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RA II WIGOS Project Newsletter

DEVELOPING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AND
HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES IN SATELLITE DATA, PRODUCTS AND TRAINING

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The Fifteenth Session of the Regional Association II (Asia) of the WMO in Doha, Qatar in December 2012

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The 15th Session of the RA II took place at the Doha, Qatar, 13-19 December 2012. There were more than 100 delegations

from 35 WMO members and international organizations. The President of RA II, Prof. Victor E. Chub, expressed the appreciation for the all the participants from the 25 members of RA II including QMD (Qatar Meteorological Department).



2. REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

The report provided an overall review and assessment of the major activities of the Association since its fourteenth session and expressed satisfaction at the effective manner in which the activities of the Association were being undertaken. The president also highlighted the issues that the Association would have to address, such as the implementation of the RA II Strategic Operating Plan for the Enhancement of NMHSs in RA II (Asia) 2012-2015; the future working mechanism of the Association; and other priority activities, including the implementation in the Region of the high priority activities decided by the Sixteenth Congress (2011) in the areas of GFCS, WIGOS, WIS, and Disaster Risk Reduction.

3. ENHANCED CAPABILITIES OF MEMBERS TO ACCESS, DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT AND USE INTEGRATED AND INTEROPERABLE EARTH- AND SPACE-BASED OBSERVATION SYSTEMS FOR WEATHER, CLIMATE AND HYDROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, AS WELL AS RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL AND SPACE WEATHER OBSERVATIONS, BASED ON WORLD STANDARDS SET BY WMO

Space-based Observations

The Association encouraged

continuation of the RA II Pilot Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training, coordinated by JMA and KMA. This Pilot Project is to be evolved into a RA II WIGOS Project from 2013, as it is important for improving the dialogue between satellite providers and users in the Region. In this respect, the Association stressed the importance of identifying and regularly documenting Region-oriented requirements for satellite data access and exchange, following the guidance provided by the "Procedure for Documenting Regional Requirements for Satellite Data Access and Exchange" The Pilot Project conducted a questionnaire survey in 2012 to develop an initial set of such requirements.

The Association expressed its deep appreciation to CMA, JMA and KMA for hosting the first (2010), second (2011) and the third (2012) Asia/Oceania Meteorological Satellites Users' Conferences, respectively. The third Asia/Oceania Meteorological Satellites Users' Conference, preceded by a 3-day WMO-KMA RA II Pilot Project VLab Satellite Training Event attended by participants from 13 Members of the Region, brought together more than 160 scientists, users and satellite operator representatives and has become the prime forum for the satellite meteorology community in the Region. The Association strongly encouraged continuation of the Conference on an annual basis.

Mr. Shida, Program Manager Development and Regional Activities Department of the WMO, informed that Co-coordinators of the Coordinating Group of the project received certificates for their outstanding work for the implementation of the project on behalf of all the people who contributed to this project. He hopes that the project will be further implemented and expanded within the Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan for RA II (R-WIP-II).

4. WMO INFORMATION SYSTEM (WIS) Global Information System Centres (GISCs)

The Association was pleased with the progress of WIS Implementation in the Region noting that GISCs Beijing and Tokyo have been operational since January 2012. It noted that GISC Seoul had also been successfully audited by CBS and that it will become operational in early 2013. GISCs Jeddah, Moscow, New Delhi and Tehran are preparing for their audits with an aim to beginning operations in 2013. Seven GISCs are expected to be directly supporting RA II by the end of 2013. The Association expressed its appreciation to GISCs Beijing and Tokyo for providing WMO Interim Metadata Management Services (WIMMS^{1,2}) to support those WIS centres that do not yet have access to an operational GISC. The Association noted the important role of GISCs in ensuring effective exchange of information between Members, and encouraged Members to work with GISCs on network and telecommunication issues and to participate in pilot projects focusing on WIS Applications providing benefits from GISC services via the Internet.

