**Dear Mr Battig**

**Thanks for your request. You are about the fifth person to ask me this in the last ten years or more.**

**What you quote a very abbreviated report of a much longer discussion at least 22 years ago!  - soon after the 1990 IPCC report and possibly around the time of the 1992 Supplementary Report. I cannot be sure to which sceptical scientist it was made but it may have been Pat Michaels - and possibly others with him. Please check with Pat.**

**At that time, the key driver for nations' concern about climate change was indeed mostly driven by model projections of global warming.  The attached published letter written in an Institute of Physics journal by myself and one of the then IPCC Working Group 1 coordinators tried to accurately reflect the general view at that time (1993). It reflects accurately what I was trying to say the year or so before.  Please quote these words as appropriate – but they were only appropriate in the early 1990s. This view was soon to change greatly; notice that the letter looks forward at its end to a greatly increased importance of climate data to the climate change debate, and to nations' policy actions and concerns.**

***The situation is now very different and has been since about 1995*.  Up to 1993, there were no published detection and attribution studies. The situation had changed by the 1995 IPCC report with the first published detection and attribution studies and since then the many results of these studies have become the most quoted and influential aspect of all the IPCC Reports. Detection and attribution depends critically on observed climate data as well as climate models. It had centre stage of course in the 2001, 2007 and 2013 IPCC reports. So climate data started to move to centre stage by the mid 1990s and was definitely right there by 2001 when I was a convening lead author of the 2001 Report. Observed data and climate models are now equally important and vital to each other. This was further helped by the fact that in 2001 the first error estimates of observed global mean temperatures were published (I lead the first paper) – much been improved conceptually but not greatly changed quantitatively in recent years - and now available for everywhere location in the world. So great efforts continue to go on into improving data by the leading climate scientists of the world using ever more advanced statistics. I, of course, have devoted considerable time since 1990 to climate data, uncertainties, and assessing the climate changes, and importantly, the variations, that they show.**

**You might notice that some sceptics have a bad habit of quoting, or going after, very out of date stuff, such as the conceptual curve of global temperature back to the Middle Ages in the 1990 report, as if climate science stands still.  Thus another development for which climate data are essential is the relatively new subject of decadal to multidecadal prediction (now in the fifth IPCC Report as a stand alone chapter). I co-authored the first widely quoted decadal prediction paper 2007 in Science. Here I was particularly responsible for the use of observed data methods to test the veracity of the early part of these predictions. Moreover all decadal prediction models have to be initialised with climate data. So decadal forecasting is actually impossible without observed global climate data.  But decadal forecasting did not exist in 1992.**

**Monitoring of what is happening is clearly essential to see how climate change and variability are unfolding - such as the current observed “pause” or hiatus, now that climate predictions have long been made and need continuously evaluating. Thus the observed climate warming “pause” is leading to new insights into climate variability which will likely eventually lead to improved ability to make decadal to multidecadal predictions. Not surprisingly, the greatly increased interest and range of applications of global climate data has lead to an explosion in the development of many kinds of such data sets since the mid 1990s, and developments continue to accelerate as the observed data now matter very much!.**

**So climate data are now very much key to the climate change debate as the attached published letter foretold! 2014 is very different from 1992!**

**Please feel free to quote the attached published letter in the context of the above remarks in any publication – I encourage you to do this.**

**I hope this helps**

**Chris**

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