



Seasonal Forecasting at the Met Office: challenges and applications for customers

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The Met Office routinely produces long-range forecasts up to six months ahead covering the whole globe. These forecasts are distributed to a varied pool of end-users (e.g. government, market traders, energy and water companies) that need to factor weather and climate risks into their planning. The increased awareness of human vulnerability to climate variability and change has substantially increased the demand for seasonal forecasts. Therefore, customers' requirements need to be taken into account in the development of the next generation of seasonal prediction systems. The main challenges in the design of these systems and the development of applications for end-users will be discussed. Some examples of current applications such as the hydroelectric forecasting in Ghana or the energy forecasting at Sempra Energy Europe Ltd will be presented.