



Outreaching a space technique through its climate applications: altimetry and COP21 meeting example

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Climate, and Climate change, are among the main general public interests. Altimetry is one of the most important tools for monitoring ocean dynamics, and as such is a source of vital data for including in forecasting models of ocean-atmosphere coupled events such as El Niño, monsoons, the North Atlantic Oscillation or decadal oscillations. Seasonal climate forecasting is also showing interesting results. The oceans are in turn affected by climate variations, as the sea level rises and falls in response to their fluctuations.

Two radar altimetry satellites will be launched in 2015, with a strong French contribution (Jason-3 is a CNES/EUMETSAT/NASA/NOAA mission, Sentinel-3 is an ESA mission, with support from French expertise for the altimeter and altimetry processing). On another plan, the United Nations Climate Change Conference 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) meeting will take place in Paris end of 2015 (30 November to 11 December 2015). Outreaching radar altimetry through its climate-related applications using both the conference and the launches is thus an evidence. However, how, what and when? We will detail the points we consider as focus for this outreach (e.g. sea level rise measurement, but also El Niño, monsoons, etc.), how to broach them in order to reach the general public interest, via web, journalists, teachers etc. In particular, the Argonautica educational project (<http://www.cnes.fr/web/CNES-fr/7161-argonautica.php>) will focus in 2015 on climate issue, in relation also with formal school curricula, other satellite data and animal tracking. Past experience will be detailed, from the Aviso altimetry data distribution center, but also from partners, and future plans.