

# **REPORT**

## **U. S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Listening Session at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) *Meeting of the Americas* – 2008 Joint Assembly,**

**Tuesday, May 27, 2008**

Greater Fort Lauderdale-Broward County Convention Center  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA

## Introduction

A CCSP listening session was held on Wednesday, May 28, 2008, at the AGU *Meeting of the Americas* - 2008 Joint Assembly. The listening session was announced as a CCSP Town Hall discussion through: on-line listing of the Scientific Program prior to the meeting, placards strategically placed at the Convention Center before the session, and by the program committee chair in introducing the Union Plenary speaker whose talk immediately preceded the Town Hall Listening Session. Approximately 40 to 60 people attended the noon Town Hall session.

Dr. Jack Kaye provided background and context for the discussion through a short, 20 to 25 minute presentation. In addition to the title and overview slides the following eight slides were used as talking points (listed here by title only):

1. US Climate Change Science Program
2. Climate Science Goals
3. CCSP Activities
4. CCSP Synthesis & Assessment Products
5. Additional Forthcoming CCSP Products
6. NRC Review of CCSP
7. CCSP Strategic Planning Process
8. Questions to Encourage Discussion

The following are brief notes of the participant's questions (numbers) and Dr. Kaye's responses (letters) given during the approximately 20 minute discussion period following his presentation.

## Listening Session Comments, Questions and Responses

1. What criteria are being used to set the priorities for the research plan?
  - a. *Primarily science value and societal value,*
  - b. *Agency investment influences the plan's schedule (for instance, satellite missions and their associated inter-agency validation and support field experiments),*
  - c. *Response to geophysical or ecological "happening" – i.e., "the Earth does something",*
  - d. *Influential report or assessment (like the IPCC report).*
2. In the case of NASA, how does the NRC Decadal Survey feed into the strategic planning process?
  - a. *The Decadal Survey is quite specific to NASA with some comments about NOAA and USGS,*
  - b. *Coming from the NRC it reflects the voice of the scientific community,*
  - c. *The strategic plan for climate change must reflect the broader multi agency community in a way that is still consistent with concepts outlined in the Decadal Survey.*

3. What changes have resulted from the first phase of the NRC review of CCSP, and what do you expect from the second phase of the review?
  - a. *Don't know what to expect from the second phase,*
  - b. *[referring to slide 8] stronger focus on stakeholder involvement,*
  - c. *Greater emphasis on the impact of climate changes on human well-being and vulnerabilities, but with a fixed budget that necessarily means reducing support in some areas to provide more support in others.*
  
4. Who has the responsibility for promoting a dialog for climate stabilization?
  - a. *We provide the scientific understanding necessary to define public policy,*
  - b. *The political process decides the policy,*
  - c. *CCSP is part of the executive branch of government.*
  
5. It's important for government to inform the public concerning the impacts of climate change. However, doing so objectively and clearly is a challenge. [Statement]
  - a. *Communications must be a significant part of our approach,*
  - b. *It's not clear where agency information offices leave off and a CCSP communications approach begins.*
  
6. Can AGU have a more significant role in communications and education through sessions bringing together the science community and the press, for instance?

*The AGU has an extensive series of activities in Science and Policy including the following:*

- a. *AGU Science Legislative Alerts (ASLA's)*
  - b. *Congressional Science Fellow Program—AGU sponsors a scientist every year to serve in a Congressional office as a science advisor*
  - c. *AGU's Position Statements on climate change, natural hazards, data preservation, and other topics*
  - d. *Providing links to coalitions of which AGU is a member*
  - e. *An advocacy page with links on how to contact your Congressional delegation*
  - f. *Identification of pending legislation*
  - g. *Providing hearing summaries*
7. Extended discussion of the role of education in the strategic planning process.
    - a. *Mention of the new, ad hoc CCSP education working group*
    - b. *There is a need for a sustained education program targeting middle school and high school curricula.*
    - c. *Susan Buhr (CIRES) suggested checking the approach used in the NOAA Climate Literacy Framework.*
    - d. *The National Academies' publication "Understanding and Responding to Climate Change" was recommended as an educational resource.*