

## Flooding From Intense Rainfall Early Career Researcher Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015, University of Reading

### **Aims**

The aim of the meeting was to bring together Early Career Researchers (ECR) from both the Flooding From Intense Rainfall (FFIR) programme's projects: FRANC and SINATRA. It was hoped that by finding out what research each individual is doing, what datasets they are using, which catchments (if applicable) they are studying and which case studies (if applicable) they are investigating, that possible interactions would be identified and facilitated. It was also an opportunity for the ECR to present their work in more detail than possible at previous meetings.

### **Agenda**

The meeting began with an overview presentation of the FFIR programme by Hannah Cloke, why NERC has funded this programme, the different aspects of the programme and also a discussion on Work Package (WP) 3, and how the work being done by the ECR in WPs 1 & 2 will lead the direction WP3 takes. This was followed by a talk from Rob Thompson on Communications, Media and Outreach within FFIR. Rob mentioned that he gets a lot of requests from the media and for outreach opportunities and he highlighted the benefit not only to the programme but also to the individual researchers and their associated universities. He also reminded the meeting of the blog and twitter account and how it would be nice for people to offer blogs/responsive blogs to events instead of having to be chased.

This was then followed by a series of 8 minute presentations, with 2 minutes Q&A, by each ECR introduced by another ECR as part of the "Presentation Buddy" concept – an idea (Maria Vinogradova) to increase interaction between ECR by assigning them a presentation buddy from outside their institution who had to introduce their buddy and their research topic to the meeting. The 8 minute presentations were extremely successful in highlighting a number of topics and datasets that were being used, or worked on, by a number of ECR (e.g. tipping bucket raingauges, radar data, similar catchments, use of data sets being created within the programme).

The second day began with a talk from Sue Ballard about work that is taking place at the Met Office and how it interacts with the FRANC project. This included updates on the high resolution NWP nowcasting system and future developments, the flood forecasting centre and the tools they use to understand the predict flooding events and a new system that combines the atmosphere, surface, marine and ecosystem models into a single modelling system. This was followed by a talk and breakout sessions led by Greg O'Donnell on the FEPSys system. The breakout sessions were aimed at providing the FEPSys team with ideas as to what type of questions might be asked by different user groups, what datasets the breakout groups thought might be useful and what other information may be useful to hold on FEPSys.

The final session of the meeting formed breakout groups to discuss potential methods of collaborations and interactions. A number of ideas were generated, listed in the Outcomes

section, however many had a common theme of improving the interaction between ECR in a relaxed environment to maximise its effectiveness. Groups also focussed on specific pathways of potential interaction and collaboration, potentially on a number of joint papers, but also by exchanging ideas and datasets (rainfall identified as common dataset/requirement), particularly between the FLoAT team and modellers.

Adrian Champion finished the meeting with a personal comment about the early adoption of data sets being created within the programme to ensure that they are used, so they can be developed to be of maximum use to those wishing to use them and to ensure a fully integrated programme. It was suggested that those creating data sets offered them to be used early in their development, along with advice and comments, so that users (other ECR) could provide early feedback. This would be helped by the creation of a platform to share data (listed in the Outcomes section).

### **Thanks**

All attendees thanked the support of Louise Jones, Sharon Burton and Hannah Cloke for their help in organising and running the meeting.

### **Outcomes**

There were a number of suggested outcomes from the meeting:

1. Jess Moloney and Chris Skinner (University of Hull) offered to host the next ECR meeting in January of next year in Hull. A booklet of 500 words from each ECR regarding their progress within the programme (attending or not) would be circulated prior to the meeting to help discussions to start quickly.
2. An internal set of pages on the FFIR website for everyone working on this programme.
3. The creation of an ECR forum on the FFIR website for ECR to freely exchange ideas and ask questions (suggested instead of the proposed e-mail list, Rob Thompson). A Facebook page was also suggested as an alternative to a forum on the FFIR website.
4. More regular progress updates from ECR, a number of suggested methods: 3-monthly newsletter (offered by Nawal Husnoo), progress updates on website, 1 paragraph/2 sentence updates on website (Twitter), booklet to contain progress by each ECR to be sent around prior to the next ECR meeting (as mentioned earlier). It was desired that these progress updates would also include problems encountered to help other ECR.
5. A list of case studies/catchments being used by each ECR to identify common case studies, listed on the internal pages of the FFIR website, and the criteria as to why they were chosen (or rejected).
6. Potential joint papers discussing a selected catchment bringing together all the different streams of work.
7. List of names, projects, contact details and expertise (programming, case studies, data sets) on the internal pages of the FFIR website.
8. A booklet on common definitions used by both meteorologists, hydrologists, modellers and data assimilators to help break down the language barrier (offered by David Flack).
9. An easier method of sharing data was desired.

## Final Remarks

There was a strong desire from all participants to keep the momentum and enthusiasm of collaboration going. A number of the ECR had only recently started and therefore this meeting was an excellent opportunity for them to go to other programme members in a relaxed atmosphere. All of the presentations will be made available via the website for people to view.

## Attendees

| <i>Name</i>         | <i>Institution</i>      | <i>E-mail address</i>  |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Adrian Champion     | University of Reading   | <a href="mailto:a.j.champion@reading.ac.uk">a.j.champion@reading.ac.uk</a>                   |
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