy and enthusiasm among the EMCRs were high in the room.

Here are the most important points discussed by the EMCRs in this session:

- Many EMCRs wondered if the WCRP could inform policy in addition to focusing on science. They acutely recognise the need to work with policymakers for their science to reach the target communities. Another tangential point was that many were unaware of WCRP's projects and work.
- The EMCRs also acknowledge the need to bring together the necessary skills to carry out research and democratise data in scientific research.
- There is a need to rethink collaboration between the Global North and the Global South and stop helicopter/parachute science research.
- Fairness is essential while discussing climate justice. It is not fair to ask Africa to reduce emissions in agriculture and switch to electric machines since it is not possible for the continent to adapt to this quickly. Especially, given that many regions in the global south still suffer from food insecurity.
- The lack of social scientists at the Open Science Conference was stark. It is important to include social scientists and development practitioners in this conversation, too.
- Improve storytelling and communication strategies among scientists so that their research can reach vulnerable communities quickly. This can also be achieved by encouraging scientists to work with communicators or science journalists to translate their messages into a more accessible language.
- Finance people should also be included in this conversation because it is pertinent that they understand the science of increasing funding to specific research areas.
- There is a need to close the existing gaps in science, for example, in human interactions with climate. This is not just about extreme events but also about the adaptive capacities of communities in the face of climate change.

Early Career Scientist Feedback: WCRP Open Science Conference

Anjana Sukumaran (India)

“Attending the WCRP OSC at Kigali proved to be a transformative experience, offering numerous benefits that significantly enriched my academic and professional journey. Below are the key benefits derived from this exceptional event

Research Presentation and Feedback:

- The conference provided a unique opportunity to present my research, a crucial component of my PhD, to a diverse audience of experts and researchers.
- Interaction with attendees led to invaluable feedback and suggestions, offering fresh perspectives and insights that will significantly shape the trajectory of my future work.

Engagement with Experts:

- Interactions with leading experts in the field allowed for meaningful discussions and the exchange of ideas, fostering a deeper understanding of current trends and challenges in climate research.
- Networking opportunities provided a chance to build professional relationships that may lead to future collaborations and partnerships.

Early Research Career Symposium Participation:

- Attending the Early Research Career Symposium was a pivotal experience, offering a specialized platform for early-career researchers.
- Being assigned to Group Q1, dedicated to discussing key climate research and knowledge gaps in the global South, allowed for a focused exploration of critical issues and potential solutions.
- Participation in discussions and symposiums allowed for the exploration of real-world problems, providing insights that can contribute to scientific understanding and improve climate modeling.
- Engaging with a global community of experts fostered a sense of belonging to a larger scientific network.
- The connections made during the event lay the groundwork for potential collaborations and partnerships, transcending geographical boundaries.
- Insights gained during these sessions will not only inform future research but also contribute to developing effective strategies for addressing climate-related issues in diverse geographical contexts.

The event's benefits extend beyond the immediate knowledge gained, shaping my perspective, and positioning me to contribute meaningfully to the global discourse on climate research.”

Irina Melnikova (Japan)

“Thanks to the financial support from the Asia Pacific Network (APN), as an early-career scientist, I had the invaluable opportunity to attend the WCRP OSC2023 meeting in Rwanda.

This support enabled my active participation in the conference where I gave a talk on the comparison of two land-based carbon dioxide removal options and presented a poster on comparison of complex Earth System models and climate and carbon cycle emulators.

APN's support not only facilitated my full engagement in the conference environment but also provided avenues for networking and professional development. I could join scientific discussions, promote my own research, and meet distinguished colleagues from all over the world. Furthermore, it provided a platform to develop some technical expertise through joining the workshops that were organized within the meeting agenda.

Interactions with scientists from diverse backgrounds, alongside policymakers, broadened my understanding of interdisciplinary challenges, particularly in bridging the gap between physical climate scientists and those with socioeconomic backgrounds. The OSC2023, held in Africa, emphasized the importance of inclusivity, the involvement of the Global South in research, and the utilization of local knowledge, with a particular focus on the interests of indigenous communities. Besides, personally visiting Rwanda was a very satisfying experience and I enjoyed the beauty and culture of the country.

Participating in the conference, that would not be possible without APN support, served as a catalyst for getting inspiration and motivation to engage further in research that virtually promotes the efforts of the international community to avoid dangerous climate change and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”

Ermias Sisay (Japan)

“The main benefit I gained from the conference can be broadly expressed in terms of networking and collaboration, sharing and learning, and personal development.

The WRCP Open Science Conference (OSC) proved invaluable for expanding my professional network and gaining broader perspectives within the vast field of climate research. Engaging with leading scientists, practitioners, and policymakers provided unique insights and fostered stimulating discussions. Building relationships with diverse peers and collaborators from various regions and disciplines broadened my understanding of ongoing research directions and potential synergies. Notably, the conference presented exciting opportunities to forge potential collaborations for future projects directly relevant to my PhD research. Overall, the OSC experience significantly enriched my network and opened doors to future partnerships that will undoubtedly influence my academic journey.

