

# 2012 AMS Washington Forum

## Toward a Weather, Water and Climate-Ready Nation

(Formerly the Public-Private Partnership Forum)

University of California—Washington Center  
Washington, D.C. • 10–12 April 2012

### FORUM THEME

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The occurrences of natural hazards and climate change are inevitable and unavoidable, but their destructive financial and emotional impacts can be reduced and/or eliminated by deploying “hazard mitigation and climate adaptation” strategies for disaster risk reduction. Improved decision support systems and tools must be better incorporated into preparedness paradigms at multiple scales (communities, nations, and regions) to mitigate disasters. For example, crucial to the survivability of communities is their use of catastrophic risk management insurance to protect their assets. The theme session of this forum will explore the relationship between hazard mitigation/climate adaptation strategies, risk management insurance and holistic sustainability for “whole community resiliency” to hazards and changes in Weather, Water and Climate.

### SESSION TOPICS

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#### **Health and Environmental Security: Weather/Climate Impacts and Mitigation Strategies**

In one session, we address the evolution of combined environmental and health applications, the public/private partnerships that are creating them, and returns-on-investment for human health, the associated savings, and the next frontier for advancing this hybrid science. In a second session, we discuss the potentially destabilizing impacts of weather and climate events on national economies and governments, along with the regional and global implications, including how these events generate impacts, and how to better plan for and respond to those impacts.

#### **Space Weather, and Military Uses of Weather and Climate Data**

The first session will address the current state of space weather monitoring, forecasting techniques, and explore the impacts of severe space weather events on critical technologies, including the energy grid, communications, GPS navigation, and the health of low-orbiting spacecraft. The second session will provide an opportunity for dialogue between the sources, distributors, and users of weather and climate data, with a focus on military applications, including “boots on the ground” insight from real-world situations.

#### **Economic Benefits and Bankability of Weather and Climate Data**

In this session, we continue discussions from the 2011 AMS Summer Community Meeting and the 2012 AMS Annual Meeting on gauging the value of weather and climate services and products in areas such as water, transportation, renewable energy, health, and emergency management. We will aim to bridge the gap in understanding of what “bankable data” means in the renewable energy industry to two different communities: insurers, reinsurers, and financiers; and scientists and engineers. The goal is to facilitate synergies for moving the industry forward.

#### **Executive Branch and Agency Initiatives, Plans, Progress and Opportunities**

In one session, staff from the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Science and Technology Policy will discuss programs and pending legislation that may provide opportunities for AMS members. In another session, senior staff from NOAA, NASA, DOE, and FAA will look ahead and provide updates on current meteorological, climatological, and oceanographic programs and provide insights on new science initiatives and directions.

#### **International Perspectives on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction/ Hydrology & Water Resource Management**

The session will highlight the views of international climate scientists and hazard mitigation specialists on strategies used in their respective countries for disaster reduction from natural hazards and the effects of climate change. This meeting is an opportunity to promote dialogue and cooperation in anticipation of the December 2012 conference to build a new global climate accord in Rio de Janeiro. Our featured Water session will compare and contrast views from water resource service providers and representatives of the water resource user community. Discussion will focus on decision support system needs and tools for sustainable water resources and hydrology engineering programs.

#### **Academia: Training the New Workforce**

This session examines new programs in areas such as professional meteorology and weather risk management, where universities proactively work with companies and agencies that hire their graduates to configure programs that directly address employers’ evolving needs.

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**PURPOSE:** To provide an opportunity for members of the weather, water, and climate community to meet with senior Federal agency officials, Congressional staff, and other community members to hear about the status of current programs, learn about new initiatives, discuss issues of interest to our community, identify business opportunities, and speak out about data and other needs.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** All members of the weather, water, and climate community are encouraged to attend, as well as end users of weather, water, and climate information.

**ORGANIZED BY** the AMS Board on Enterprise Economic Development, Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise

**SEATING IS LIMITED:** Preregistration is strongly recommended. Watch the AMS\_PSL list for announcements. Send e-mail to [grasmussen@ametsoc.org](mailto:grasmussen@ametsoc.org) to be added to the announcement list.

**QUESTIONS:** If you would like to get involved in helping to plan future meetings, or if you have any questions, please contact Gary Rasmussen at AMS HQ at 617.226.3981 or [grasmussen@ametsoc.org](mailto:grasmussen@ametsoc.org).