The 2009 Annual Meeting is being organized around the broad theme of Urban Weather and Climate: Now and the Future. The relevance and timeliness of the urban theme cannot be overemphasized. Recent events Hurricane Katrina; urban floods in Europe and China; heat waves in London, Paris and Chicago; homeland security concerns and industrial chemical accidents; to name a few point out the vulnerability of urban populations to high-impact weather of all types. In the U.S. today, approximately two-thirds of the population live in cities that occupy less than two percent of the U.S. land mass. This past year, the global population may have reached a tipping point with the world’s urban population equaling its rural population; by 2030, the urban population fraction is predicted to surpass 60% globally and exceed 82% in the more developed countries. Most of the urban population growth results from migration from the rural areas as birth rates tend to decline in the urban areas. The nexus of urbanization and population growth, coupled with anthropogenic urban weather influences and global climate changes, portend an impending perfect storm for the urban environment. The specialty conferences, symposia and special sessions that comprise the annual meeting will focus attention on six cross-cutting urban themes:

(a) Measurement systems and networks;
(b) Modeling and forecasting;
(c) Observations and studies of high-impact weather;
(d) Geographic influences on urban weather and climate;
(e) Human and environmental impacts; and
(f) Implications of climate change and population growth.

Papers for this conference are solicited on all aspects of IIPS related to Global Meteorological and Hydrological Service Updates; International Applications; Satellite IIPS and Applications; Radar IIPS and Applications, including Multifunction Phased Array Radar (MPAR); Interactive Processing Systems; Applications in Meteorology, Oceanography, Hydrology and Climatology; GIS Applications; Internet Applications and Cyberinfrastructure; Challenges in Data Access, Distribution, and Use; and Advances and Applications in Transportation Weather, Surface and Aviation. A special session will address recent developments in Virtual Globe technology and applications.

The 25th IIPS will feature five joint sessions as follows.

- One with the 13th Integrated Observing and Assimilation Systems for Atmosphere, Oceans, and Land Surface (IOAS-AOLS) Conference a session related to global environmental observing systems including, but not limited to, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), and Global Terrestrial Observing
System (GTOS). Abstracts for this session may be submitted either to the IIPS or to the IOAS-AOLS conference.

- One with the 18th Symposium on Education.
- One with the 21st Conference on Climate Variability and Change titled "Distributed Earth Science Information Systems." Abstracts for this session may be submitted either to the IIPS or to the Climate Variability and Change Conference.
- A new one in conjunction with the Policy & Socioeconomic Research Committee on Transportation issues.
- Another new one with the Satellite committee on Virtual Globe applications; this new joint session will be in addition to the standalone Virtual Globes sessions that IIPS will continue to host.

In 2007 and 2008, IIPS has hosted a session on the Linked Environments for Atmospheric Discovery (LEAD). However, this year the LEAD session is evolving into an exciting new session entitled Cyberinfrastructure for Mesoscale Research. Recent advances in information, computing and networking technologies have produced an array of cyberinfrastructure and conceptual frameworks to enable real time, on-demand, and dynamically-adaptive nature of mesoscale weather analysis, prediction and research; the complexities associated with its disparate, high volume data sets and streams; and the immense computational demands of numerical models and data assimilation systems. Innovative approaches have been developed for collecting, managing and providing access to large amounts of data, as well as new computing paradigms and information frameworks for the design, execution of modeling and assimilation systems to predict and understand multi-scale atmospheric processes, mine and visualize observations and model output, and provide novel opportunities for integrating such approaches in education and outreach. This session invites papers that will present the status and results from ongoing efforts in this nascent area of information technology, and provides a forum to share and discuss ideas and common issues.

Finally, a special retrospective half day session celebrating the 25th anniversary of the IIPS Conference will be held which will provide a review of significant accomplishments over the past quarter of a century that have occurred with respect to advancements in IIPS applications and services.

In an effort to improve the formal poster viewing experience there will be two distinct poster series, each two days long. The first is Sunday evening through
Tuesday morning and the second is Wednesday morning through Thursday evening. All posters must be removed at the end of the first series in order to set posters for the second series. More information will be available once the program has been finalized.

Please submit your abstract electronically via the Web by *11 August 2008* (refer to the AMS Web page at http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/online_submit.html.) An abstract fee of $90 (payable by credit card or purchase order) is charged at the time of submission (refundable only if abstract is not accepted).

Authors of accepted presentations will be notified (via e-mail) by mid-September 2008. As begun in 2008, no preprint CD-ROM will be prepared. However, authors of invited and accepted papers will still be asked to contribute to the web-based proceedings of the conference. All extended abstracts are to be submitted electronically and will be available on-line via the Web. Instructions for formatting extended manuscripts for the extended abstract will be posted on the AMS Web site. Manuscripts (up to 3MB) must be submitted electronically to AMS *7 January 2009*. Furthermore, beyond the abstract fee of $90 there will be no charge for the extended abstract. All extended abstracts and presentations will be freely available on the AMS Web site.

For additional information please contact the program co-chairpersons, Howard Diamond, NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center, 301-427-2475, howard.diamond@noaa.gov; or Ward Seguin from NOAA/Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, 301-734-1198, ward.seguin@noaa.gov. (2/08; r7/08)