

FAQ about MAIRS

Q. What is MAIRS?

A. MAIRS is a new international research Program of ESSP that addresses the coupled system of human and natural processes in the Asia Monsoon Region.

Q. How do I pronounce 'MAIRS'?

A. The pronunciation rhymes with 'pairs' and 'stairs'.

Q. How is MAIRS governed?

A. The MAIRS program is guided by a Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) and supported by an International Program Office (IPO). The SSC leads and guides the Program with respect to planning, development and implementation.

Q. Who funds MAIRS?

A. The International Project Office and activities of the SSC are funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Workshops and research projects are largely funded by specific contributions of governments and/or donors.

Q. What are the key research questions of MAIRS?

A. :

- (i) Is the Asian Monsoon system resilient to this human transformation of land, water and air?
- (ii) Are societies in the region becoming more, or less, vulnerable to changes in the Asian Monsoon?
- (iii) What are the likely consequences of changes in Monsoon Asia on the global climate system?

Q. What are the four Science Themes of MAIRS?

A. The four Science Themes of MAIRS are:

- (i) rapid transformation of land and marine resources in the coastal zones;
- (ii) multiple stresses on high mountain ecosystems and biophysical resources;
- (iii) vulnerability of ecosystems in semi-arid regions due to changing climate and land use;
- (iv) changes in resource use and emissions as a result of rapid urbanization.

Each Science Theme concentrates on one geographic Zone in monsoon Asia.

Q. What are the four geographic foci of MAIRS?

A.

- (i) The Coastal Zones
- (ii) The Mountain Zones
- (iii) The Semi Arid Zones
- (iv) The Urban Zones

Research in each zone is mainly guided by one Science Theme.

Q. Is MAIRS a member of the ESSP family?

A. Yes, MAIRS is the (only) Integrated Regional Study of the Earth System Science Program. It participates in the ESSP-Science Committee.

Q. How can I participate in MAIRS Working Groups?

A. Scientists and students in the field of earth system science with an interest and experience in any of the scientific fields are welcome. Contact either the Working Group leader or the IPO (info@mairs-essp.org).

Q. How can the MAIRS IPO help me?

A. In several ways:

(i) the Initial Science Plan gives guidance to formulation of research proposals. MAIRS approaches relevant donors to encourage them to support MAIRS-related research.

(ii) MAIRS builds up a data base of scientists in different countries of the Monsoon Asia region, thereby facilitating the search for (new) partners when new, international research proposals are formulated. The data base will be available to those who register in it.

(iii) Participation in Working Groups gives access to advanced earth system science in Monsoon Asia.

Q. Can I apply for funds by MAIRS?

A. Not for research activities. For specific workshops or conferences, the IPO may have funds available.