

Celebrating Diversity at NCEP
By Catherine Kenney

This month, NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) celebrated the cultural diversity at the World Weather Building in Camp Springs, Md., with a *Taste of Africa* and the *Taste of the Environmental Modeling Center*.



Pictured are: Wassila Thiaw (South Africa), Dr. Louis Uccellini, Director NCEP, Linda Phalatse (South Africa), Augustine Tchouanwo (Cameroon)

Taste of Africa

On July 7, 2005, the African Desk of the Climate Prediction Center hosted a *Taste of Africa* event, which introduced World Weather Building employees to the contemporary and traditional African culture of the visiting CPC scientists. Employees got an opportunity to sample native cuisine and meet the families of those working at the African Desk. The countries represented included Senegal, Cameroon and South Africa. The African Desk has hosted 48 visiting scientists, from 31 African countries, over the last 10 years. "This is one of the events that reflect the commitment of NOAA in promoting scientific cooperation with the developing countries in Africa and also in promoting the cultural diversity," said Jim Laver, director, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.



Picture: African Desk Employees



Pictured: Jae Schemm, Catherine Thiaw, Nicole Tchouanwo (Cameroon), Isabelle Tchouanwo, Viviane Silva (Brazil), Linda Phalatse (South Africa), Sura Saha, Lauren Morone

Taste of EMC

On July 18, 2005, the Environmental Modeling Center (EMC) sponsored a "Taste of EMC" to recognize the wide diversity of employees within the center. "EMC has the largest diversity among NCEP centers," said Dennis Staley, CFO at NCEP. The taste of EMC has become an annual event. "It has taken place every year for the past three years. Employees love it. There is always a great turnout of government, contractors and visiting scientist. It truly brings us together," said Dr. Stephen Lord, director, NOAA's EMC. Employees contribute their favorite dish to give everyone the opportunity to sample the different cuisine. Some of the following nationalities were represented: Filipino, Indian, Dutch, German, Vietnamese, Chinese, Italian, Taiwanese, German, Cuba, and American.



Employees of EMC



