

Report of Foreign Travel by David Erickson to
the Mitigation of Climate Change Conference
Panama City, Panama
January 20-January 24, 2003

Purpose

The purpose of this trip was to participate as a speaker at the Mitigation of Climate Change Conference. The subject matter of the conference was directly relevant to a number of research projects in the Computer Science and Mathematics Division (CSMD) of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), particularly global and regional numerical climate modeling. The DOE Office of Biological and Environmental Research sponsors these research projects.

Activities

The conference was attended by 35 researchers from across Central America and the USA. The formal program included numerous presentations by researchers in climate change, mitigation and adaptation. In addition, there were discussions among the USAID funding agents and potential Work for Others (WFO) opportunities. As usual with such conferences, informal research discussions among colleagues were at least as beneficial as the formal program.

Traveler's Role

The traveler presented a talk on "Global and Regional climate simulations." In addition, the traveler held many technical discussions on topics of direct relevance to ORNL's research programs in climate related computing.

Recommendations

The conference was very worthwhile with respect to information gained providing a greater awareness of ORNL's research activities. I would recommend participation by ORNL research staff in future such international conferences. These are invaluable not only for the recognition it brings to ORNL's research efforts and for the opportunities it provides for disseminating ORNL's research results to the broadest possible audience, but also for the information gained. I would also recommend close future interaction with colleagues in Central America.

Significant Technical Developments

I have already mentioned several climate-modeling developments observed at the conference, some of quite general interest and others of particular significance to ORNL projects. To these I would like to add the general observation that there is an increased realization in Central America and at USAID that regional and global climate predictions will be critical in developing adaptation strategies.

Summary Evaluation

From the standpoint of the traveler's technical interests, the trip was a success. In addition to presenting my own work to an international audience, there were many technical contacts and discussions that were of direct and immediate benefit to my research and that of my ORNL colleagues. The trip should prove valuable both for specific information gained and for contacts made that will facilitate fruitful interchanges between institutions in the future. There are distinct opportunities for attracting funding to ORNL.

Appendix A
Itinerary

January 20, 2003	Travel from Knoxville, TN, to Panama City, Panama, via plane
January 21-23, 2003	Attend the Mitigation of Climate Change Conference
January 24, 2003	Travel from Panama City, Panama, to Knoxville, TN, via plane

Appendix B
List of Principle Contacts

NAME	AFFILIATION
John C. Lee	BNL/DOE
Matthew Roth	State Embassy Panama
Phillip Tseng	DOE
David Erickson	ORNL
Bill Ining	EPA
Knstel Donon	CSDA
Anita Milman	LBNL
Maria Reidpath	DOE
Kurt Rockeman	USAID/G-CAP
Katherine Buckley	EPA
David Alarid	State/Costa Rica
Barbara DeRosa-Joynt	DOS/OES/EGC
Duane Muller	USAID/EGAT
Pam Tell	EPA
Roberto Morales	USAID/G-CAP
Daniel Irwin	NASA
Mirza Castro	Cambio Climatico SERNA
Angel Barcenas	Cambio Climatico Cohdefor
Mirna Marin	Cambio Climatico SERNA
Martin Alegria	Dept. of Environment Belize
Carlos Mansilla	Climate Change Unit
Marina Stadthagen	Marena/ONDL
Yvette Aguilar	Marn/El Salvador
Josue Mario Guardado	Servicio Forestal/El Salvador
Marco A. Gouzalez	CCAD/Cambio Climatico
Rene Lopez A	ANAM/Cambio Climatico

Appendix C
List of Literature Acquired

The literature acquired was the conference program, which included abstracts of all the talks. The traveler also received copies of most of the slides from the speaker's talks.

Appendix D
Distribution

1. Patrick J. Belland, Safeguards and Security Division, AD-43, DOE-ORO, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8570
2. Dr. Patricia Dehmer, Associate Director, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, SC-10, Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown, MD 20874-1290
3. David Erickson, Bldg. 6012, MS-6367
4. Jeff A. Nichols, Bldg. 6025, MS-6359
5. Office of Counterintelligence, Bldg. 4007, MS-6076
6. ORNL Communications and Community Outreach, Bldg. 4500N, MS-6266
7. ORNL FTMS Coordinator, Bldg. 5002, MS-6389
8. Office of Scientific and Technical Information, David Bellis, P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
9. C. Doug Ringer, Bldg. 9114, MS-8284
10. TRT, Arms Control Intelligence Staff, Room 4x24NHB, Washington, DC 20505
11. Debbie Tijani, IN-1, DOE/HQ, Washington, DC 20585
12. Thomas Zacharia, Bldg. 4500N, MS-6232