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Title: Future Temperature and Precipitation Changes in Korea Associated with Global Warming

Abstract:

By long-term observations it has been confirmed by climatologists that global warming is no longer a topic of debate among scientists and policymakers. According to 2001 IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report, the global mean surface air temperature has been increasing gradually and it records as much as about 0.6 degree by the end of the 21st century. Property losses have also enlarged corresponding to the global warming trend, especially increase of extreme weather event occurrence. Most of studies on climate changes, Atmosphere-Ocean General Circulation Models (AOGCMs) have been considered as the primary tool commonly used. However, it may not be easy task to figure out regional climate conditions due to their coarse horizontal resolution. To overcome this spatial limitation of large-scale model a dynamic downscaling by nesting regional climate model to AOGCMs is considered as one of promising solutions (Giorgi, Jones et al., 1995; Christensen et al., 1997). In this study, we attempt to develop a methodology to provide relatively accurate future regional climate information for not only mean temperature and precipitation changes but also extreme events in Korea with regional downscaling technique. Temperature and precipitation changes associated with the global warming over Korea are investigated by numerical prediction with a regional climate model (MM5) for the period of 2001 to 2100. For regional climate simulation we used the MM5 (version 3.4) with 27 km horizontal resolution and 15 layers of σ -coordinate in vertical. MM5 is nested within the output of SRES (Special Report on Emission Scenarios) A2 by the ECHAM4/HOF developed at the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology (MPI) for the period of model year 2001 to 2100. A basic analysis of the simulations indicates that climate change over the Korea shows about 6.2°C increase of the surface temperature and about 2.6% increase of the precipitation by 2100. Based on the simulations, we investigated the frequency of occurrence of extreme events over Korea. Results show that both daily maximum and daily minimum temperature increase, while the diurnal temperature range decreases. The diurnal temperature range (DTR) change has diminished mainly due to relatively faster increase of daily minimum temperature than that of daily maximum temperature. It has been observed increase of precipitation amount and decrease of the number of rainy days, and that these changes lead to the increase of precipitation intensity.