Presenting my PhD research through a poster presentation at the WRCP OSC served as a valuable platform to enhance my communication skills. Engaging with a broad audience, from seasoned researchers to curious attendees, challenged me to tailor my explanations effectively and answer diverse questions confidently. Moreover, the conference offered professional development opportunities and workshops, equipping me with new tools and knowledge that will enhance my research methodology and presentation skills. Perhaps most significantly, networking with established professionals within the field not only boosted my confidence but also provided valuable recognition for my work. This interaction with experts offered insightful feedback and opened doors to potential future collaborations, further fueling my motivation and enthusiasm for further research endeavors.

Additional Benefits:

I attended high-level plenary sessions: gained insights from expert panels on crucial climate issues. Contributed to the "Kigali Declaration": helped shape a collective voice for climate action. Experienced a different cultural context: broadened my personal and professional perspectives.

Overall:

The conference provided an invaluable platform for learning, networking, and contributing to the global climate conversation. It directly enhanced my PhD research by presenting my work, gaining feedback, and connecting with relevant experts.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) for their generous sponsorship, which enabled me to attend the WCRP OSC and present my PhD research. Their support was invaluable in facilitating this enriching and impactful experience."

Sunil Bista (Nepal)

"Thank you for your support. I found the experience both enlightening and invigorating.

Here's my personal reflection. The conference hall buzzed with anticipation as scientists from diverse backgrounds gathered. The networking opportunities were unparalleled. Conversations flowed freely, transcending borders and disciplines. I met climate researchers from Africa, Asia, and beyond, each with a unique perspective. We shared stories of fieldwork, data challenges, and the urgency of our mission."

Hannah Jose (Philippines)

"Through the financial support granted by the Asia Pacific Network (APN), I was able to participate in the WCRP Open Science Conference in Kigali, Rwanda as a poster presenter. As an early career researcher, the conference was an insightful experience. Not only was I able to share my work but also, I was given access to latest climate science advancements. The learning laboratories and table discussions were great avenues to acquire new skills, share insights and build networks for future collaborations. Lastly, the talks from the speakers were eye-opening as it calls for interdisciplinary research and global cooperation to mitigate climate change impacts. Overall, my participation to the conference amplified my interest in climate science and have opened more opportunities in pursuing further studies."

Rezwan Siddiqui (Bangladesh)

"Attending the WCRP conference broadened my technical capacity. Although I am not an expert of data modelling and prediction using large online datasets, after attending several of the workshops I see myself as confident enough to embark a journey to learning and using these techniques in my future career. The conference boosted my confidence to take academia as a career. I also get to meet and learn a lot from the experts from different sectors and countries."

Lora Batino (Philippines)

“Having the chance to attend the World Climate Research Programme Open Science Conference, which happens only every decade, is a valuable opportunity for an early-career researcher like me from Southeast Asia. I had the chance to meet fellow climate scientists and researchers during the conference, and it made for a conducive environment to discuss what we, as youth and as future leaders in the study of climate science and in the drafting and implementation of climate policies, can do in this current decade and onto the next. Very real concerns were discussed, and so were potential solutions.

I was fortunate enough to be selected as a participant in the Early-to-mid-Career Researcher (EMCR) Symposium and meet so many young people working towards similar goals as I am. I was also able to present the results of several research surveys we conducted with the WCRP Academy at the WCRP Open Science Conference, and the feedback has been useful in improving the Academy website and integrating various viewpoints from users of the Academy’s services.

The Open Science Conference being held in Rwanda was also an excellent way to meet more climate scientists and researchers from Africa. We don’t usually get this opportunity in conferences hosted in the Global North due to travel limitations, but as a scholar from Asia, I was fortunate to be one of the delegates who received travel, accommodation, and participation support from the conference organizers and sponsors. African scholars from Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa introduced novel responses to the changing climate and explained how differently climate change impacts Africa as a region. There is also a considerable number of fellow EMCRs from South Asia and the shared concerns from the Global South ignited discussions on representation in the global climate science community. Overall, participating in the WCRP EMCR and WCRP OSC has been helpful in networking with fellow climate researchers, sharing my research, and knowing more about the work being done by my fellow EMCRs and MCRs in their respective regions.”

Md Khalid Hossain (Australia)

“The conference was one of a small handful of major conferences in the field of open climate science, which is the focus of my research. The conference was extremely competitive, with acceptance relying upon peer review of posters and abstracts. So, the acceptance of my contribution as a poster was an honour and indicative that my research is among the most important in the field at the time of submission. My attendance at the conference was an extremely important step in my development from an early career academic coming from the global south. Conferences such as WCRP-OSC are without question the best way to stay up to date with current best practices and cutting-edge methodologies in the field. Moreover, as I am an early career academic, this conference was a great opportunity to network and meet with prospective employers. Besides, the discussions with attendees after my poster presentation also yielded fruitful ideas for additional articles based on my research and for ways to continue to develop and expand my research for publication a journal article. Developing the abilities to clearly and confidently present my work to other conference attendees opened up the opportunity to collaborate on future projects.”

