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GEWEX is initiating a new study focusing on the representation of the atmospheric boundary layer in regional and global models. The project referred to as the GEWEX Atmospheric Boundary Layer Study (GABLS), was accepted by the GEWEX Scientific Steering Group at its last meeting in Barcelona, Spain and will be presented to the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee in March. The main goal of GABLS is to improve the representation of the atmospheric boundary layer in models on the basis of a proper understanding of the relevant processes. Such activity is important in itself and also very relevant for other activities in GEWEX and for activities within the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP).

The atmospheric boundary layer is an important aspect of the physics in regional and global models, which has become crucially important in this new age of coupled atmosphere-land surface-ocean modeling. The intention is to organize an international activity as part of the GEWEX Modeling and Prediction Panel (GMPP) aimed at stimulating and coordinating research on planetary boundary layer physics, and taking advantage of opportunities to interact with existing activities inside and outside of the GEWEX arena, such as CLIVAR (Climate Variability) and the Working Group on Numerical Experimentation (WGNE). The new GMPP activity complements the GEWEX Cloud System Study (GCSS) and the Global Land-Atmosphere System Study (GLASS).

A kick-off meeting for GABLS will be held at the "Climate Conference 2001," as planned for August 20-24, 2001 in Utrecht, the Netherlands (convened by Han van Dop, Utrecht University); with related workshops (convened by Peter Duynkerke, Utrecht University and Bert Holtslag, Wageningen University). Invited contributions at the conference will include those by Anton Beljaars, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, David Randall, Colorado State University, and Bjorn Stevens, University of California at Los Angeles. For more information on the climate conference and also to sign-up, please consult www.phys.uu.nl/~wwwimau/cc2001.html. Deadline for poster submission is March 30, 2001.

over land may indeed have some advantage over its parent GCM for seasonal-range predictions (1-6 months lead) of continental anomalies during the weak circulation regime of summer.

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