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1 December 2008

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Science Advisory Committee and the Executive of the Integrated Global Water Cycle Observations (IGWCO) Theme, I am pleased to invite you to the Fifth IGWCO Planning Workshop, to be held 2 and 3 February 2009 in Kyoto Japan at the Coop Inn Kyoto. This meeting is a very critical event for planning the future of IGWCO within the GEO framework.

The objectives of the IGWCO Workshop include: (1) reviewing the status of GEO Water tasks and subtasks and other current IGWCO projects; (2) assessing the future role of IGWCO in light of the GEO Water Tasks and the Water Cycle Community of Practice; and (3) discussing other GEO and CEOS activities including committees, targets, work plan 2009–2011 tasks, CEOS “threads” exercise, etc. and how IGWCO will contribute to these tasks and activities. Those who are leading specific IGWCO thrusts [e.g., precipitation, soil moisture, runoff, water quality, groundwater, the Global Water System Project, Capacity Building] should come prepared to discuss their progress since our last meeting in 2008 in Geneva. The recommendations will be used to the future role of IGWCO and its links with GEO and other water activities.

Hotel details are available at: http://www.mytrip.net/HOTEL/10846/10846_e.html. The hosts for the meeting are Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and the Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment (GEWEX).

It should be noted that this meeting will be followed by the 3rd GEOSS Asian Pacific Symposium and all IGWCO meeting attendees will be welcome to attend that event (February 4 to 6, 2009). In order to plan IGWCO discussions it is important that you register for the meeting. A web site is being set up so you will be able to register on-line. We are hoping to have a limited amount of funding available to support travel, if you will be needing travel support please notify the undersigned (lawford@umbc.edu) with the details of your requirements as soon as possible (and before December 15, 2008). Requests for support letters for visa applications should be sent to the 5th IGWCO Workshop Secretariat (igwco-5sec@restec.or.jp) with a copy to Ms. Kazuko Misawa (misawa@restec.or.jp).

I look forward to working with you at the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Lawford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Lawford
Chair, IGWCO Science Advisory Group

Members of the IGWCO Executive: Wolfgang Grabs, WMO/HWR; Chiyoshi Kawamoto, CEOS (JAXA); Peter van Oevelen WCRP/GEWEX