¹ GISC Beijing WIMMS
http://wisportal.cma.gov.cn/wis/jsp/UserGuide/downloadFile.jsp?file=WIMMS_Service_in_GISC_Beijing.pdf

² GISC Tokyo WIMMS
<http://www.wis-jma.go.jp/cms/help-desk/user-guide/guide-to-maintenance-of-gts-metadata-at-giscwimms-tokyo/>

5. WMO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC INCLUDING WMO OFFICE FOR WEST ASIA



	City	Country	Located in	Agreement signed on/in	Establishment announced on/in	Became Operational on
WMO Office for NCW Africa	Lagos/Abuja	Nigeria	Nigeria Met Agency/UN House	17. 12. 1998	03. 02. 1997	
WMO Office for ES Africa	Nairobi	Kenya	Kenya Met Dept.	17. 04. 1998	July 1998	
WMO Office for West Asia	Mammala	Bahrain	UN House	25. 11. 2004	22. 11. 2006	12. 03. 2007
WMO Office for SW Pacific	Apia	Samoa	SPREP Campus	01. 05. 1998	16. 05. 1998	12. 04. 1999
WMO Office for NCAC	San José	Costa Rica	Met Service HQ	13. 13. 1998	03. 02. 1997	
WMO Office for South America (Regional Office for the Americas)	Asunción	Paraguay	Min. of Defense	05. 12. 1983	22. 11. 2006	

Review of Regional Office Location

The location of RAP Office was maintained in Geneva since its establishment in 1979. XIII-RA II (Hong Kong, China, December 2004) noted the advantages of its location being at the WMO headquarters to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the Regional Programme and related activities, and agreed that the Office should remain in Geneva for the time being. At the request of Cg-XVI, the Secretariat initiated a comprehensive review of the resources and location of the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, with a special focus on efficient and effective management and operation of the Regional Office. Through the Secretariat's consultations with Members, some Members (Macao, China; Republic of Korea; Singapore; and Thailand) indicated their Government's interest in hosting the Regional Office.

To ensure the efficient, cost-effective and sustainable operation and management of the Regional Office.

Efficiency:

- Linkage with WMO programmes and technical and administration departments/offices for collaboration and coordination
- Connection to Members, RA presidents and subsidiary bodies
- Connection to partners (UN, international and regional organizations and financial institutions) for collaboration and increased advocacy
- Accessibility/geographical convenience (number of available direct flights, flight time to possible venues of regional events, etc.)
- Accessibility to the info/data and info exchange

Cost-effectiveness:

- Staff salary rate (post adjustment);
- Cost of living and quality of life for staff (e.g., housing, education, healthcare)
- Office running cost (including security cost)
- Accessibility (mission cost for Office staff and participants for the meetings; cost for holding sessions)
- Availability of Government support (for staff, office space, furniture and running cost; and programme/activity cost)

Sustainability:

- Security
- Environmental friendliness
- Government support for longer term

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Ahmed Abdulla Mohammed the Director of Qatar Meteorological Department was elected as the President of Regional Association II (Asia) of the WMO, and Mr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry was re-elected as the vice-president of RA II of the WMO.

7. DATE AND PLACE OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION

India and Iran expressed to host the Sixteenth Session of Regional Association II

(Asia) of the WMO.

(Dohyeong KIM, KMA)

WMO Regional Association II (Asia) Second Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the Pilot Project to Develop Support for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Satellite Data, Products and Training

1. Opening

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Association II (Asia) Second Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the Pilot Project to Develop Support for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Satellite Data, Products and Training was hosted on 8 October, 2012, on Jeju Island in the Republic of Korea by the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) in conjunction with the 3rd Asia/Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference held from 9 to 12 October. A total of 15 participants attended from the Republic of Korea, Japan, India, the Russian Federation, Hong Kong, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Maldives, Pakistan, Bahrain, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, WMO and Australia as an observer. The meeting opened with addresses from Dr. Dohyeong Kim on behalf of Dr. Hee-Sang Lee, Director-General of KMA's National Meteorological Satellite Center (NMSC), and from Mr. Jerome Lafeuille on behalf of Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), welcoming all participants and expressing appreciation for their presence.

