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AEGIS Workshop Looks at Biology, Ecology

NCAR's Atmospheric Chemistry Division (ACD) hosted the fourth in a series of Atmosphere/Ecosystem Gas Interchange Study (AEGIS) workshops on December 3–5 in Boulder. Twenty-nine participants from a number of research institutions, UCAR universities, and NCAR met to discuss the biological and ecological aspects of gas interchange in the earth's atmosphere. Allan Lazrus of ACD coordinated the workshop.

Still in the planning stages, AEGIS is a new program with a twofold purpose: to develop the technology for measuring fluxes of radiative gases, and to organize field projects to enable atmospheric chemists, biologists, and ecologists from both NCAR and the universities to study the interplay between terrestrial biotic systems and climate change.

AEGIS participants plan to investigate both radiatively and photochemically active gases. The radiative gases—also called greenhouse gases—are believed to affect the earth's climate by absorbing infrared radiation; included in this group are carbon dioxide, methane, carbon monoxide, and nitrous oxide. The photochemical gases, to be examined in relation to the ecosystem and the seasons, may yield important information about the oxidative capacity of the atmosphere. Examples of these gases are nitrogen oxides, hydrogen peroxide, and formaldehyde.

Besides Lazrus, the NCAR participants in the workshop were Christine Ennis, Elizabeth Holland, Ralph Keeling, James Smith, and Patrick Zimmerman, all from ACD; Walter Dabberdt, Anthony Delany, Thomas Horst, and Steven Oncley from the Atmospheric Technology Division; Gordon Bonan, Michael Keller, and Lee Klinger from the Advanced Study Program; and John Wyngaard from the Mesoscale and Microscale Meteorology Division.

The End

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