

Profiles of Speakers (Keynote Speech)

Speaker:

Doctor William K. M. LAU

Director

Laboratory for Atmospheres,
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center



Topic:

Aerosol-Monsoon Water Cycle Interaction: A New Challenge to Climate Change in Asia

Biography:

William K. M. Lau received his B. Sc. (Mathematics and Physics) in 1972, and B. Sc. Special (Applied Mathematics), in 1973 from University of Hong Kong, both with 1st Class Honors. He received his MS in Physics, and PhD in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA. He is currently, Chief, Laboratory for Atmospheres, NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, which is a world class research center of over 200 PhD scientists, including government and university scientists. He is an Adjunct Professor of Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic sciences U. of Maryland, and Adjunct Professor of Mathematics at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and is a senior science advisor of the Hong Kong Observatory. He frequently visits international research and academic institutions in countries and regions including China, India, Southeast Asia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, North and South America, and Europe to present invited lectures, and keynote speeches to promote interests and awareness in regional impacts of climate change. His research work spans three decades covering a wide range of topics in climate dynamics, tropical and monsoon meteorology, ocean-atmosphere interaction, aerosol-water cycle interaction, climate variability and change. He received many awards for his research and scientific leadership, including among others, the American Meteorological Society Meisinger Award for young scientist (1988), the NASA John Lindsay Award (1987), the Goddard Exceptional Achievement Medal

(1991), the William Nordberg Award in Earth Science (1999). He is a Goddard Senior Fellow, a fellow of the American Meteorological Society, and a fellow of the American Geophysical Union. He has served on numerous international science steering group and panels, including among others, the WMO Monsoon Climate Expert Panel, the GEWEX Science Steering Group, the ACPC (Aerosol-Cloud-Precipitation-Climate) Science Working Group. He is currently the lead scientist for the Joint Aerosol-Monsoon Experiment (JAMEX) - a core element of the World Climate Research Programme, the Asian Monsoon Years (AMY) initiative (2008-2012).

Dr. Lau published over 230 refereed papers, articles in encyclopedia, and book chapters. He was on the ISI Web of Science's list of highly cited researchers among all fields since 2001, with a total citation of 7483, and a h-index of 55. He is the principal author of a popular research reference book "Intraseasonal Variability of the Tropical Ocean-Atmosphere Climate System", Praxis Springer Publisher, 2006. A second edition of the book is now in print. In 2010, Dr. Lau was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award of the Faculty of Science, HKU, for his outstanding contribution and leadership in Asian monsoon and climate change research. In 2011, he received the Honorary Professorship award from the School of Energy and Environment, City U. of Hong Kong.