2. Status review

Mr. Yoshihiko Tahara (JMA) and Dr. Kim highlighted the following achievements made since the establishment of the project:

- Publication of 13 quarterly newsletters for RA II Members
- Hosting of the first meeting in Tokyo, Japan, from 21 to 23 February, 2011
- Establishment of an RA II Pilot Project

web page on the WMO Space Programme (WMOSP) website (hosted by WMOSP)

- Creation of a portal site for access to satellite imagery, data, products and training resources on the web page
- Introduction of a web-based questionnaire system and implementation of an RA II Pilot Project questionnaire survey to clarify the needs of satellite data users in RA II
- Implementation of on-site training on satellite data processing, utilization and application as part of Virtual Lab activities

Mr. Lafeuille introduced WMOSP-related activities engaged in by WMO Members, including a rolling review of observation requirements (OSCAR), SCOPE-CM (climate monitoring), SCOPE-NWC (nowcasting), the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP) and an RGB workshop. Mr. Kuniyuki Shida from the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific Development and Regional Activities Department of WMO also gave a presentation on WMO RA II support activities such as GFCS, capacity building, WIGOS/WIS, disaster mitigation work and aeronautical meteorology.

3. RA II Product Portal and WMOSP Product Access Guide

Mr. Tahara spoke about the RA II Pilot Project web page (http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/ra2pilotproject-intro_en.php), which provides information and highlights project outcomes such as the content of missions, newsletters, Coordination Group meetings and questionnaire results, and also talked about the RA II Product Portal site (http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/ra2pilotproject-links_en.php), which highlights ways to access satellite-related information on matters such as satellite operation, imagery, products, education and training. Mr. Lafeuille also presented the Product Access Guide (http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/accessandtools_en.php) maintained by WMOSP, and pointed out its similarity to the RA II Product Portal. Although the two resources are not

identical, both display links to web pages on satellite products from satellite-related operators. Mr. Tahara stressed the need to avoid duplication and pursue better web design.

4. Results of RA II User Survey and WMOSP User Survey

Mr. Tahara introduced the RA II Pilot Project Web-based Questionnaire survey, which was conducted in the third phase, and highlighted its questions, which drew responses from 20 of 35 RA II members as reported in RA II Pilot Project Newsletter Vol. 3 No 2. Mr. Lafeuille also said that the questionnaire used in the 2012 WMO survey on satellite use by WMO members had been simplified with respect to previous issues to contain just 26 questions. There were 217 valid responses from public-sector users and 9 from commercial users, which were treated separately due to the low number of responses. About 15% of global responses were from RA II users. Mr. Lafeuille broke down the numbers of responses from the sectors of research/academia, NMSCs and other operators regarding the use of GEO and LEO satellite data by operational/research users, and also highlighted major application areas, satellite data access by operational users, and challenges in the use of satellite data.

5. RA II PP SAT actions related to the procedure for regional satellite data access requirements

Mr. Lafeuille highlighted the outcomes of the 15th Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) meeting held in Jakarta from September 10 to 15 and introduced a recommendation to adopt a procedure for documenting regional requirements for satellite data access and exchange as a form of guidance in all regions. Under the recognition of this project, which involves surveying and collecting information on user requirements and providing the information collected as feedback to users, the participants agreed that the project should be

a team effort and adopted an action plan to organize a drafting team for this purpose.

6. Cascading satellite-derived information to recipient members

The participating coordinating members reported on the recent situations of satellite data acquisition and utilization in their own countries. Satellite operators reported on a number of satellites that had been launched, including OCEANSAT-II (ISRO, 2009), Megha-tropiques (CNES and ISRO, 2011), Meteor-M N1 (ROSHYDROMET, 2009), Electro-L N1 (ROSHYDROMET, 2011) and COMS (KMA, 2010). They also reported on future satellite plans and data provision services delivered via satellites and the Internet. Reports from satellite users on recent activities highlighted greater use of satellite data. It was also reported that the Maldives had lost the ability to receive data from satellites and had instead adopted an approach of data acquisition via the Internet.

7. Implementation and discussion of fourth-phase of the pilot project

The fourth-phase action plan, which runs from September 2012 through August 2013, was discussed. Participants then approved the continuation and extension of past activities including the issuance of quarterly newsletters, enhancement of Pilot Project web pages, identification of

requirements from RA II Members via questionnaire surveys, and alignment with Virtual Lab activities.

