IWXXM/XML DEVELOPMENTS [VW4-O-10]

VAAC Best Practice Workshop 2017

June 2017

BACKGROUND

- In an effort to make information published by the VAACs more widely available, the idea of publishing volcanic ash advisories (VAA) in digital format was put forth some time ago.

- The digital format agreed to was the Extensible Markup Language (XML).

- The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) adopted a standardized template for the format of VAAs in XML. This format is known as ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model, or IWXXM.

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- The meeting was informed that WMO was about to publish the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) Version 2.0 Release Candidate 1 (RC1) for consultation.

- Details of IWXXM (ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model) 2.0RC1 can be found at http://schemas.wmo.int/iwxxm/2.1/.

ISSUES WITH XML FORMAT

- From Steve Foreman, WMO: "during implementation of IWXXM 2.0 it was found that some traditional alphanumeric code messages could not be represented in IWXXM 2.0". As a result, IWXXM 2.1 was developed to correct this.

- "The problem was associated with reporting the evolution in space and time of multiple volcanic ash clouds within a single SIGMET/AIRMET report. Different centres were using different interpretations of the Traditional Alphanumeric Codes encoding rules, but IWXXM 2.0 had only been designed to handle one of them. In order to resolve the issue, IWXXM 2.1 was introduced that split the definition of the evolution of the cloud (or other phenomenon) into two - a complete description of a single instance of the phenomenon, and a container to group all the phenomena together. This has been shown to overcome the problem."

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Are all VAACs in a position to produce Volcanic Ash Advisories in this format?

- Is it acceptable that each VAAC publish its data in XML format as it is ready to do so? Should there be a timeline for this?

- Where should this data be published? Each VAAC's website? A common repository?