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AGU Fall Meeting 2009

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Climatic Changes over the Republic of Belarus during the Period of Instrumental Observations

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Contemporary meteorological observations over the territory of Belarus commenced in the second quarter of the 19th century (e.g., Grodno and Svisloch in 1839, Gorki in 1841, Brest in 1951). The meteorological station in the national capital, Minsk, was established only in 1887 as a part of large program initiated in early 1880s to cover with a standard meteorological network the entire territory of the Russian Empire, which encompassed Belarus at that time. Thus, it is a common practice to begin climatological analyses of surface air temperature changes over the nation from 1881 and of precipitation from 1891 respectively, when standard thermometer and rain gauge installations and observational procedures were developed. For the Republic of Belarus, we present analyses of nationwide changes in mean monthly temperature and precipitation during these more than century-long periods that span up to year 2008. However, all our time series have a gap during the period of the World War II (1941-44). For the past seventy years (since 1936; when most of daily and synoptic information became available in digital form), daily and sub-daily data from 54 stations across the country are used to show spatial variability and pattern of changes in the surface air temperature, near surface wind, relative humidity, and precipitation totals adjusted for observational practice changes (cf., Groisman and Rankova 2001, *Int. J. Climatol.*). We shall focus on the past two decades when unprecedented global climatic changes have occurred and assess their regional impact on the nation climate. The presentation will also provide short information about climate of the Republic of Belarus and description of its meteorological network. Existing data issues (homogeneity, quality control, archiving procedures) will be briefly discussed.

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