CONCEPT NOTE

FOUTH SESSION OF THE THIRD POLE CLIMATE FORUM

1–2 December 2025, 07:00–10:00 UTC, Online

Co-organized by the National Climate Centre, China Meteorological Administration (NCC/CMA) and the Third Pole RCC Network (TPRCC-Network) and co-hosted by NCC/CMA and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Background and Rationale

The High Mountain Asia region (HMA) acts as Asia's Water Tower and is experiencing accelerated cryospheric change alongside rising frequency and severity of extreme and high-impact climate events. These shifts pose growing risks to lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, and water, energy, food, and health security.

To address these challenges, the WMO Third Pole Regional Climate Centre Network (TPRCC-Network)—currently in the demonstration phase—has been established with a unique node-based design and a strong emphasis on cryosphere-relevant climate products and services, and with the following structure:

- **Northern Node: Lead: China**; Consortium members: Bhutan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakist an; Responsibility: climate monitoring
- **Southern Node: Lead: India;** Consortium members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, N epal; Responsibility: operational data services
- **Western Node: Lead: Pakistan**; Consortium members: Afghanistan, China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan; Responsibility: climate prediction

GEWEX, ICIMOD, MRI, TPE and UNESCAP are key partners of the TPRCC Network. It collaborates closely with WMO programmes and entities such as Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW), Global Producing Centres for Seasonal Prediction (GPCs-SP), Lead Centre for Seasonal Prediction Multi-Model Ensemble (LC-SPMME), neighboring Regional Climate Centres, and other global/regional partners, ensuring co-production of services and alignment with WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WIPPS) requirements. Building on RA II-17 Resolution 9 (2021), the recommendations from November 2023 TPCF Scoping Workshop, and the December 2023 RA II WIGOS Workshop, the TPRCC-Network launched the Third Pole

Climate Forum (TPCF), as the flagship activity of TPRCC-Network and user-interface platform for regional collaboration and networking. TPCF is held twice a year, alternating in-person (May/June) and online (November/December) sessions. TPCF1 (Lijiang, June 2024, hosted by China) inaugurated the platform and initiated the demonstration phase of the Network; TPCF2 (virtual, Nov 2024, hosted by PMD) consolidated the consensus statement objective approach; and TPCF3 (New Delhi, June 2025, hosted by IMD) further strengthened user engagement and operational coordination.

Objectives and Purpose of TPCF-4

The key objectives of TPCF-4 include:

- Sustain and enhance the TPCF user engagement platform for regional dialogue, collaboration and communication across NMHSs, and key stakeholders, including DRR agencies, water and energy authorities, and technical partners.
- Improve integration of cryosphere monitoring and diagnostics with sub-seasonal to seasonal outlooks and impact services for the region.
- Validate seasonal guidance using standardized verification to support continuous model improvement and calibration for complex terrain.
- Advance regionally consistent methodologies for monitoring, prediction production and risk communication, aligned with WMO guidelines and good practices.
- Promote regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, exchange of data, methodologies, tools to accelerate and harmonize multi-hazard early warning and anticipatory action in support of Early Warnings for All (EW4All).
- Consolidate priority capacity development actions that strengthen operational capabilities of TPRCC-Network to ensure long-term sustainability.

TPCF-4 will continue co-developing authoritative, actionable climate information and cryosphere and advancing a sustained user communication platform for the region. The Forum will:

- Review the climate conditions and assess high-impact events in JJAS 2025, linking climate and cryosphere anomalies with socioeconomic impacts.
- Verify the JJAS 2025 outlook and discuss the DJF 2025/26 outlook, including model performance and node-specific sub-domain products.
- Coproduce a regional Consensus Statement for boreal winter, including guidance on nat

ional level interpretation and use.

- Strengthen the end-to-end Climate Watch for major hazards by connecting monitoring, prediction, impact outlooks and user decision-making.
- Identify evolving user needs under new climate risk conditions, informing sustainable ca pacity development for the TPRCC Network and progress toward WMO designation.

Key Deliverables

The main deliverable of TPCF-4 is the Consensus Statement which will comprise the regional seasonal outlook of temperature and precipitation for DJF 2025/26 uncertainties, potential impacts, and guidance for national interpretation. The development of the Consensus Statement will require:

- A synthesized review of climate conditions for JJAS 2025, including high impact events, cryosphere conditions, and cross border impacts relevant to risk management.
- Evaluation for JJAS 2025 outlook and an assessment of model performance for DJF hin dcasts over the service domain of TPRCC-Network, informing targeted improvements.
- Agreed near-term recommendations and a “way forward” for the TPRCC Network to str engthen operations, services, communication, and partnership pathways toward WMO d esignation.
- Enhanced collaboration among RCCs, NMHSs, nodes and partners, with concrete steps for co-development of high-mountain climate services and user training.

Forum Structure and Key Elements

The Forum will be held online on 1–2 December 2025, 07:00–10:00 UTC, and will include:

- Opening segment with remarks from WMO, Node Leads, and hosts, a keynote presentat ion, an overview of WMO activities in high mountains and the cryosphere, and status up dates from TPRCC-Network.
- Climate review for JJAS 2025, including extremes/high-impact events and cryosphere li nkages, complemented by partner inputs.
- Impact focused session for high impact events (HIEs) during JJAS and user needs for im proved monitoring and early warning.
- Verification and seasonal outlook session: JJAS 2025 evaluation; DJF 2025/26 regional outlooks (TPRCC subdomains and RCCs), model performance and uncertainty discussi

on; and an impact outlook for the service domain of TPRCC-Network.

- Facilitated Q&A and user-producer dialogue tailored to decisions for winter risk manage ment.
- Consensus Statement drafting, review and finalization; followed by recommendations a nd closing.

A detailed draft agenda is available and will guide time-bound, outcome-oriented discussions.

Participation and Inputs

Target Participants include representatives from:

- TPRCC Network node institutions and consortium members
- Regional organizations and initiatives (e.g., ICIMOD, MRI, TPE, UNESCAP)
- Other WMO RCCs, RCFs, GPCs-SP, LC-SPMME
- Key stakeholders and sectoral users, including agriculture, water resources, energy and health
- Academia, research institutions, and development partners working on high-mountain cl imate, cryosphere, and impacts

Participants are encouraged to:

- Share inputs on JJAS 2025 high impact events, monitoring challenges, and user needs
- Provide brief evaluation notes on JJAS 2025 outlooks versus observed conditions
- Contribute sectoral perspectives for the application of climate information in their decisi on-making processes focusing on climate risks for winter season, including good practic es, challenges and gaps
- Engage in the consensus process and provide recommendations for service improvemen t and capacity development priorities

Language and Modality

- Working language: English.
- Modality: Online (*meeting link to be provided by the WMO Secretariat*).

- Timing: 1–2 December 2025, 07:00–10:00 UTC

Contact

Host and TPRCC Coordination: National Climate Centre, China Meteorological Administration (NCC/CMA) via email at malj@cma.gov.cn or sunyuan@cma.gov.cn.

Further logistical and connection details will be circulated in due course. We look forward to your active participation and contributions to shape a stronger and user-focused regional climate service of the TPRCC-Network.