



A proposed hydrologic basins project for THORPEX: a link with HEPEX

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Ensemble forecast techniques are beginning to be used for hydrological prediction by operational hydrological services throughout the world. These techniques are attractive because they allow effects of a wide range of sources of uncertainty on hydrological forecasts to be accounted for. Not only does ensemble prediction in hydrology offer a general approach to probabilistic prediction; it offers an approach to improve hydrological forecast accuracy as well. THORPEX is developing ensemble approaches to forecasting the forcing variables needed by hydrological models. The HEPEX project was initiated in March, 2004, to bring the international hydrological community together with the meteorological community to demonstrate how to produce reliable hydrological ensemble forecasts that can be used with confidence to make decisions that have important consequences for the economy and for public health and safety. This presentation suggests a way to link the THORPEX and HEPEX projects by establishing a joint project to develop an international network of river basins and a supporting data base that would provide researchers with the data that would be needed for research to meet HEPEX and THORPEX objectives. This would build on an existing network of basins being used by the international hydrological community as part of a Model Parameter estimation EXperiment (MOPEX).