

Foreword

This volume contains reports from Topic Chairs and Rapporteurs for the Sixth International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones (IWTC-VI).

As in IWTC-V, the International Committee has chosen as a Special Theme for this Workshop, which is on the “Quantitative Forecasts of Tropical Cyclone Landfall in relation to an Effective Warning system”. This topic is of significant interest to all tropical cyclone forecasters and other disaster management and mitigation agencies. Various aspects of track forecasts as well as observations and forecasts of wind, rainfall, storm surges and other hydrology-related issues will be addressed.

The other main Topics of the Workshop include: (1) Tropical cyclone structure and structure change, (2) Tropical cyclone formation and extratropical transition, (3) Tropical cyclone motion, (4) Climate variability and seasonal prediction of tropical cyclone activity/intensity, and (5) Disaster mitigation, warning systems and societal impacts. The main purposes of the Topic reports are to summarize progress since IWTC-V and to make recommendations for the IWTC-VI participants to consider.

The preparation of these reports is a daunting task and requires a significant amount of work by Topic Chairs and Rapporteurs, in collecting and collating input from their team members and in the actual writing of the reports. For all their efforts as well as the contributions from their team members, we would like to express our sincere appreciation.

The substantial increase in our knowledge in various areas of tropical cyclones has led to a concomitant increase in the “thickness” of this volume, which is over 500 pages, not to mention supplementary material (colour figures) included in the CD that accompanies this print volume. With this wealth of information, we are sure that this volume will serve to bring about a fruitful outcome of IWTC-VI.

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