Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative (NEESPI) Status: An update of the recent activities and near-term plans

Pavel Groisman
UCAR Project Scientist at NOAA National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, North Carolina, USA
The NEESPI Study Area

http://neespi.org
NEESPI is an interdisciplinary program of internationally-supported Earth systems and science research that addresses large-scale and long-term manifestations of climate and environmental change.

NEESPI Study Area includes: Former Soviet Union, Northern China, Mongolia, Fennoscandia, & Eastern Europe

NEESPI duration ~ 10-12 years (started in 2004)
NEESPI Background

- Eight years ago NEESPI was established to address large-scale and long-term manifestations of climate and environmental change in Northern Eurasia ([http://neespi.org](http://neespi.org)). This web site contains the NEESPI history, presentations at the NEESPI past conferences, the NEESPI Science Plan (260 pp.) and its Executive Summary (18 pp.; also dubbed in 2007 as a refereed publication in the Special NEESPI issue of “Global and Planetary Change”).

- The NEESPI domain is shown in the map.

- NEESPI Science Plan includes elements of WCRP, IGBP, IHDP и DIVERSITAS.
NEESPI ideological concept: Studying any one of these cycles or activities often requires analyses of its interaction with the other two and of the transitional (non-equilibrium) character of these interactions.
First phase foci of NEESPI were monitoring and analyses of climatic changes, biogeochemical cycles, land use, and land cover.
After the NEESPI Workshop in August 2007 at the Aspen Global Change Institute, a new course was accepted towards strengthening of the NEESPI research focus on scenarios... i.e., focus on modeling...

Efforts are made to blend modern RCMs with vegetation, carbon flux, permafrost, hydrological, and dust production models within a North Eurasia modeling suite and link it to the MIT Earth System model.
New development

- Multi-national efforts have mostly infilled the data gap over the region. Additionally, we are waiting for the GPM products that are of critical importance for the NEESPI domain.

- Models are merging:
  - In the past, we had GCM => RCM => HM => Impacts
  - Now: RCMs and Models of the surface block: Hydrological models (HM), Biospheric models, Cryospheric models, and Socio-economic models began interacting among themselves.

- Integration studies are in progress and new research proposals are in waiting.
  - Bring together all what is known (synthesis)
  - New knowledge: Explain and project the processes in context of the Earth System change (integration)
NEESPI Data Distribution

• NEESPI keeps promoting the data exchange among the NEESPI participants via the existing NEESPI Science and Data Support Centers in Russia, China, and the United States. The results of this data exchange materialized in a new set of publications and conference presentations that are currently using these data.

• A stellar addition to the NEESPI data distribution Services since 2010, became a new Data Analysis and Exploring System for Hydrology of the NEESPI domain developed by the Water Systems Analysis Group at University of New Hampshire – Durham (http://neespi.sr.unh.edu/maps/). An unrestricted web-based access to the System makes it a useful tool for any hydrological assessment within Northern Eurasia.
NEESPI Science Team Coordination

- First 4 years NEESPI had a Science Steering Panel that included the lead NEESPI PIs and met once a year.

- Since 2009, it was decided, that the present breed of the NEESPI researchers does no longer need a significant level of “steering”. They use the *NEESPI Science Plan*, the follow up NEESPI documents (in particular, *the materials of the NEESPI Workshop in August 2007 at the Aspen Global Change Institute*), an extensive archive of NEESPI publications (more than 1,160 of them), and presentations at the past NEESPI meetings and Open Science Sessions (all available at the same NEESPI web site). These materials and regularly scheduled meetings (5+ per year) provide a nearly unlimited source of ideas that strengthen the linkages within the NEESPI community.

- NEESPI web site ([http://neespi.org](http://neespi.org)) with timely announcements about the Conferences and other Activities in the NEESPI domain remains the major means of communication within the research community.

- The Topical Focus Research, Regional Research, and Data Centers provide topical support and data assistance to the NEESPI scientists.
NEESPI Success Metrics

- NEESPI Project achievements are published and summarized in overview articles and books
- Bridging, infilling the holes in the regional research activities
- Preparation of a new breed of early career scientists who defended their PhD theses while working on North Eurasia and Arctic studies
- Advances in building of the North Eurasian Modeling Suite
NEESPI Statistics

Throughout its duration, NEESPI served and is serving as an umbrella for 156 individual research projects (always with an international participation) with an annual budget close to 15 million US dollars (cf., the next Figure, where international NEESPI projects are grouped by the major national funding source). More than 750 scientists from more than 200 institutions of 30 countries worked or are working under the Initiative umbrella.

