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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 940961-4261]

RIN 0648-ZA11

NOAA Seasonal-to-Interannual Climate Prediction Program Research Centers, Program Announcement

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NOAA invites interested institutions to submit letters of intent indicating interest in establishing a cooperative agreement with NOAA to participate in a multinational network of Research Centers within the proposed Seasonal to Interannual Climate Prediction Program (SCPP).

The proposal to establish an end-to-end, multinational SCPP is based on the evolution of existing program efforts to observe, understand, predict, and assess the ocean and the atmosphere. The programmatic strength of these efforts has been derived from the support of individual federal agencies working together within the context of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (GCRP). These interrelated efforts provide the foundation which has enabled the research community to provide useful predictions of climate variability on seasonal to interannual time scales and are each a component of a comprehensive Program.

The U.S. proposes to initiate a multinational planning process intended to lead to the establishment of the multinational infrastructure needed to generate and transfer useful climate information and forecasts. This Announcement of Opportunity is intended to result in the establishment of NOAA-designated Research Centers to pursue the development of ENSO forecast techniques in anticipation of the full multinational structure which will evolve for SCPP. NOAA intends to ask one or a group of such Centers selected through this announcement to assume specific responsibilities for establishing a center to prepare and disseminate regularly an experimental forecast to all interested countries. Recognizing the value of El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) forecasting to countries throughout the world, this center is referred to as the International

Research Institute (IRI) in the U.S. proposal to establish a Seasonal-to-Interannual Climate Prediction Program. This action on the part of U.S. will represent the first step in the process of initializing the participation of all interested countries, and therefore NOAA wishes to emphasize that extensive multinational consultation will be an integral part of the process leading to a U.S. site for an International Research Institute for SCPP.

Funding for activities supported under this announcement will be provided through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate and Global Change Program administered by the NOAA Office of Global Programs.

DATES: Letters of intent should be submitted to J. Michael Hall, Director, NOAA Office of Global Programs no later than April 12, 1995. Response letters will be issued from NOAA by April 26, 1995. Those institutions which are encouraged to submit full proposals should do so by June 16, 1995.

Designation of U.S. Research Centers for SCPP will be completed by July 14, 1995, with appropriate funding action initiated at that time. Selection of the institution(s) which the U.S. will offer as a host site for the Institute is planned to be completed by September 1, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Letters of Intent and Proposals should be submitted to: Office of Global Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1225, Silver Spring, MD 20910-5063, Attn.: Dr. J. Michael Hall.

An Applications Kit can be obtained from: Grants Management Division, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1325 East West Highway, Room 5426, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Attn: Michael Nelson.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kenneth Mooney, NOAA/Office of Global Programs, 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1225, Silver Spring, MD 20910-5603; 301-427-2089, Internet: mooney@ogp.noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Funding Availability

A total of \$5.0 million is available for first-year awards under this announcement. Of this amount, \$4.0 million is envisioned to establish an International Research Institute for SCPP and \$1.0 million is to support work at designed SCPP Research Centers.

This Program Announcement is for projects to be conducted over a three-year period. NOAA believes that the SCPP will benefit significantly from a

strong partnership with outside investigators. The funding instrument will be a cooperative agreement based on need for substantial NOAA involvement in the implementation of the project for which an award is to be made. Funding for non-U.S. institutions and contractual arrangements for services and products for delivery to NOAA are not available under this announcement.

Program Authority

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 1463; 33 U.S.C. 883d and 883e; 15 U.S.C. 2907; 15 U.S.C. 2931

(CFDA No. 11.431)—Climate and Atmospheric Research

Program Objectives

The multinational network of research, application and operational centers is designed to catalyze the international scientific community in a coordinated research effort to produce the best possible climate forecasts a season to a year to two in advance and to provide forecasts guidance products which are socially and economically useful to countries of the world vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability. The network's Research Centers will promote research efforts designed to continually develop coupled models of the global atmosphere, ocean, and land surface to serve as a basis for improved climate prediction one season or one year or more in advance. Research Centers will transfer model improvements to the International Research Institute for SCPP and to national operational centers.

The International Research Institute will have the responsibility of producing, assessing, and distributing experimental climate forecast guidance products on an international basis and will seek funding from non-U.S. sources as well as from the U.S. The Institute will generate and disseminate experimental forecast guidance and analyses to Regional Application Centers, located around the world, which will refine the forecast based on analyses of local and regional conditions and distribute products of social and economic benefit to users. The U.S. will assist as appropriate in the establishment of Application Centers through a separate process. All of the NOAA-designated Research Centers will work closely with interested national and international operational centers, such as NOAA's National Meteorological Center, which have responsibilities for routine delivery of climate products.

