the scientific understanding of atmospheric processes. A major feature of the WMO's research effort is the Global Atmospheric Research Program, which is sponsored jointly by the WMO and the International Council of Scientific Unions. Its purpose is to study the physical processes in the atmosphere with a view to increasing the accuracy of forecasting over periods ranging from a single day to several weeks and to obtaining a better understanding of the physical basis of climate. Other components of this program include activities in such fields as weather-modification (including precipitation-enhancement), tropical meteorology and studies of atmospheric pollution, including studies on stratospheric ozone and the possibility of climatic change. Much attention is now being given to climatic change and variability, and it is expected that, at its next session (Geneva, May 1979), the Congress will adopt a plan for a world climate program.

The Meteorological Applications and Environment Program includes all activities aimed at applying meteorological knowledge to human activities. Such applications include agriculture, oceanic matters, aviation, atmospheric and marine pollution, solar and wind energy and tropical cyclones.

The Hydrology and Water Resources Development Program is a realtively new one. Its main components are: technical projects within the Operational Hydrology Program; institutionalized co-operation of hydrological services on regional and global levels; and participation in the water-resources development programs of other organizations, such as the International Hydrology Program of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. A Hydrological Operational Multipurpose System is currently under development and, when implemented, will service water-resources management programs and projects in need of real-time and/or historical data for design purposes.

The WMO plays an active part in programs of technical co-operation and assistance for economic development, using primarily UNDP funds. It provides advice on the establishment and development of national meteorological services and promotes the training of meteorologists and specialists in all branches of weather science. Experts contribute their experience and skills and co-operate with national authorities in solving the problems of the countries concerned. One of the greatest and most pressing needs of the meteorological and hydrological services of the developing countries is