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Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative (NEESPI) in 2009: An Overview of the Current Status

*P. Y. Groisman*¹; *V. Kattsov*²; *R. G. Lawford*³

1. UCAR at NOAA NCDC, Asheville, NC, United States.
2. VMGO, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.
3. U. Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada.

Five years ago NEESPI was launched with the release of its Science Plan (<http://neespi.org>). Gradually, the Initiative was joined by numerous international projects launched in EU, Russia, the United States, Canada, Japan, and China. Currently, serving as an umbrella for more than 130 individual research projects (always with an international participation) with a budget close to \$15M annually, the Initiative is in full swing. A new crop of NEESPI projects were launched in 2009 to compensate for the projects that have been completed and the total number of the NEESPI projects practically did not change. Several NEESPI Workshops and Sessions at the International Meetings were held during 2009 that strengthen the NEESPI grasp on biogeochemical cycle and cryosphere studies, climatic and hydrological modeling, and regional NEESPI components in Central Asia, Siberia and mountainous regions of the NEESPI domain. An overview NEESPI paper submitted to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society was published in May 2009. Book "Regional Aspects of Climate-Terrestrial-Hydrologic Interactions in Non-boreal Eastern Europe" was published by Springer (Groisman and Ivanov, eds., 2009). Two more books devoted to the high latitudes of Eurasia prepared by the members of the NEESPI team are scheduled to appear before the end of this year. In April 2008 NEESPI received an intergovernmental level of support being included in a Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration in the Fields of Meteorology, Hydrology, and Oceanography between the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring. The new level of recognition requires a higher level of integration of observation programs, process studies, and modeling, and across disciplines.

Contact Information

Pavel Y. Groisman, Asheville, North Carolina, USA, 28804, [click here](#) to send an email

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