8. Discussion of the continuation of the PP by agreement of the 15th session of WMO Regional Association II (XV-RA II)

Mr. Shida delivered a presentation on the RA II Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan (R-WIP) including information on its background, initiatives, benefits and development/implementation activities. He added that the project is intended to strengthen links between satellite operators and users based on the collection of the latest information on satellite matters and its provision to users as part of activities necessary for the establishment of WIGOS. The participants agreed on this point, and approved the project's association with WIGOS through to the 15th WMO Regional Association II (XV-RA II) session to be held in December 2012.

9. Closing

Dr. Kim and Mr. Tahara thanked the participants for their contribution to the meeting, and the participants in turn thanked the staff of KMA for their dedicated work in making local arrangements. The meeting was then brought to a close.

(Yoshihiko TAHARA, JMA)



WMO-CGMS Virtual Laboratory (VLab) Management Group, Sixth Meeting (VLMG-6) in São José dos Campos, Brazil October 2012

The VLMG-6 meeting took place at the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) in São José dos Campos, Brazil, 8-11 October 2012.

A total of 30 participants including representatives from the VLab Centres of Excellence (Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Kenya, Niger, Oman, Russian Federation, South Africa and Morocco), supporting Satellite Operators and Agencies (CMA, EUMETSAT, INPE, JMA, KMA, NOAA and ROSHYDROMET), Partner Projects and Collaborators (CIRA, RA-II Pilot Project, WMO-ETR, Eumetcal, COSPAR and CEOS) and WMO Space Programme, made this meeting a very successful event. Participants presented their latest achievements and planned activities which, together with the discussions that took place, generated actions and recommendations that were captured in the VLMG-6 report (to be available soon at the VLab central website at <http://vlab.wmo.int>).

Highlighted successes of the VLab included the addition of a new Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Morocco and also the

growing participation in events organised by VLab, specially the Regional Focus Group (RFG) activities and Event Weeks (such as the Aviation weeks organised by VLab CoEs in Australia and Barbados). All the training activities organised by VLab and Partner Projects can be found at the Calendar of Events, available at the VLab Central website. The presentation of RA II Pilot Project current and planned activity was introduced by the representative from RA II Pilot Project Co-coordinators. The result of RA II Pilot Project Web Questionnaire was approved to be useful, and it is agreed that figuring out the satellite data users' requirement is very important to enhance the education and training activities.

Training concerns were also discussed during the meeting. Main issue of concern mentioned by CoEs was that for the level of training activities required in its respective area of responsibility, the number of personnel available at their VLab CoEs is often below the limits necessary to meet the agreed expectations for CoEs. This fact can endanger the effectiveness and success of future activities of the VLab in several areas of the world.

(Luciane Veeck, WMO-CGMS VLab TSO and Keiko Yamamoto, JMA)

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From the Co-editors

At the Fifteenth Session of RA II held in Doha, Qatar, in December 2012, it was decided that the RA II Pilot Project should become the RA II WIGOS Project from 2013 in light of its importance in improving dialogue between satellite providers and users in the region. Accordingly, the RA II Pilot Project Newsletter was renamed the RA II WIGOS Project Newsletter.

The co-editors invite contributions to the newsletter. Although it is assumed that the major contributors for the time being will be satellite operators, we also welcome articles (short contributions of less than a page are fine) from all RA II Members, regardless of whether they are registered with the WMO Secretariat as members of the Pilot Project Coordinating Group. We look forward to receiving your contributions to the newsletter.

(Hironobu YOKOTA, JMA, and Dohyeong KIM, KMA)

RA II WIGOS Project Mailing Lists

Two mailing lists for discussion on the pilot project will soon be set up using the Google Groups service, and will be implemented either through the Google Groups web interface or by e-mail.

One list is for Pilot Project Coordinating Group members who are already registered with the WMO's Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific.

Group name: ra2pp_sat_cg

Group home page:

http://groups.google.com/group/ra2pp_sat_cg

Group email address:

ra2pp_sat_cg@googlegroups.com

The other list is for RA II Members in general.

Group name: ra2pp_sat

Group home page:

http://groups.google.com/group/ra2pp_sat

Group email address:

ra2pp_sat@googlegroups.com

RA II WIGOS Project Home Page

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/ra2pilot/project-intro_en.php

(To be updated)

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