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GENEVA, 20 June 2016

Subject: Support letter, Years of the Maritime Continent (YMC) international project

Dear Professor Zhang and Dr Yoneyama,

On behalf of co-chairs of the Working Group on Numerical Experimentation (WGNE), Drs Keith Williams and Ayrton Zadra, we eagerly support the Years of the Maritime Continent (YMC) international project, which is expected to contribute significantly to the work of the WGNE Madden-Julian Oscillation Task Force (MJOTF). WGNE is a joint effort from the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the WMO Commission for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS).

The MJOTF was recently renewed in early 2016 for a term of three years, including an explicit reference to advance our understanding of MJO interactions with the Maritime Continent (MC) so as to facilitate improvements in model bias and foster better subseasonal predictions across the MC and the globe. To foster this initiative, the MJOTF has a joint subproject with the Seasonal to Subseasonal (S2S) prediction project related to the MC. Both S2S and the MJOTF deem the interaction of the MC with the MJO a high research priority that has significant bearing on addressing shortcomings and improving operational MJO predictions, and because of the importance of region as a source for the global teleconnections of the MJO, enhanced extra-tropical prediction on sub-seasonal timescales.

While furthering process understanding of MJO-MC interactions that leads to enhanced predictions is one motivating principle of MJOTF activities related to the MC, current practicalities and opportunities have also inspired our recent efforts. In particular, the presence of existing modelling resource to bring to bear on MJO-MC interactions, as well as the impending YMC field project, have provided immediate impetus to this effort. We look forward to working with you and others involved in YMC to help refine the objectives of the field campaign and exploit the significant process study data to address deficiencies in our understanding, and make scientific progress through collaborative observational and modelling activities.



WMO OMM

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In summary, we envision the YMC project as being an important component of our MJOTF activities related to the Maritime Continent over the next several years, and wholeheartedly support the YMC project and science plan.

Yours sincerely,

(D. Carlson)
Director, World Climate Research
Programme

(D. Terblanche)
Director, Atmospheric Research and Environment
Branch

cc: Drs Keith Williams and Ayrton Zadra, Co-Chairs WGNE
Drs Steve Woolnough and Eric Maloney, Co-Chairs MJOTF