Department of Atmospheric Sciences Joint Seminar Announcement

Department of Atmospheric Sciences, S.O.E.S.T., University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
2525 Correa Road, HIG 350; Honolulu, HI 96822 ☎956-8775
&
International Pacific Research Center, S.O.E.S.T., University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
1680 East-West Road, POST 401; Honolulu, HI 96822 ☎956-5019

The 'monsoon' onset in Bangladesh from a climate service perspective

Dr. Mathew Stiller-Reeve
Uni Research Climate/Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research
Bergen, Norway

Date: Monday, March 9, 2015
Refreshments: 2:00pm – 2:30pm at IPRC Conf. Room
Free Cookies, Coffee & Tea Provided
Seminar Time: 2:30pm
Location: IPRC Conference Room, POST 414

Abstract:

Millions of people in Bangladesh rely on the summer monsoon for their livelihoods. Variability in the monsoon onset date itself impacts many aspects of Bangladesh society, including agricultural production and therefore people's personal income and security. If climate services aims to provide information about the monsoon onset to these people then we need to know when the monsoon starts. This is not a simple exercise with respect to Bangladesh climate. Different monsoon definitions can give considerably different results. We will see that rainfall in northeast Bangladesh in early summer (April-May) impacts how the onset propagates across the country. Interestingly, the mechanisms triggering this early summer rainfall are still not completely understood, and we will examine a couple of the theories.

Then we will discuss why the discrepancies between the scientific monsoon definitions matter within a climate service framework. The people in northeast Bangladesh seem to interpret the monsoon onset in a different way than widely accepted scientific definitions. The people's perceptions are clearly influenced by the early summer rainfall, rather than the large scale circulation. This is important because it is upon these perceptions that local people base their decisions and actions.

We will round the seminar off with a look at an initial statistical method to compare people's perceptions with scientific monsoon time series. The aim is to give an indication about which scientific monsoon definitions might be better suited in a climate service framework.

All this motivates a new interdisciplinary project (www.projecttracks.net) where UH collaborates with partners in Norway, and Bangladesh, to produce high quality climate knowledge with and for the people.