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**COOPERATION WITH OTHER WMO BODIES**

**AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Regional activities

*(Submitted by the WMO Secretariat)*

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| **Summary and Purpose of Document**  This document provides information about the coordinated actions and tasks with the regional associations. |

**ACTION PROPOSED**

The Management Group (MG) is invited to note the current and planned activities coordinated with the regional association in support of Members and provide advice as necessary.

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*Note:*

*This document contains information on activities coordinated mostly by the AeM Division of the WMO Secretariat to complement the regional activities information presented in the ET-CCP report (CAeM-MG/Doc. 4.1(2)).*

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Regional activities**

***RA I (Africa)***

* 1. The MG was informed that, as part of a Weather and climate Information SERvices for Africa (WISER) Programme of the United Kingdom, WMO had recently submitted a bid to support the conducting of a project in RA I on QMS and related activities in the aviation meteorology sector of East Africa. The aim of the project was to contribute to the safety and protection of the livelihoods and property of the people of East Africa, and to maintaining the standards, regularity and efficiency of international civil aviation, by providing capacity development support to beneficiary institutions[[1]](#footnote-1), enabling compliance with international regulations for QMS, competency assessment and cost recovery. The MG noted that, if approved, the two-year project was expected to commence before the end of 2016 and that it would be supported by Tanzania Meteorological Agency and Kenya Meteorological Department (serving as resource institutions) as well as the WMO Secretariat.
  2. As part of the efforts aimed at resolving deficiencies and building national capacity for requisite aeronautical meteorological services, the AEM Division supported missions to Democratic Republic of Congo (April 2016) and Guinea (November 2016). The DR Congo mission was in conjunction with a World Bank (WB) assessment that would serve as the basis for a WB funded project (approximately USD 4 million). It was proposed that the project should include an aviation MET component.

***RA II (Asia)***

* 1. A partnership with Météo-Suisse has been established aimed at assisting Bhutan through delivery of used equipment (ceilometers for Paro Intl Airport). The donor (Météo-Suisse) would guarantee that the equipment has been fully serviced and with sufficient resource to serve the new location. Arrangements for shipment and installation are being negotiated between WMO and Météo-Suisse.
  2. Initial steps have been undertaken for an action targeting SE Asian countries lagging behind with the implementation of QMS, competency and qualification requirements. Inputs have been provided to the WB team working on a large-scale modernization project for Myanmar highlighting the need of an aviation component in this project.

***RA III (South America)***

* 1. No specific activities to report.

***RA IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean)***

* 1. A WMO RA IV Workshop was organized by the RA IV Task Force on SIGMET and Competency of Aeronautical Meteorological Personnel, with support from the WMO Office in Costa Rica and the AEM Division (25-27 August 2015). The objective of the Workshop is to assist RA IV Members to improve their SIGMET practices and resolve related deficiencies, and to progress the competency assessment of the aeronautical meteorological forecasters.

***RA V (South-West Pacific)***

* 1. The MG noted that the operational phase of a Pilot Project on SIGMET Coordination (SIG-Coord) was currently underway in RA V involving Indonesia (BMKG), Malaysia (MetMalaysia) and Singapore (MSS) with the assistance of Hong Kong, China (HKO), Japan (JMA) and the WMO Secretariat. The MG was informed that the Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO) of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore were conducting cross-border coordination via teleconference and web-based chatrooms whenever observed or forecast meteorological phenomenon for which SIGMET are warranted were expected to transition from one flight information region (FIR) to an adjacent FIR of a neighbouring country. The MG further noted that the operational phase of SIG-Coord was expected to last five months (until March 2017) after which a review and evaluation would be conducted in order to determine the feasibility and suitability to introduce SIGMET coordination permanently amongst the MWOs concerned. The MG expressed its appreciation to HKO and JMA for making online tools and guidance available to assist the MWOs in their preparation of SIGMET. The MG considered that, subject to the outcomes of SIG-Coord, the pilot project could serve as model to be applied elsewhere in RA V as well as in other WMO Regions.
  2. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) organized a WMO/JMA SIGMET Workshop, from 27 to 30 June 2016 in Tokyo, Japan. This workshop, also coordinated with ICAO, was a contribution to the international effort to improve the provision of aeronautical meteorological service to international air navigation (a WMO priority for the current financial period). The aim of the workshop was to assist aeronautical meteorological service providers in the Asia/Pacific Region, especially those within the coverage of JMA’s meteorological satellite Himawari-8, in improving the competency of their aeronautical meteorological forecasters in meeting effectively the international requirements for issuance of SIGMET information.
  3. The annual WMO/UK Met Office Aviation Seminar was hosted this year by the Meteorological Climatological and Geophysical Agency (BMKG) in Jakarta, Indonesia, from Monday 26 to Friday 30 September 2016. The seminar provided training, guidance and practical examples of several key aspects of meteorology and forecasting for aviation, to support forecasters in this specialized area. This year’s seminar programme focused on the topics of Aviation Hazards and SIGMETs.

***RA VI (Europe)***

* 1. (ECMA-2015 covered in ET-CCP report)
  2. The first ICAO Workshop on Implementing the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) for the exchange of OPMET data was held in Paris, France, 31 May – 2 June 2016. The event was targeted at the experts from Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODB) in order to initiate the planning for a transition period from TAC to XML.

***Multi-region***

* 1. The MG noted that an Aviation Research Demonstration Project (AvRDP) – established to develop, demonstrate and quantify, through international collaboration, the benefits of end-to-end nowcasting services for the terminal area focussed on high-impact weather – was continuing in RA I, RA II, RA IV and RA VI as a joint venture between CAeM, CAS and CBS. The MG was pleased to note that a capacity building workshop in this regard had been held in Hong Kong, China in July 2016 coinciding with a special session on AvRDP held during the WMO/World Weather Research Programme (WWRP) 4th International Symposium on Nowcasting and Very-short-range Forecast (WSN-16). The MG noted that it would discuss AvRDP further in the context of the planned WMO scientific event in 2017 (Item 7.3 refers).

***Proposed topics for future coordination with the Regional Associations***

* 1. The MG noted that the next cycle of RA Sessions starts in the first quarter of 2017 with the 16th session of RA II (Asia) to be held at Abu Dhabi, UAE, 12-16 February 2017, preceded by the seventh session of Regional Conference (RECO-7) on 10-11 February 2017. The 17th Session of RA IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean) will be held in Costa Rica from 27 to 31 March 2017. The 17th Session of RA VI (Europe) is scheduled for September 2017 in Croatia (dates to be advised in due course).
  2. The MG agreed that the following topics should be included in general in the relevant RA’s decisions with the reflection of specific regional needs and priorities:
* Improvement of SIGMET provision – promote the cross-FIR SIGMET coordination
* Implementation of QMS – for State that already implemented QMS - migration to the ISO 2001:2015; for those States that have not completed the implementation – focused support (e.g., through projects, such as the WISER described in para 1.1 above)
* Competency and qualification of AMP – continued monitoring and identification of needs for capacity development
* Migration to IWXXM – coordinated implementation support actions together with CBS and ICAO regional groups
* GANP and ASBU awareness and national planning – further awareness events to be proposed for the regions, as appropriate; support information sharing on national implementation programmes and achievements to build collective capacity in support of the regional ATM enhancement.

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1. Institut Geographique Du Burundi (IGEBU), National Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia (NMA), Rwanda Meteorological Agency, Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) and South Sudan Meteorological Department (SSMD). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)