



Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative (NEESPI) in 2010: An Overview of the Current Status

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Six years ago NEESPI was launched with the release of its Science Plan (<http://neespi.org>). Gradually, the Initiative was joined by numerous international projects launched in EU, Russia, the United States, Canada, Japan, and China. Throughout its duration, NEESPI served and is serving as an umbrella for more than 140 individual research projects (always with an international participation) with an annual budget close to \$15M. Currently, the Initiative is in full swing. A new crop of NEESPI projects was launched in 2010 to compensate for the projects that have been completed and the total number of the ongoing NEESPI projects (76) changed but little compared to its peak (87 in 2008). Several NEESPI Workshops and Sessions at the International Meetings were held during 2010 that strengthen the NEESPI grasp on biogeochemical cycle and cryosphere studies, climatic and hydrological modeling, and regional NEESPI components in Eastern Europe, Siberia, the Arctic, and the Baltic Sea Basin.

The past year was extremely productive in the NEESPI outreach. A suite of 34 peer-reviewed NEESPI articles were published in the third Special NEESPI Issue in *Environ. Res. Lett.* (2009, No. 4, and 2010, No.1). Several books and White Papers were published by Springer (Baltzer ed., 2010; Gutman and Reissell eds., 2010), the National Academy of Science of Ukraine (Lyalko, ed. 2010), and FAO (Mátyás, ed., 2010). Two more books devoted to Siberia and Eastern Europe prepared by the members of the NEESPI team are scheduled to appear before the end of this year and preparations have been started to complete the circle of regional monographs on Environmental Changes in the NEESPI domain with a book focusing on the dry land areas of Northern Eurasia.

Since 2008 NEESPI has been receiving an intergovernmental level of support being included in a Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration in the Fields of Meteorology, Hydrology, and Oceanography between the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring. To the end of 2010 this collaboration had already brought numerous results (reports and publications) and three specific topics of joint studies were selected for the future studies: (1) Improved understanding of the predictability of short-term climate variations in north Eurasia; (2) Synthesis of regional carbon dynamics in the Eurasian region; and (3) Assessments of aerosol-climate linkages in Northern Eurasia.