Salma Tabassum (Bangladesh)

“Outline of the benefits attending the WCRP conference 2023:

- That was a great opportunity for share the knowledge in the various sessions with different country’s researchers and professionals.
- The scientists and professionals presented their research and share many interesting information, refining the ideas.
- I met experts, leaders in climate field, researchers Africa, Germany, India, China and other countries researcher and discussed about their work and share my research work knowledge also.
- The gala night was great for participating in social events and activities, networking, enjoyment and socialization.
- It’s possible to collaboration in future with some of the organization.”

Syed Ahsan Ali Bokhari (Pakistan)

“I am affiliated with the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) which plays an active role at the national level in Weather and Climate research activities, capacity building, information dissemination, and assistance to national planners and policymakers on issues related to past and projected future climatic changes in the country. It was indeed very much beneficial for me to understand the recent advances and challenges in research on the coupled Earth System models. The scientific knowledge shared by global scientists during the conference provided a very detailed insight into advances in climate research, human interactions with climate, and co-produced climate services and solutions. It was a great networking opportunity and I made quite a few new acquaintances which can lead to further collaborations in climate research.”

Anshika Srivastava (India)

“Following my attendance at the conference, I'm thrilled to provide an update on the enriching experience and valuable insights gained. The event served as an immersive learning opportunity, offering a platform to showcase my work and actively engage with fellow researchers in my field.

One of the most significant takeaways from the conference was the exposure to cutting-edge research conducted by leading organizations and experts. The presentations and discussions provided invaluable knowledge, enabling me to stay abreast of the latest advancements in the domain.

Moreover, the networking opportunities proved to be incredibly fruitful. I had the privilege of connecting with like-minded professionals, exchanging ideas, and expanding my professional network. These connections have already proven to be instrumental in fostering collaboration and exploring new avenues within the field.

Overall, the conference was a transformative experience that not only allowed me to demonstrate my skills and expertise but also provided me with a deeper understanding of

the challenges and opportunities within the domain. I am excited to leverage these learnings in my future endeavors and continue contributing to the advancement of the field.”

Marfasran Hendrizan (Indonesia)

“Hello, my name is Marfasran Hendrizan and I am a junior researcher at National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)-Republic of Indonesia majoring in Geosciences minoring in paleoclimate and paleoceanography. This autumn, I attended the WCRP Open Science Conference at Kigali where I gained experience in presenting my research focus relate to paleoclimate in the maritime continent. Additionally, I have discussed on several research teams in the conference. We discussed about links between high latitude climate and tropical climate during the last warming of 25,000 years ago. I conduct research in the areas of paleoclimatology and paleoceanography. My research primarily uses marine sediment archives from the Indonesian seas to investigate paleoclimate and paleoceanography. These marine sediment archives were obtained during expeditions aboard research vessels such as the Indonesian Baruna Jaya VIII and Geomarine 3, Germany’s SONNE, and France’s Marion Dufrenoy. My work has been published in several reputable peer-reviewed journals. Therefore, networking from WCRP Open Science Conference is very important for my further career in the future. I plan to collaborate to some colleagues from United States of America, France and Germany to explore future research collaboration in the Indonesian Seas.”

Shailendra Mandal (India)

“Attending the Early-to-mid-Career Researcher (EMCR) Symposium and WCRP Open Science Conference at Kigali, Rwanda (October 22 – 28, 2023) has given me an exposure of the scientific work of scientists in the area of my research interests which includes water security and sustainability, Climate extremes and risk: Impacts, cascades, feedbacks with biosphere and society, Climate change resilience and other challenges being faced and address by scientists and researchers around the world in the area of climate science. It also gave me an opportunity to network with the other participants of the conference. It also facilitated me to network with the international science community working under the WCRP umbrella and offer opportunities to develop new knowledge, gain new skills and exposure to the international community.

I was able to contribute significantly in the breakout session of EMCRs titled ‘How can EMCRs contribute to supporting policy making with climate science and knowledge, during the upcoming decade, also called the "decade of decisions?’ and learned many valuable tips related to science publication and communication while attending the EMCR Workshop on ‘Effective science communication- from peer reviewed articles, project proposals to public communication’, ‘Sharing experiences: navigating leadership and diversity in workplaces: Prof. Celeste Saulo, WMO Secretary General’ and ‘Sharing experiences: curiosity-driven climate research, climate literacy, knowledge to inform climate action by Dr Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Co-Chair of the IPCC-WG1,AR6. I learned about many scientific works carried out around the globe while attending the many presentations in all three themes in the

WCRP OSC.

Things we do in life often have measurable results but the extent of their impact is often difficult to quantify. The financial assistance, which has been provided to me for attending the said workshop and conference at Kigali will have an impact upon me far beyond the obvious and measurable financial help. I am pleased with the international conference at Kigali where I have presented my research paper, as well as the invaluable learning experiences the said symposium and conference has made available to me that have expanded and strengthened my professional education. The knowledge gained by me in the said conference and symposium is definitely helping me in my research and teaching work. This financial support for international conference at Kigali means a lot to me. I am very proud to share this connection with WCRP and APN, and I am extremely grateful for the financial assistance. Overall it was a good learning experience for me.”