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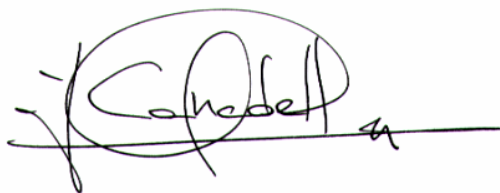
Dear Dr. Groisman,

On behalf of the Scientific Steering Committee meeting of the Global Carbon Project¹ (GCP) I am pleased to inform you that the GCP discussed the Science Plan of the Northern Eurasia Earth Science Partnership Initiative (NEESPI) during the 2005 SSC meeting in Paris. The plan focuses on a critical region both because its sensitivity to climate change and potential global feedbacks. The GCP recognizes the relevance of the science described with regarding biogeochemistry, the carbon cycle, and interactions with human dimensions, and finds them consistent with the overarching science agenda of the GCP described in its Science Framework and Implementation (Global Carbon Project 2003).

The GCP would like to explore the possibility to engage NEESPI in the GCP activity on “Vulnerabilities of the carbon cycle in the 21st century” with a particular focus on permafrost and peatlands which are so extensive in the NEESPI region and have been identified by the GCP as a hot stop for carbon-climate interactions.

Given all the above, the GCP is pleased to endorse the component of the NEESPI science plan that deals with the carbon cycle.

Sincerely,



Dr. Josep Canadell
Executive Director

¹The Global Carbon Project is a joint project of the four major global environmental research programs under the International Council for Science: IGBP-International Geosphere-Biosphere Program; WCRP-World Climate Research Program; IHDP-International Human Dimensions Program; and Diversitas.