

Support of Hemant Borgaonkar

Edward R. Cook

To the Climate Center Committee:

I am requesting funds to support a proposed 3-month visit here by Hemant Borgaonkar from the Institute of Tropical Meteorology (ITM) in Pune, India. This visit would probably occur 6-12 months from now, but the details have not been worked out pending the outcome of this request.

Hemant Borgaonkar has recently received his PhD from the ITM on the development of tree-ring chronologies in the Indian Himalayas for the purpose of reconstructing past climate related to the Indian monsoon. His PhD research is excellent and greatly complements the work now underway in Nepal by the Lamont Tree-Ring Lab.

Consequently, Hemant's visit here is intended to compare our dendroclimatic results with the goal of merging our efforts into a larger monsoon reconstruction project that extends outside of Nepal into regions of the Indian subcontinent. This working visit by Hemant would also help cement the growing collaboration between the ITM and Lamont in the study of the Asian monsoon complex. Indeed, the IRI has recently brought in another recent PhD from the ITM, Krisha Kumar, to work on monsoon modeling for the next 2 years. Krishna Kumar has worked with Hemant in Pune, so the timing is perfect for Hemant to visit Lamont and interact with the monsoon-related research activities of the IRI as well.