Technical Attachment

Professional Development Series for Climate

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The authors comprise the team which is working on a Professional Development Series (PDS) related to climate, and we would like to provide you with an update on our progress and ask for your input. Marina is the team leader for the climate PDS development effort, while Julie, Deirdre and Ed are producers for the 4th, 2nd and 3rd Professional Competency Units (PCUs), respectively, which will make up those parts of the overall PDS.

Here are the PCUs identified so far for the climate PDS:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the infrastructure for climate data and services.
2. Demonstrate understanding of climate variability sufficient to apply to local services.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the basis and methodologies of CPC products.
4. Interpret and apply CPC products.
5. Respond to user requests for historical climate data and information, and provide public outreach.

Development of the climate PDS began formally in January 2001, although some ideas were formulated earlier. Since then, we have identified the above set of PCUs and their objectives and we conducted a successful climate in-residence seminar for forecasters in March 2002. That seminar is being revised slightly and will be presented again August 26-30, 2002, at COMET. You can find more information about the climate PDS at:

http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/nwstrn/d.ntp/meteor/clipds.html

and more about the seminar at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/csd/SOOworkshop/Guidance.htm

We've also started to develop a climate PDS Web site that will provide broad information about climate phenomena, its variability and predictability, as well as access and explanation of available climate operational products and their applications. Good progress has been made in this area and we expect to unveil the site in the fourth quarter of this fiscal year.

Work is also progressing on developing teletraining that will be the primary support for PCUs 3 and 4, and for some parts of PCU 2 (those parts which could not be included in the seminar because of a tight class schedule). Among the candidate topics for teletraining are:

- Navigating the CPC Web site and acquaintance with climate products.
- CPC medium-range (6 to 10 days, week two) forecasts.
- Effect of solar and climate variability on climate forecasting.
- What are modes of climate variability and how are they found?
- What techniques and data sets may be employed to search for local climate impacts?
- Quantifying uncertainty in climate forecasts.
- Using climate outlooks in making decisions.
- What are the impacts of volcanoes on climate?

Where your input is requested is in helping identify other topics that might be covered in these sessions. Also, how many climate teletraining sessions could local offices reasonably be expected to accommodate per year? The producers are well aware of the busy schedules at local offices, so your advice and feedback as development continues will be important if we are to achieve success with the training material. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Please reply to all the authors, and copy the regional SSDs and MSDs, so that all those responsible for future climate services and related training can benefit from your comments.