Program Priorities

All proposals should provide detailed three-year plans for modeling research, education and training which build upon the existing program outlined in the letter of intent. Proposals from institutions also interested in hosting the IRI for SCPP should also include detailed information describing the unique qualifications of the institution(s) which will enable it (them) to combine the research and operational activities required to effectively coordinate the program. The following areas should be addressed in the proposal: Creation and maintenance of a climate data base; proposed mechanisms for the development and implementation of model improvements; strategy for generating experimental forecasts guidance products; evidence of capacity for assessing and distributing forecast guidance and supporting analyses to Application Centers and national operational weather prediction centers; support for the preparation for new forecast guidance products based on Application Center needs; and commitment to providing education and training for scientists and potential users of climate information.

Eligibility

Extramural eligibility is limited to U.S. institutions. Non-academic proposers are urged to seek collaboration with academic institutions. Universities, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, State and local governments, and Indian Tribes, are included among entities eligible for funding under this announcement.

Award Period

Proposal for SCPP Research Centers are expected to be of three-year duration.

Evaluation Criteria

Consideration for financial assistance will be given to those proposals which address the Program Priorities listed above and meet the following evaluation criteria. Equal weight is assigned to each of the criteria.

(1) Scientific Merit: Intrinsic scientific value of the proposed research program.

(2) Relevance: Importance and relevance to the goal of the SCPP.

(3) Methodology: Focused scientific objective and strategy, including modeling research, education and training considerations; project milestones; and final products.

(4) Readiness: Quality of the larger research and education environment; relevant history and status of existing

work; level of planning, including existence of supporting documents; strength of proposed scientific and management team; past performance record of proposers.

(5) Linkages: Connections to existing or planned national and international programs; partnerships with other agency or NOAA participants, and inclination towards ability to function within a network of institutions with an international perspective.

(6) Costs: Adequacy of proposed resources; appropriate share of total available resources; prospects for joint funding; identification of long-term commitments. Matching funding is encouraged, but is not required.

Selection Procedures

Upon completing the evaluation of the letters of intent, institutions will be either discouraged or encouraged to submit full proposals for designation as a SCPP Research Center or as a SCPP Research Center/and proposed U.S. host for the International Research Institute for SCPP. All proposals will be evaluated and ranked using the above evaluation criteria by a NOAA review panel which may include NOAA and non-NOAA experts in the field. Their recommendations and evaluations are considered by the Program Manager in final selections. Those ranked by the panel and rated by the Program Manager as not recommended for funding are not given further consideration and are notified of non-selection. For the proposals rated either Excellent, Very Good or Good, the Program Manager will: (a) Ascertain which proposals meet the objectives, fit the criteria posted, and do not substantially duplicate other projects that are currently funded by NOAA or are approved for funding by other federal agencies, (b) select the proposals to be funded, (c) determine the total duration of funding for each proposal, and (d) determine the amount of funds available for each proposal.

Unsatisfactory performance by a recipient under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

Proposal Submission

The guidelines for proposal preparation provided below are mandatory. Failure to heed these guidelines may result in proposals being returned without review.

(a) Letters of Intent: (1) Letters of Intent are required prior to submission of a full proposal. (2) Letters of Intent should be no more than ten pages in length and include the name(s) and institution(s) of principal investigator(s); detailed description of the resources

and unique capabilities that the institution would bring to the network, specifically scientific expertise, specialized facilities, ongoing research activities, educational and training programs, and university faculty positions. Explicitly identify existing resource levels for TOGA and other relevant research projects supported by NOAA and other agencies. Letters of intent from institutions interested in designation as a SCPP Research Center which would then, individually or in concert, provide host facilities for the Institute should indicate in addition specific interest in and capability for serving as the host site for a center which will take on the responsibility for systematic production, assessment and distribution of experimental climate forecast guidance products (the International Research Institute). (3) An original, signed letter of intent is required by the deadline date. Facsimile and electronic mail submission of letters of intent will not be accepted. (4) Evaluation will be by program management, according to the selection criteria for full proposals described above. (5) Projects deemed unsuitable during program review should not be submitted as full proposals.

