



Preliminary results from the Winter THORPEX Pacific-Asian Regional Campaign

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The Winter THORPEX Pacific-Asian Regional Campaign (W-TPARC) took place in Jan-Mar 2009, focusing on the initiation and propagation of disturbances on the North Pacific waveguide, including those from the tropics and polar region, leading to high impact wintertime weather events over North America, including the polar regions. Environment Canada, Roshydromet, NOAA, EUMETSAT, the THORPEX International Program Office (IPO), and scientists from Japan, Mexico, Canada, Russia, ECMWF, European countries and the USA provided major funding, observational and research contributions to W-TPARC. Special observations collected during W-TPARC include targeted dropsondes via manned aircraft over the Northern Pacific, targeted extra radiosonde launches from eastern Russia, and E-AMDAR ascent, descent and in-flight data over southeastern Asia. There is a wide array of research questions that can be explored using data collected by the community, and then archived and made available by NASA. Initial results assessing the impact of targeted data on the quality of Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) model forecasts from NRL and NCEP are promising. The targeted W-TPARC data collected appear to more than double the effectiveness of the observing system for the preselected high impact winter storm forecast cases.