

**VAAC  
COLLABORATION  
TOOLS  
[VW4-0-12]**

**VAAC Best  
Practice  
Workshop  
2017  
June 2017**

# BACKGROUND

- At the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the [IAVWOPSG](#), a proposal was put forth to use a common web page for VAACs to provide their model output to each other.
- This proposal was discussed further at IAVWOPSG/8 (February 2014) and a prototype web page was developed by [NOAA/ARL](#).
- Further discussions of this idea at the WMO VAAC Best Practice workshops in [2015](#) and [2016](#) led to the conclusion that "while the idea of a platform for sharing information was found to be useful and the work done on this prototype appreciated, none of the VAACs are in a position to take on the responsibility for the maintenance and development of this site. As a result, it was proposed to explore other options for sharing of information."

# FROM MOG/2 IN APRIL 2016

- At the second meeting of the Meteorology Operations Group in April 2016, the action below was agreed to.
- **Action agreed 2/5: Sharing of operational information between VAACs:**
  - That all the VAACs , with VAAC Montreal as rapporteur, look into the possibility of using platforms such as social media for sharing of operational information and report back to the next VAAC-BP meeting.

# RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS

- Several VAACs have expressed interest in using either WhatsApp, Twitter and/or Facebook. Some have ready access to both these platforms, while others do not. For those that do not, some have undertaken getting permission to use these platforms, but at least for one, it will not be possible to use them.
- The issue of time considerations was raised: concerns were expressed that using these platforms require more time for operational forecasters and given them less time for their regular duties.

# QUESTIONS POSED TO VAACS

- Do we want to conclude that those VAACs that are able to WhatsApp or Facebook should do so and for those that can't, should use phone and email?
- Is it a problem that not all VAACs would be able to use these platforms since this could be counter to best practices of standardizing how we operate?

# ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS

- Given that not all VAACs have the capability to use social media for inter-VAAC communication, then the fall-back would be to use email and phone.
- It may be possible to use software for virtual meetings, such as Microsoft Office 365's Skype for Business or GoToMeeting.
- Some VAACs use chat software to communicate with other centres.

# THE WAY FORWARD

- Does the group wish to conclude that the VAACs explored the possibility of using messaging platforms or social media, but that no universally adoptable solution was found and that the task is complete?
- Does the group wish to pursue investigations into other types of platforms?