



Abstracts and Biographies| A Change in the Weather?

Wednesday 11 December 2019, 1.00pm – 4.30pm

Professor Alan Thorpe

Biography: Alan Thorpe has been in senior leadership roles at the Hadley Centre, NERC, University of Reading and ECMWF. He retired from being Director-General of ECMWF in December 2015 and since then has been a visiting Professor at the University of Reading. He has just been appointed as a Non-Executive Director on the Board of the Met Office and holds part-time roles for the World Bank and Spire Global, a small satellite company. He was appointed an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society in 2018.

Title: Evolution of the Global Weather Enterprise

Abstract: Producing high-quality weather and climate information is a global scientific and technological effort that no one country or organisation can carry out alone. Co-operation has been an inherent part of how the global weather enterprise (GWE) has operated for much of its history. This talk will discuss some of the significant changes that are taking place in the public, private, and academic sectors that represent both opportunities and threats for the GWE. These changes result, in part, from significant developments in the capabilities of contributing organisations. An example is the ability of companies to own and operate their own observing networks such as a constellation of small satellites. Another is the capability of companies to run global weather models to an operational schedule. At the same time public weather services are under financial and other pressures, particularly in developing countries. Critical issues such as data access and sharing, quality assurance, and roles and responsibilities need to be addressed.

Responding to these changes requires much better dialogue to occur between the three sectors. Two complementary international initiatives have been established to allow improved dialogue to take place.

Mary M. Glakin

Biography: Mary Glackin is the incoming President of the American Meteorological Society (2020). Most recently, she was the VP for Weather Business Solutions for The Weather Company, an IBM Business where among other duties, she managed the company's relationships with members of the national and global weather enterprise.

Glackin served 34 years in the public sector with her last 5 years as Deputy Under Secretary at NOAA (2007-2012), the senior career position acting as chief operating officer. Prior to this she held a number of executive positions at NOAA. She is a Fellow of the AMS and National Academy of Public Administration.

Title: Examples of Collaboration and Cooperation in the Global Weather Enterprise

Abstract: It is widely recognized that both economic health and social wellbeing are dependent on quality weather, water and climate services. The need for these services continues to grow with key drivers being a rising global population and extremes from a changing climate. Appropriately, attention has focused on what the Global Weather Enterprise (GWE) composed of the public, private and academic sectors can do to enhance services, especially to areas that have been underserved. With leadership from the World Meteorological Organization, the World Bank and others, the GWE has been called to work together to develop a mutual understanding of the current enterprise and identify factors that inhibit its growth and opportunities to meet societies needs.

While the private sector has always contributed to services, there is a recognition that the private weather sector which emerged in the second half of the 20th century has become increasingly capable making contributions across the value chain. At the same time, the relationships between public entities and private companies has remained largely transactional with private companies providing goods and services to government organizations. And, there are at times a significant distrust among the sectors. However, there are some successful examples of cooperation and collaboration. This talk will focus on those examples and will also discuss the underlying mechanisms that have enabled these successes.

Andy Kirkman

Director for Government Services at the United Kingdom Met Office.

Biography: Andy has worked in the Met Office for 30 years. He started his career in remote sensing and satellite instrumentation, building and testing instruments that flew on research aircraft and weather satellites. After several years in corporate strategy and planning, he moved to the Met Office Defence team where he worked on environmental data and data visualisation projects and built partnerships with Royal Navy and the US Air Force.

Over the last 10 years, Andy has worked on a number of projects and initiatives such as environmental data, services and hazards partnerships with other UK government agencies and establishing the Met Office as Europe's primary space weather forecasting centre.

As Director for Government Services, he is responsible for managing the Met Office's response to a wide range of UK Government's current and future requirements for meteorological services, advice, capability and research. He is responsible for 120 staff working in sectors as diverse as international development, health, civil contingency, science diplomacy, defence and flooding.

Title: To stay safe and thrive – The mutual opportunities and challenges of a National Met Service working with the private sector.

Abstract:

The provision of weather advice and services is a key example of where the public and private sector have to work together to maximise mutual value. The Met Office has worked with the private sector for many decades as a customer, a supplier and as a competitor. As we look to how we enhance our impact and benefit delivery, we are more looking to the private sector as a partner. The talk will cover how the Met Office's strategy is leading us to this approach and some lessons and insights from our work to date. It will also look at the opportunities and challenges of working to mutually beneficial long-term goal.

Benjamin L. Lamptey

Biography: Dr. Lamptey joined the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) in Niamey, Niger as the Deputy Director-General (DDG) in September 2013. He became the Acting Director General of ACMAD cumulatively with the DDG position from 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2018 before joining the University of Leeds, UK, as a Cheney Fellow. Prior to joining ACMAD, he was the Acting Dean of the School of Graduate Studies cumulatively with the position of Acting Head of the Nautical Science Department at the Regional Maritime University in Accra, Ghana.

He trained at the UK Meteorological Office College (Shinfield Park, Reading) as a Weather Forecaster and later obtained a Master's degree in Applied and Agricultural Meteorology from the University of Reading before going to the Pennsylvania State University in USA.

He was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado USA from 2005 to 2007 after obtaining another Masters' degree in Meteorology and a doctorate degree in Geosciences (with a minor in High Performance Computing).

He started his meteorology career as a Weather Forecaster at the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) after his BSc (HONS) in Physics from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana. He later became the Head of the Climatology Division at GMet. He led the creation of the national climatological database. He is a climate modeler but has expertise in Data management from his work in GMet and training in his Diploma course in Computing and Information Systems in the UK. His current passion is in the transition from research to operations.

Title: Contributions to innovation in weather services for developing countries

Abstract:

The need for innovations in weather services in Africa is more pressing today than ever before. This is in light of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

projections of an increase in intensity and frequency of Extreme Events coupled with the vulnerability of Africa to climate change.

The Extreme Events when they do occur, will be weather events. In this regard, the need to improve the weather infrastructure in Africa now, cannot be over emphasized. Improved weather infrastructure will contribute to climate resilience. However, the public sector alone cannot address the challenges. This makes the involvement of the private sector in the provision of weather services, justifiable to a large extent. Thus, the factors influencing climate change adaptation in Africa will be viewed vis-à-vis weather services.