

# Preface

The Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) is known mainly for its weather forecasts and warnings, but in its capacity as the national knowledge and data centre for weather, climate and seismology, it performs also many research activities on these subjects.

In fact, the Law on KNMI that has been accepted in Parliament in 2002, explicitly states that it is a task of KNMI to perform research.

These research activities are of both applied and fundamental nature, and are focused on observations, modeling, and understanding weather and climate. They lead to scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, about 100 per year, and to various development activities and services for external and internal users, such as the development of numerical weather and climate models, the performance of remote sensing and in-situ observations, and the construction of climate scenario's for the Netherlands.

This report aims to give a representative overview of this quite extensive range of research activities as carried out in the years 2006, 2007 and 2008, written in a style that should be accessible also for the interested layman.

This Triennial Report has been preceded by six Biennial Reports. We have changed the length of the reporting period from two to three years, as in this way the timing of the scientific reports becomes the same as that of the scientific evaluations of KNMI's research. Our research is evaluated externally once every six years, and every three years a self-evaluation is produced. The latest self-evaluation covers the period 2007-2009, and in the autumn of 2010 an external evaluation will be carried out for the period 2004-2009.

In this respect I want to thank the members of the KNMI-Board ('KNMI-Raad'), which is a committee with external members with whom I discuss a few times per year general aspects of the organization of KNMI's research and its quality.



When you have read this report, I hope you can understand why I am so proud of KNMI's research! I wish you a pleasant reading.

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*Dr. Ir. Frits J.J. Brouwer  
Director General KNMI*