



Third Pole Climate Forum

Concept Note

Fifth Session of the Third Pole Climate Forum (TPCF-5)

1–3 June 2026, 07:00–10:00 UTC, Online

Co-organized by Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) and the Third Pole Regional Climate Centre Network (TPRCC-Network) and co-hosted by PMD 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 cryosphere 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.

The TPRCC-Network, currently in demonstration phase, is composed of three geographically delineated nodes, namely Northern Node led by China, Southern Node led by India and Western Node led by Pakistan, with China serving as the overall coordinating node. Each node performs all mandatory functions of a WMO RCC in its geographical domain and undertakes a significant cross-node mandatory function for the entire geographical domain of TPRCC-Network, a rectangular area between 25°N-50°N Latitude and 65°E-105°E Longitude. Broad partnerships have been developed with Global Energy and Water Exchanges (GEWEX), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), Third Pole Environment Programme (TPE), and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), which have contributed to the development of the TPRCC-Network and the convening of the TPCFs. Extensive collaboration 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 RCCs, and other global/regional partners,

Following the Resolution 9 of the Seventeenth Session of Regional Association II (RA II-17) in 2021, the recommendations of the Scoping Workshop on the establishment of the Third Pole Climate Forum (TPCF) (November 2023) and the recommendations of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) Implementation Workshop for the RA II (November 2023), the TPRCC-Network initiated the TPCF with guidance from the WMO Secretariat, relevant constituent bodies, subsidiary bodies and the existing RCCs/RCC-networks. The inaugural session of TPCF (TPCF-1) was successfully held in Lijiang, China, from 4–6 June 2024, hosted by the China Meteorological Administration (CMA). The second session (TPCF-2) was held virtually on 28–29 November 2024, hosted by PMD. The third session (TPCF-3) was held in New Delhi, India, from 3–5 June 2025, hosted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The fourth session (TPCF-4) was held virtually on 1–2 December 2025, hosted by the National Climate Centre of CMA. TPCF



has been recognized as one of the flagship activities of the TPRCC-Network and the primary user engagement mechanism at regional level for communication, consultation, and collaboration on climate and cryosphere products, information, and services, to address the needs of WMO Member countries in the service domain of the TPRCC-Network. It is also a regional practice of implementing RA II priorities (2025–2027) in terms of strengthening observations and services in polar and high mountain areas.

To continue the efforts in mitigation of urgent regional climate risk challenges caused by the rapid retreat of cryosphere and the rising frequency of extreme and high-impact climate events, TPRCC-Network is convening the TPCF-5 as planned.

Objectives of the TPCF-5

The key objectives of the TPCF-5 include:

1. Review the observed climate and cryosphere conditions for December 2025 to April 2026, including high-impact events and cross-border extremes, and quantitatively verify the seasonal outlook issued during TPCF-4 (DJF 2025/26) using standardized metrics.
2. Produce a consensus seasonal outlook for June–September (JJAS) 2026, including deterministic and probabilistic outlooks for surface air temperature and precipitation, with explicit communication of uncertainties.
3. Strengthen capabilities of impact-based services provision by identifying anticipatory action pathways for NMHSs and end users such as water resources, agriculture, energy, disaster risk reduction, and health sectors, and documenting user needs through structured producer-user dialogue.
4. Advance cryosphere integration by improving the linkage between cryosphere monitoring (snow cover, glacier melt, GLOF risk) and sub-seasonal to seasonal outlooks. Enhance coordination and collaboration among WMO Members and with international and regional organizations, scientific communities, and sector users, in terms of data exchange, user engagement, and transformation from science to operations, supporting a sustained TPCF and an operational TPRCC-Network.

5. Key Deliverables

The main deliverable of TPCF-5 is the **Consensus Statement**, which will comprise the regional climate review and seasonal climate outlook for JJAS 2026, including uncertainties, potential impacts, and guidance for national interpretation. The development of the Consensus Statement will require:

- A synthesized review of climate conditions for December 2025 to April 2026, including cryosphere conditions, high-impact events, and cross-border impacts relevant to risk management.



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- Quantitative evaluation of the DJF 2025/26 outlook issued at TPCF-4, including model performance assessment over the service domain of TPRCC-Network.

Secondary deliverables include:

- A Verification Report of the DJF 2025/26 Outlook
- A Summary of High-Impact Events (December 2025 – April 2026)

Forum Structure and Key Elements

The Forum will be held online on 1–3 June 2026, 07:00–10:00 UTC, and will include:

- **Day 1:** Opening remarks, climate review for December 2025 – April 2026 (including extremes and cryosphere linkages), high-impact event analysis. Presentations from WMO, NHMSs and partners.
- **Day 2:** Verification of DJF 2025/26 outlook, JJAS 2026 regional outlooks (deterministic, probabilistic, node-specific, and RCOFs inputs), and impact outlook for the service domain of TPRCC-Network.
- **Day 3:** Consensus Statement drafting and finalization, user-provider dialogue on potential impacts, way forward and recommendations, and closing.

A detailed agenda will be provided in due course.

Participation and Inputs

Target Participants include representatives from:

- NMHS's within the service domain of TPRCC-N and beyond
- WMO relevant programs (GCW, GPCs-SP, LC-SPMME, WIPPS) and Secretariate
- Global and Regional organizations and initiatives (ICIMOD, MRI, TPE, UNESCAP, GEWEX, RIMES, FAO)
- Other WMO RCOFs/RCFs (e.g., FOCRAII, SASCOF, NEACOF)
- Key stakeholders and sectoral users: disaster risk management, water resources, agriculture, energy, health, transport
- Academia, institutions, and development partners working on high-mountain climate, cryosphere, and impacts

Participants are encouraged to contribute on:

- National or cross-boundary high-impact events from December 2025 to April 2026, monitoring challenges, and user's needs.



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- evaluation notes on the DJF 2025/26 outlook versus observed conditions.
- Sectoral perspectives for the application of climate information in decision-making processes, focusing on climate risks for the summer season (JJAS 2026).
- Engagement in the consensus process and recommendations for service improvement and capacity development priorities.

Language and Modality

- **Working language:** English
- **Modality:** Online
- **Timing:** 1–3 June 2026, 07:00–10:00 am UTC

Contact

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