

Review of: The atmospheric branch of the hydrological cycle over the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra River basins

Authors: Rogert Sori et al.

Recommendation: Accept after some revisions

Review:

The authors have conducted a detailed water budget of the three major river basins of the Asian continent. Their results of the dominance of local recycling of moisture within the river basins followed by the Indian Ocean and rest of the continental sources is quite interesting. Overall the paper is well written and the figures are of good quality. Some of the most substantive suggestions are as follows:

- 1) The authors should discuss the quality of ERA-Interim analysis for the region especially in relation to the 4D structure of moisture, which is critical to the conclusions drawn in the paper.
- 2) Will the inconsistency of using E and P and the other meteorological variables from independently different sources have some bearing on the result? Does E-P from ERA-Interim look like Fig. 2? If not then how much of that is affecting the results of the paper?
- 3) Is there any merit in using E-P from ERA-Interim even if it does validate with other independent observations because of balancing the water budget?