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CLIVAR in the Pacific Ocean

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Coupled ocean-atmosphere processes across the Pacific Ocean region exhibit a large interannual to decadal variability, and have a profound influence on climate around the Pacific basin and over the entire globe. The processes responsible span a range of time and space scales including phenomena such as ENSO, Indo-Pacific Decadal Variability and the Asian-Australian Monsoon system. There has been significant progress in understanding Pacific Ocean variability and its influence on climate but there are many problems still to be solved. Essential for a better understanding and prediction of Pacific basin phenomena are observation systems and state-of-the-art models which will enable timely availability of high quality oceanographic and atmospheric data for monitoring and forecasting. The key to success in this enterprise is the coordination of international plans through the exchange of information, which is essential for improving forecasts that could mitigate societal impacts on Latin American and South East Asian countries.

The CLIVAR international research programme brings together oceanic and atmospheric scientists from the Pacific nations. It provides an umbrella for the international implementation of Pacific sector observations and modelling efforts with the goal of advancing our knowledge of the role of the Pacific ocean in global climate change. Strong collaboration with other international programs such as IGBP provides important link to bio-geochemical climate applications and the social impacts of climate change.

The poster will summarise the present status of climate-relevant Pacific observations and highlight the need for an internationally co-ordinated approach