(a) Full Proposals: (1) Applicants are not required to submit more than an original and two copies of applications. (2) Proposals must be limited to 30 pages (numbered), including budget, investigators vitae, and all appendices, and should be limited to funding requests for three-year duration. Required government standard forms are not included in the page limit. (3) An original, signed proposal is required by the deadline date. Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of full proposals will not be accepted.

(b) Required Elements: All proposals should include the following elements:

(1) Signed title page: The title page should be signed by the Principal Investigator (PI) and the institutional representative and should clearly indicate which project area is being addressed. The PI and institutional representative should be identified by full name, title, organization, telephone number and address. The total amount of Federal funds being requested should be listed for each budget period.

(2) Abstract: An abstract must be included and should contain an introduction, rationale and a brief summary of work to be completed. The abstract should appear on a separate page, headed with the proposal title, institution(s) investigator(s), total proposed cost and budget period.

(3) Statement of work: The proposed project must be completely described, including identification of the problem, scientific objectives, proposed methodology, relevance to the goal of the SCPP, and the program priorities listed above. Benefits of proposed project to the general public and the scientific community should be discussed. Results from related projects supported by NOAA and other agencies should be included. The statement of work, excluding figures and other visual materials, must not exceed 15 pages of text. Appended information may not be used to circumvent the page length limit. Investigators wishing to submit group proposals that may exceed the 15 page limit should discuss this possibility with the Program Manager prior to submission. In general, proposals from 3 or more investigators may include a statement of work containing up to 10 pages of overall project description plus up to 5 pages per person of individual project descriptions.

(4) Budget: Applicants must submit a detailed budget using the Standard Form 424a(4-92), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs. The form is included in the standard NOAA application kit. Unless otherwise directed by the Program Manager, proposals should indicate a target start date of September 1, 1995.

(5) Vitae: Abbreviated Curriculum vitae are sought with each proposal. Reference lists should be limited to all publications in the last three years with up to five other relevant papers.

(6) Current and pending support: For each investigator, submit a list that includes project title, supporting agency with grant number, investigator months, dollar value and duration. Requested values should be listed for pending support.

(c) Other requirements:

Primary applicant Certification—All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying." Applicants are also hereby notified of the following:

(1) Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension—Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, section 105) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension," and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

(2) Drug Free Workplace—Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR part 26, section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, "Governmentwide

Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

(3) Anti-Lobbying—Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000, or the single family maximum mortgage limit for affected programs, whichever is greater; and

(4) Anti-Lobbying Disclosures—Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR part 28, appendix B.

Lower Tier Certifications—Recipients must require applicants/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to DOC. SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

(5) Recipients and subrecipients are subject to all applicable Federal laws and Federal and Department of Commerce policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

(6) Preaward Activities—If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation to the applicant on the part of Department of Commerce to cover pre-award costs.

(7) Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

(8) All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of, or are presently facing

criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management, honesty, or financial integrity.

(9) A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(10) No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

(i) The delinquent account is paid in full,

(ii) A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or

(iii) Other arrangements satisfactory to the Department of Commerce are made.

(11) Buy American-Made Equipment or Products—Applicants are hereby notified that they are encouraged to the extent feasible, to purchase American-made equipment or products with funding provided under this program in accordance with Congressional intent as set forth in the resolution contained in Public Law 103-317, Section 607 (a) and (b).

(12) The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed in an application under this program must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant Federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award or 100 percent of the total proposed direct cost dollar amount in the application, whichever is less.

(d) If an application is selected for funding, the Department of Commerce has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with the award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of the Department of Commerce.

(e) In accordance with Federal statutes and regulations, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin or disability shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from the NOAA Climate and Global Change Program. The NOAA Climate and Global Change Program does not have direct TDD (Telephone Device for the Deaf) capabilities, but can be reached through the State of Maryland supplied TDD contact number, 800-735-2258, between the hours of 8:00 am-4:30 pm.

Classification: This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866. The standard forms have been approved by

the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act under OMB approval number 0348-0043, 0348-0044, and 0348-0046.

Dated: January 9, 1995.

J. Michael Hall,

Director, Office of Global Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Establishment and Amendment of Import Limits and Amendment of a Restraint Period and Visa Requirements for Certain Cotton, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Apparel Produced or Manufactured in Sri Lanka

March 7, 1995.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing and amending limits and amending a restraint period and visa requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 14, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Helen L. LeGrande, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927-5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854).

Pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated February 6, 1995 between the Governments of the United States and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the current Bilateral Textile Agreement, effected by exchange of notes dated May 23 and 24, 1988, as amended and extended, is being converted to a twelve-month calendar year agreement.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to amend the current restraint period to extend through December 31, 1994. The current limits are being amended and new

limits are being established for Categories 434 and 440. Also, limits are being established for the period beginning on January 1, 1995 and extending through December 31, 1995. The 1995 limits for Categories 331/631, 334/634, 335/835, 336/636/836, 340/640, 341/641, 347/348/847, 351/651, 352/652, 635 and 840 have been reduced for carryforward and special carryforward applied to the 1994 agreement period. The 1994 limits for Categories 314 and 347/348/847 will be filled upon opening. Goods shipped in excess of these limits are being charged to the corresponding limits for the 1995 period. The visa arrangement is being amended to no longer require a 340-Y/640-Y visa for goods produced or manufactured in Sri Lanka and exported from Sri Lanka.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 59 FR 65531, published on December 20, 1994). Also see 53 FR 34573, published on September 7, 1988; and 59 FR 14152, published on March 25, 1994.

The letter to the Commissioner of Customs and the actions taken pursuant to it are not designed to implement all of the provisions of the MOU, but are designed to assist only in the implementation of certain of its provisions.

Rita D. Hayes,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

March 7, 1995.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on March 22, 1994, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products and silk blend and other vegetable fiber apparel, produced or manufactured in Sri Lanka and exported during the period which began on January 1, 1994 and extends through June 30, 1995.

Effective on March 14, 1995, you are directed, pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), a Memorandum of Understanding dated February 6, 1995 between the Governments of the United States and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, to amend the current restraint period to begin on January 1, 1994 and extend through December 31,

1994 at the levels listed below. The sublimit for Categories 340-Y/640-Y¹ is being eliminated.

Category	1994 twelve-month limit ^a
237	267,674 dozen.
314	3,600,000 square meters.
331/631	3,330,773 dozen pairs.
333/633	29,041 dozen.
334/634	867,071 dozen.
335/835	334,700 dozen.
336/636/836	658,706 dozen.
338/339	1,244,751 dozen.
340/640	1,343,974 dozen.
341/641	1,868,738 dozen of which not more than 1,245,825 dozen shall be in Category 341 and not more than 1,174,163 dozen shall be in Category 641.
342/642/842	508,054 dozen.
345/845	113,332 dozen.
347/348/847	1,573,138 dozen.
350/650	59,280 dozen.
351/651	338,285 dozen.
352/652	1,329,966 dozen.
359-C/659-C ^b	960,102 kilograms.
360	1,200,000 numbers.
363	7,881,596 numbers.
369-D ^c	726,248 kilograms.
369-S ^d	689,784 kilograms.
434	7,000 dozen.
435	15,750 dozen.
440	10,000 dozen.
611	4,700,000 square meters.
635	461,873 dozen.
638/639/838	758,023 dozen.
644	258,635 numbers.
645/646	45,526 dozen.
647/648	777,128 dozen.
840	250,000 dozen.

^aThe limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1993.

^bCategory 359-C: only HTS numbers 6103.42.2025, 6103.49.8034, 6104.62.1020, 6104.69.8010, 6114.20.0048, 6114.20.0052, 6203.42.2010, 6203.42.2090, 6204.62.2010, 6211.32.0010, 6211.32.0025 and 6211.42.0010; Category 659-C: only HTS numbers 6103.23.0055, 6103.43.2020, 6103.43.2025, 6103.49.2000, 6103.49.8038, 6104.63.1020, 6104.63.1030, 6104.69.1000, 6104.69.8014, 6114.30.3044, 6114.30.3054, 6203.43.2010, 6203.43.2090, 6203.49.1010, 6203.49.1090, 6204.63.1510, 6204.69.1010, 6210.10.9010, 6211.33.0010, 6211.33.0017 and 6211.43.0010.

^cCategory 369-D: only HTS numbers 6302.60.0010, 6302.91.0005 and 6302.91.0045.

^dCategory 369-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2005.

Textile products in Categories 434 and 440 which have been released from the custody of the U.S. Customs Service under the

¹ Category 340-Y: only HTS numbers 6205.20.2015, 6205.20.2020, 6205.20.2046, 6205.20.2050 and 6205.20.2060; Category 640-Y: only HTS numbers 6205.30.2010, 6205.30.2020, 6205.30.2050 and 6205.30.2060.