In 2013, we anticipate a new generation of NEESPI projects funded in Russia (Ministry of Education and Science, RAS), the United States (NSF, NASA), China, and Europe.
Completed and ongoing NEESPI Projects by country (or group of countries), April 2013
sorted by funding source

Total 156 Projects

- All US Agencies
- All EU Agencies
- All Russian Agencies
- All Japanese Agencies
- All Chinese Agencies
- Canada
Active NEESPI Projects per year

- NASA
- Other Agencies/Countries
- Total

For the years 2005 to 2012:
- 2005: NASA 10, Other Agencies/Countries 5, Total 15
- 2006: NASA 20, Other Agencies/Countries 15, Total 35
- 2007: NASA 30, Other Agencies/Countries 25, Total 55
- 2008: NASA 40, Other Agencies/Countries 30, Total 70
- 2009: NASA 50, Other Agencies/Countries 40, Total 90
- 2010: NASA 60, Other Agencies/Countries 50, Total 110
- 2011: NASA 20, Other Agencies/Countries 30, Total 50
- 2012: NASA 15, Other Agencies/Countries 25, Total 40
NEESPII Outreach, http://neespi.org

• After the First NEESPII Science Team Meeting (IIASA, Laxenburg, Austria, February 2006), ~30 dedicated NEESPI Workshops were organized and 18 NEESPI Open Science Sessions at the International Meetings were convened.
• Two or more Early Career Scientists Summer Schools per year were organized in the past three years (since 2009).
• During the Mega-Project life, more than 1160 papers and 31 books were published or are in press; their list is regularly updated at http://neespi.org/science/NEESPI_publications.pdf. In particular, since 2010, about 465 peer-reviewed papers and/or book chapters were published or are in press.
• More than 75 PhD students defended their theses while working within the NEESPI framework.
Books and thematic journal Issues in 2012/13

Published:

– The 4th (the third ERL) *Environ. Res. Lett.* NEESPI focus issue was **published** and is available on line. This Special Issue has 25 manuscripts ([http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/focus/NEESPI3](http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/focus/NEESPI3))


In press:

NEESPI publications by year

- **Peer-reviewed publications**
- **Books**

![Bar chart showing NEESPI publications by year](chart.png)
NEESPI Meetings, Workshops, Sessions in the past 15 months prior to April 2013

- **December 5-9, 2011, San-Francisco, USA.** NEESPI Session at the Fall Annual AGU Meeting. One oral and two poster sessions
- **February 7-8, 2012, St. Petersburg, Russia.** NEESPI Regional Workshop: “Hydrological consequences of changes in climate and land cover across Northern Eurasia”
- **April 22-27, 2012, Vienna Austria.** European Geosciences Union Annual Assembly. Three oral and one poster Sessions
- **May 20-25, 2012, Makuhari Messe, Japan.** Japanese Geoscience Union Annual Meeting. Three special NEESPI/MAIRS Multidisciplinary oral and poster Sessions
- **June 18-22, 2012, Yoshkar-Ola, Russia.** Regional Conference: “Impacts of extreme weather on natural, socio-economic, and land-use systems”
- **June 24 - July 2, 2012, Irkutsk, Russia.** Summer Scientific and Educational Event “ENVIRONMENT” and the APN Workshop on extreme events in Eurasia.
- **December 3-7, 2012, San Francisco, USA, NEESPI Session at the Fall Annual AGU Meeting. Two oral and two poster sessions.**
Session at the Biogeosciences Section at the Annual EGU Assembly (Vienna, Austria): BG5.2 “Environmental, socio-economic and climatic change in Northern Eurasia and their feedbacks to the Global Earth System”, April 2013

- We invited the biogeochemical cycles, surface energy budget, cryosphere, water cycle, and climate and ecosystem interactions in Northern Eurasia. Presentations with strong human dimension, which in addition to impact studies of environmental change, include feedback studies of societal and land use change on regional and global environment and climate, and techniques to address the associated problems have been strongly encouraged.
- At three sessions we shall have 29 oral and poster presentations.
- *Presentations by the early career scientists were particularly welcome.* As a result, 9 of 12 oral presentations at BG5.2 Session will be delivered by early career scientists.
- The foci of this Session will be the studies of the carbon cycle, and cryosphere – atmosphere interactions in the Northern Eurasia
Future NEESPI activities in 2013:

- **April 7-12, 2013, Vienna Austria.** European Geosciences Union Annual Assembly. Open Science NEESPI Session, BG5.2
- **May 19-24, 2013, Makuhari Messe, Chiba-City, Japan** Japanese Geoscience Union Annual Meeting. Open NEESPI International Session, A-CC03
- **July 2013, Haelar, China,** Summer School on Climate Change in Temperate Grasslands in Mongolia Plateau *(if sufficient funding will be available)*
- **August 25-Sept. 5, 2013, Petrozavodsk, Russia,** Summer Scientific and Educational Event *“CITES”*
- **December 2013, San Francisco, USA,** Open NEESPI Session at the Annual Fall AGU Meeting
Further NEESPI Activities in 2013:


• Additionally, NEESPI scientists will participate in the following meetings:
  - BALTEX 7th Study Conference June 10-14, 2013, Borgholm, Sweden
  - International Symposium on Global Change Research 2013: Coupled Natural and Human Systems. June 18-20, 2013, Nanjing, China
  - IAHS- IAPSO – IASPEI “Knowledge for the future”, Assembly, July 22-26, 2013, Gothenburg, Sweden
  - IGU Kyoto Regional Conference, August 4-9, 2013, Kyoto, Japan
  - Conference MOUNTAINHAZARDS 2013, September 16-18, 2013, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
  - International ZOTTO workshop, September 16-22, 2013, Krasnoyarsk, Russia, and
  - The 16th IBFRA Conference, October 7-10, 2013, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
International Collaboration

• **Achievements:**
  – Large investments in collaborative international Earth Science studies in China and Russia
  – International Laboratories
  – the US-Russia Climate Science Subgroup, part of the Science and Technology Working Group under the Bilateral Presidential Commission

• **Impediments:**
  – Governmental induced restrictions on collaboration (travel support for guest scientists, NASA collaboration with Chinese Institutions)
  – Visa hardships (fees, waiting time)
Future Plans

- Focus on Modeling (i.e., on scenarios)
- Integrative studies (Siberia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Dry East Asia)
- Data and Research Results Dissemination
- Outreach focused on early career scientists
- Strengthen links with BALTEX and MAIRS
- Large NEESPI Conference in 2015 that will summarize the 12 years of NEESPI studies and launch the preparation of the following-up NEESPI overview book
- Scientific ideas for the post-NEESPI period
Major NEESPI Science question remains intact:

- How do Northern Eurasia’s terrestrial ecosystems dynamics interact with and alter the biosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere of the Earth?
Need to develop the new set of science questions for regional projects that succeed NEESPI (post-NEESPI)

a. Mechanisms of extremes in changing climate and environment
• Soil moisture anomalies in the upper 50 cm over Russia in the end of June 2010

GCM experiment, Volodin 2011

• Temperature anomalies caused by soil moisture anomalies over central Russia in July 2010
Atmospheric rivers

- Mean sea level pressure (Pa) for 12:00 UTC 10.12.1994 (a) and vertically integrated atmospheric water transport (kg/m s) for the same time (b) computed by Lavers et al. 2012.
Need to develop the new set of science questions for regional projects that succeed NEESPI (post-NEESPI)

a. Mechanisms of extremes in changing climate and environment

b. Global impact of the Arctic warming

(Left) Annual surface air temperature anomalies area-averaged over the 60°N - 90°N latitudinal zone. (Center) Northern Hemisphere sea ice extent as of mid-September 2012. (Right) September sea ice extent anomalies, %.

Source: U.S. National Snow & Ice Data Center, Boulder, Colorado, USA
Need to develop the new set of science questions for regional projects that succeed NEESPI (post-NEESPI)

a. Mechanisms of extremes in changing climate and environment

b. Global impact of the Arctic warming

c. Changing carbon cycle and land cover due to a. & b.

d. Global food security due to a., b., & c.

e. Societal feedbacks to detrimental changes (adaptation & mitigation)
Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE NEESPI WEB SITE:
http://neespi.org

Side Note:
“NEESPI” is pronounced approximately like the Russian phrase for
“Don’t sleep “
谢谢!
Thank you!
Спасибо!