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U.S. Climate Agency to Host Conference For Americas on Satellite Data

NOAA to host conference in Miami

Washington -- A conference targeted at all users in the Americas of satellite data collected by the United States will be held December 9-13 in Miami, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced.

The agency said that during the next several years, the satellite system operated by NOAA will undergo significant changes and technological improvements. The purpose of the conference, NOAA said, is to begin preparing all users for these upcoming changes.

NOAA said the changes will affect all current and future users of the agency's satellites, particularly those who receive data directly from the satellites. In the near future, all users will have to modify or replace current receiving equipment and basic processing software as the next generations of satellites begin operation.

Data from NOAA satellites -- specifically, the Polar Operational Environmental Satellite and the Geostationary Orbiting Environmental Satellites -- is available to all countries and users throughout the Western Hemisphere. The data is being used to support a variety of meteorological, oceanographic, terrestrial, solar, climate, and other specialized information collection activities and services, the agency said.

Numerous speakers representing NOAA, the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, hydrometeorological organizations, universities, and other organizations throughout the Americas will be on the program. The agenda will consist of both formal presentations and panel discussions about the effects and benefits of future NOAA satellite systems. The speakers include Gregory Withee, NOAA assistant administrator for Satellite and Information Services, and that office's deputy assistant administrator, Mary Glackin.

The conference will also provide an opportunity for manufacturers of satellite direct readout hardware and software to present new products designed for the next generation of satellites to attending decision-makers.

More information about the conference is available online at:
<http://noaasis.noaa.gov/miami02/>.

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