



Activities of the International Soil Moisture Working Group

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Soil moisture information is critical for understanding the global water and energy cycles, for predicting precipitation, and for advising local water resource managers. Based on theory and experiments to date there is a general agreement that both short and long term improvements in our understanding of the water cycle and our ability to model it should be possible with an integrated global soil moisture observing system. Improving these global observations is needed on a priority basis. The activities of the International Soil Moisture Working Group are this year, 2008, in a crucial phase. The start of the data hosting facility by the Portuguese Meteorological Institute and the planned launch of SMOS in the second part of 2008 make the necessity of progress in the development of a global in-situ soil moisture network eminent. In this presentation the outcome of the 2nd International Soil Moisture Working Group meeting will be presented, plans and activities for the coming years as well as the progress on the development of the data hosting facility.