

## Guest Editorial

This is the second Special Issue on the Project for Intercomparison of Land-surface Parameterisation Schemes, PILPS. Like its predecessor (Vol. 13, Nos. 1–4, June 1996) it delivers value for PILPS and hence for the whole land-surface modelling community.

The characterisation of land-surface processes in climate and weather prediction models is increasingly being recognised as of critical importance. Our food, through agriculture, and drink, through water resources and agriculture and our comfort, through building and energy use patterns matching the environment all depend upon the land-surface climate and near-surface weather. Extreme and average conditions affect people in the near-surface environment.

Perhaps the single most important benefit of this collected set of papers derives from the updating and upgrading of the documentation of land-surface schemes. In this issue there are a number of papers which either explicitly or through a process of comparative analysis increase the information about current land-surface schemes.

In addition to the ongoing delivery of PILPS Phase 0 (documentation), this Special Issue contains a significant set of papers about PILPS Phase 2 (off-line intercomparisons using observed forcing and validation data). The group of papers led by Eric Wood, Dennis Lettenmaier and Xue Liang on PILPS Phase 2(c) in Red River form an important contribution to this literature.

The final group of papers in the Special Issue mark the outcomes of the PILPS Workshop held in June 1997 in Melbourne. The foci of this workshop were the coupled components of PILPS viz Phase 3 (AMIP I Diagnostic Subproject No. 12) and Phase 4 (coupled intercomparisons). In this issue there is a paper describing the results of an interesting “union” between Phase 3 and Phases 2(a) and 2(d). In addition there is a description of the initial simulations in Phase 4(b) and the first recommendations from PILPS Phase 4(c). The latter are contained in the breakthrough paper by Polcher et al. which, I am sure, will prompt a stimulating and valuable debate.

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Dr. Bertrand Timbal who organised the 1997 PILPS Workshop and my colleague Associate Professor Andrew Pitman who coordinates PILPS jointly with me. Dr Linda Hopkins coordinated the editorial process for this Special Issue. I know Andy will join me in thanking all the PILP-ers around the world who continue to contribute to PILPS and hence further improve our overall understanding of the importance of land-surface parameterisations for climate and weather forecast models.

Thank you all!

PROFESSOR A. HENDERSON-SELLERS  
DR. LINDA HOPKINS  
RMIT University  
Melbourne, Australia