

## **A Closer Look at Volcanic Activity**

Eugenio Hackbart / MetSul Meteorologia

There is not doubt the lack of volcanic activity played a major role in the warming trend of the last decade. ICECAP's Joseph D'Aleo explained in a recent article\* how volcanoes contributed to multidecadal temperature variability since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Therefore, we should pay a closer attention to volcanic activity around the world. In the first day of 2008 the Llaima volcano in southern Chile erupted (photo below from El Mercurio newspaper), sending up a huge plume of smoke and coating the surrounding wilderness park with ash. (Note the [Smithsonian](#) USGS Weekly Volcano Summary indicated ash reached a height of 41,000 feet). An ash cloud moved to the Province of Nequen in Argentina. The volcano is in the Araucania region in southern Chile, inside Conguillio National Park and about 50 miles from the city of Temuco. In recent days, activity at the Llaima Mountain subsided.





This Saturday (01/05) the huge Popocatépetl volcano, 40 miles south of Mexico City, expelled a 5 mile high cloud of smoke (water vapor and ashes), the highest in several years. Authorities do not expect any imminent eruption, but warning levels were raised. As RSS MSU and UAH MSU data indicate a cooling trend in the planet without any major volcanic eruption, can you imagine the effects of a Pinatubo event nowadays ?

\* [http://icecap.us/images/uploads/HOW\\_VOLCANISM\\_AFFECTS\\_CLIMATE.pdf](http://icecap.us/images/uploads/HOW_VOLCANISM_AFFECTS_CLIMATE.pdf)

*Icecap Note: Thanks Eugenio for these startling images and keeping us up to date on this activity. Though these were 'moderate' events that are unlikely to have long lasting or major effects, we need as Eugenio implied to be vigilant to global volcanism and be on watch for a strong eruption like Pinatubo and El Chichon that injected aerosols into the stable stratosphere 80,000-100,000 feet and more high and had global cooling effects that lasted 3 years or so.*