

August 1999

Announcements: August 1999

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Announcements

Disaster Management Workshops

The University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of Engineering Professional Development, will offer a seminar series, Disaster Management Workshops, September 20–24, 1999, in Madison, Wisconsin. Participants may enroll for 1–5 days.

The program will benefit emergency managers from business, industry, government, service, and community organizations. During the workshops, participants will learn about emergency information management; disaster communications; response planning; damage, needs, and resources assessment; and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

For more information, contact Katie Peterson, Department of Engineering Professional Development, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 432 North Lake Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706; telephone: (800) 462–0876; fax (608)263–3160; e-mail: custserv@epd.engr.wisc.edu; www: <http://epd.engr.wisc.edu/>.

National Workshop on Dynamic Crop Simulation Modeling

The National Workshop on Dynamic Crop Simulation Modeling for Agrometeorological Advisory Service was conducted at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, January 4–6, 1999. The objectives of the workshop were to assess the state of the art of crop simulation model (CSM) studies in India and to bring together scientists to discuss the use of CSM-based expert systems in crop management. Another goal was to prepare strategy for calibration and validation of the existing models in different agroclimatic zones of the country, and to identify the potential users of the crop simulation models calibrated and validated by NCMRWF. The 135 participants represented various agencies, including the NCMRWF, India Meteorological Department, Agrometeorological Advisory units of NCMRWF located at state agricultural universities, Indian Council for Agricultural Research Institutes, and Department of Space. Recommendations emerging from the workshop include the need to: identify the minimum soil, crop and crop management, and weather data required for building and validating the crop growth models in different agroclimatic zones of the country; identify gaps in the data; and prepare programs for filling the gaps (if any). It was also decided to repeat the workshop every two years. For more information, contact: Dr. S. A. Saseendran, Scientist, NCMRWF, DST, Mausam Bhavan, Lodi Road, New Delhi–3, India; e-mail: sas357@ncmrwf.ernet.in.

International Conference on Integrated Drought Management

The International Conference on Integrated Drought Management will be held in Pretoria, South Africa, September 20–22, 1999. The need for more integrated drought management approaches was identified by the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO, one of the organizers of the conference. Other organizers are the World Meteorological Organization, Southern African Development Community (SADC) Water Sector, and Drought Monitoring Centre of the SADC Food Security Sector.

The main objective of the conference is to better understand the factors predisposing people and landscapes to heightened drought vulnerability and to work toward strategies and actions that can reduce drought vulnerability and move society toward sustainable development. Sessions will address: Understanding, measuring, and forecasting drought; comparative drought management policies; key principles of integrated drought management; strategies to reduce drought vulnerability; capacity building, devolution of management responsibility, communication, and support; integrated drought management toward sustainable development; and drought research and information needs. A concluding session will synthesize the results of the conference in the form of directions for more effective drought management, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa.

The conference is aimed at researchers, academics, practitioners, consultants, developers, policy makers, planners, community leaders, and representatives of the media.

An optional pre-conference workshop, Drought Planning, will be held at the Agricultural Research Council in Pretoria on September 16–17, 1999. For more information, please contact Congress Secretariat, Conference Planners, Cilla Taylor/Alyson Lea-Cox, P.O. Box 82, Irene, 0062 South Africa; telephone: +27 (0) 12 667 3781; fax: +27 (0) 12 667 3680; e-mail: confplan@iafrica.com.

15th Annual Conference on Contaminated Soils

The 15th Annual Conference on Contaminated Soils will be held October 18–21, 1999, at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Platform and poster sessions will cover the following topics: Analysis, Arsenic, Bioavailability, Bioremediation, Chlorinated Hydrocarbons, Cold and Winter Remediation, Environmental Fate, Environmental Forensics, Heavy Metals, Lead, Massachusetts Military Reservation, MTBE/Oxygenates, Natural Attenuation, Phytoremediation, Radionuclides, RBCA, Remediation, Risk Sediments, Site Assessment, TPH, UXO, Water Containment Systems. Exhibits will bring real world application of technical theory and case studies. Focused workshops will provide attendees applicable practical information. For information, contact Denise Leonard at (413) 545–1239 or dleonard@schoolph.umass.edu.

2000 National Disaster Medical System Conference

The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) will hold its annual conference at the Alexis Park Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, April 29–May 3, 2000. The 2000 NDMS Conference will provide practical information on implementing interdisciplinary strategies for preventing or reducing the health and medical consequences of disasters of any origin. The education will feature counter-terrorism programs, clinical updates, extreme environmental events, disaster team development, information management systems, mass gathering events, critical incident stress management, sheltering and congregate care, health system emergency planning, mass fatality operations, veterinary services in disasters, and new standards in emergency management. The program will offer approximately 20 hours of continuing education credit for a wide range of health practitioners and administrators. For additional information, contact NDMS by calling 1 (800) USA–NDMS and pressing the “star” key, by e-mail at ndms@usa.net, or check their website at www.oep-ndms.dhhs.gov.

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Drought Network News encourages readers to submit information on current episodes of drought and its impacts; timely reports of response, mitigation, and planning actions of governments and international organizations (successes *and* failures); recent research results and new technologies that may advance the science of drought planning and management; recent publications; conference reports and news of forthcoming meetings; and editorials. If references accompany articles, please provide *full bibliographic citations*. All artwork *must* be *camera-ready*—please provide clear, sharp copies (in black/gray and white only—we are unable to reproduce color artwork) that can be photocopied/reduced without losing any detail. Correspondence should be addressed to

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