Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 3, S1757–S1758, 2006
www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/3/S1757/2006/

Hydrology and Earth System Sciences Discussions

Interactive comment on "The Hydrologic Ensemble Prediction EXperiment (HEPEX)" *by* J. Schaake et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 26 December 2006

Dealing with uncertainty in meteorological as well as hydrological modelling is one of the favoured scientific efforts in the meteorological and in the hydrological communities. Within the international research programme "Hydrologic Ensemble Prediction EXperiment (HEPEX)" progress is anticipated in finding adequate methodologies. The error propagation within the modelling chain will be considered as well as the appropriated use of the probabilistic forecasts by the users of hydrological forecasts. The scientific questions staying behind the research programme are described together with the main components by the authors, briefly. The aim of the paper is to give an overview over the whole programme rather than a detailed description of the individual components. The coordination with other linked international research programs such

as GEWEX THORPEX, and MOPEX are given, too.

The anticipated aim is reached. In Chapter 6 the terms weather and climate forecasts are used. The meaning of these terms can capable of being misunderstood. Is the meaning of climate forecast seasonal forecasting or climate projections with regard to “Global Warming”. A more detailed explanation highlighting the differences or the similarities between the different kinds of forecasting and/or prognosis is desirable.

Looking at the test beds (Table 1 and Fig. 2) it is seen that most of the test beds are located in North and South America. A short discussion of this global distribution of test beds may be expected by the reader. Other continental research activities, e.g. the Cost 731 action (cost731.bafg.de) in Europe should be noted and/or possible collaboration should be mentioned.

Technical aspects:

The abbreviations GEWEX, THORPEX, and MOPEX should be explained.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 3, 3321, 2006.