ALICE2 Case Study

OLE²: Timely information that saves lives

October 26th, 2011: OLE²–Latin American Observatory of Extraordinary Events- announces that anomalous rainfall events for November and December of the present year are expected. "The conditions observed suggest the persistence of the dipole in the sea's surface temperature anomaly between Equatorial Pacific (La Niña) and the Tropical Atlantic", the same configuration has appeared with extreme rainfall in 1999 (Venezuela) and 2010 (Colombia, Panama and Venezuela), indicates its Climatic Products Bulletin. Rainfall is expected to be above the average for the South American Northwest and above the average for the Southeast of the same region. The suggestion: the establishment of an early alert for floods for Panama, Colombia and Venezuela, and one of a drought for North-western Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

An "Extraordinary event" is any phenomenon which is outside the normal range, since the "ordinary" is the "normal" behaviour of the variables studies by the experts at OLE². Thus, the Latin American Observatory of Extraordinary Events deals with any event –climatic, meteorological, hydrological, ecological and seismic- outside of the normal range, and also studies the "normal" events. It covers a wide scope.

"If you keep a permanent surveillance of certain key variables, it is possible to offer some tools which enable the establishment of early alerts and policies which help safeguard lives, infrastructure and even the population's psychological integrity. To receive reliable information on extraordinary events from a scientific perspective is important for the agencies in charge of civil protection, in order to make appropriate decisions, avoid tragedies and even, in certain cases, to take economic advantage of the opportunities available. The key to OLE² is its constant work, through which we learn about the behaviour of the weather and a risk culture can be promoted among the population", states Ángel G. Muñoz S.,

Foto: REUTERS/Isaac Urrutia (Venezuela)

Coordinator of the Geosciences Area at the Scientific Modelling Centre (CMC) at the University of Zulia, Venezuela, an active member of OLE².

The work done by OLE², by monitoring Latin American phenomena, is so relevant that Venezuela's Civil Protection makes everyday use of its products, in order to offer concrete answers to the population, thus making a big difference in life/death situations thanks to its early alerts.

The collaborative network created –which makes intensive use of RedCLARA's infrastructure-, is OLE²'s most valuable feature, due to the fact that it involves the interaction between the human resources available and the transfer of knowledge, data, programmes, methodologies and strategies, in a systematic and homogeneous way, from Mexico to Patagonia. This involves the training of specialised resources in different areas of work, through specialised training workshops, face-to-face or at distance via

Collaboration

The official establishment of the National Observatory of Extraordinary Events (ONE2), took place in Venezuela in August 2007. Constituted by the Scientific Modelling Centre (CMC) of the University of Zulia (LUZ), the Meteorological Service of Venezuela's Air Force (SEMETFAV), Fundacite Zulia, the Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Research (IVIC), the Venezuelan Seismology Foundation (FUNVISIS), the National Centre for Technological Innovation (CENIT) and the Simón Bólivar Planetarium, ONE2 was officially born on February 26th, 2008, the year in which Andean Observatory (OA) was created in order to establish a regional network which could monitor the environmental variables and develop scientific forecasts in a simple way for oceanography, meteorology and hydrology, in order to facilitate and aide decision-making in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile.

At the request of more countries and with the participation of RedCLARA, since 2010 the aim is to consolidate the Latin American Observatory. Today, this network is made up of CMC, LUZ, IVIC, FUNVICIS, CENIT, Simón Bólivar Planetarium, SEMETFAV and INAMEH in Venezuela, IDEAM and UNAL in Colombia, INAMHI in Ecuador, SENAMHI in Peru, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés and SENAMHI in Bolivia, Universidad de Chile and DMC in Chile, the Regional Commission for Water Resources (CRRH) and the Meteorological Services of Central America, especially that of Panama (ETESA); the National University of Asunción and the National Directorate of Civil Aviation in Paraguay, the Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina and the Universidad de la República and the National Meteorology Office in Uruguay.

How does OLE² operate?

The Observatory makes intensive use of the infrastructure provided by the National Research and Education Network (NREN) in each country in order to be able to communicate instrumental observations, results of models and to discuss strategies, methodologies and products. From the sharing of data to the implementation itself of models through the use of grid technologies, OLE² benefits daily from RedCLARA's advanced network for the collection and correlation of data.

"In our field of work, the speed with which we communicate early alerts and data makes the difference between saving lives and not saving them. This is why it is so important to have the support of RedCLARA in this regard".

Ángel G. Muñoz S., *Coordinator of the Geosciences Area at the Scientific Modelling Centre (CMC) at the University of Zulia, Venezuela*

"OLE²'s member institutions which are part of RedCLARA play a fundamental role, since they are responsible for processing initial data in order to be provided for those who do not have this link of lower size data, limited to their regions, so they can carry the post-processing of the same data".

Xandre Chourio, *Coordinator of the Network at the Scientific Modelling Centre (RedCMC) of the Universidad de Zulia, Venezuela.*

More information:

OLE²'s Portal
http://www.cmc.org.ve/ole2/index.php

OLE²'s Wiki
http://www.cmc.org.ve/mediawiki/index.php?title=Portada

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