

Ship Observations Team

~ integrating & coordinating international ship-based observing programmes for JCOMM ~



I-7.3, Review the Terms of Reference of the SOT

SOT-V

18-22 May 2009, Geneva

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Chairman, SOT



Terms of Reference

1. Review and analyze requirements for ship-based observational data expressed by relevant existing international programmes and/or systems in support of marine services, and coordinate actions to implement and maintain the networks to satisfy these requirements;
2. Provide continuing assessment of the extent to which those requirements are being met;
3. Develop methodology for constantly controlling and improving the quality of data;
4. Review marine telecommunication facilities and procedures for observational data collection, as well as technology and techniques for data processing and transmission, and propose actions as necessary for improvements and enhanced application;

Terms of Reference (cont)

5. Coordinate PMO/ship greeting operations globally, propose actions to enhance PMO standards and operations, and contribute as required to PMO and observers training;
6. Review, maintain and update as necessary technical guidance material relating to ship observations and PMOs;
7. Liaise and coordinate as necessary with other JCOMM Programme Areas and expert teams, as well as with other interested parties;
8. Participate in planning activities of appropriate observing system experiments and major international research programmes as the specialist group on observations based onboard ships, including Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS), Ships-Of-Opportunity (SOO), ships from the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP), and research ships;

Terms of Reference (cont)

9. Seek for opportunities for deploying various kinds of measuring devices as recommended by the relevant panels and widely publicize those opportunities;
10. Develop as necessary new pilot projects and/or operational activities and establish new specialized panels as required;
11. Carry out other activities as agreed by participating members to implement and operate the SOT programme and to promote and expand it internationally;

