

QUARTERLY BRIEF FOR WMO PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES (PWS) FOCAL POINTS

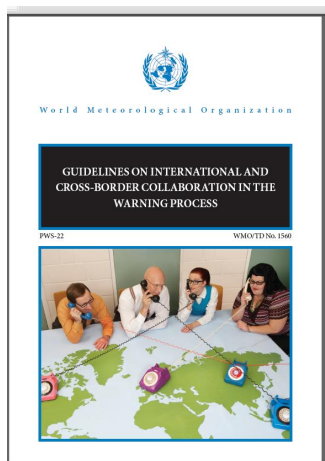
1 OCTOBER - 31 DECEMBER 2011

On behalf of the PWS Programme Team and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy and prosperous New Year!

I have the pleasure of presenting you with this short brief, in your capacity as the WMO Public Weather Services (PWS) National Focal Point of your country. The brief contains highlights of the activities which took place during the last quarter of 2011 (i.e., 1 October to 31 December 2011). It also contains an indication of the activities that we are likely to request you to participate in, in 2012.

PWS Publications

New publication



A new publication entitled “Guidelines on International and Cross-border Collaboration in the Warning Process” was produced as the 22nd PWS publication (WMO/TD No. 1560; PWS-22). This publication was produced by the Commission for Basic Systems

Open Programme Area Group on Public Weather Services (PWS) Expert Team on PWS in Support of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (CBS/OPAG-PWS ET/DPM). This Technical Document (TD) addresses important subjects including: general principles regarding cross-border exchange of warnings; the role of the media; public safety; and threshold criteria. It also provides examples from different parts of the world to illustrate the factors to be considered in developing international or cross-border collaborations in the warning process. This publication can be accessed at the following link: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/documents/TD_1560_PWS22_en.pdf.

Translation of PWS publications to other languages

I am also pleased to inform you that, in response to many requests by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to provide various PWS Guidelines in other languages, certain publications have now been translated into French and Spanish and will soon be available as hard copies and on the Web in .pdf format. I will inform you as soon as these language versions are available.

PWS activities reports and outcomes

The last quarter of 2011 was busy for the Public Weather Services Programme (PWSP). During this period, five meetings and four workshops were held in various parts of the world. The full list of the meetings and workshops, as well as their outcomes, is available at http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/eventsreports_en.htm.

Meeting of CBS/OPAG-PWS ET/COPE

I would like to request you to pay special attention to the report of the “Meeting of the Commission for Basic Systems Open Programme Area Group on Public Weather Services (PWS) Expert Team on Communication, Outreach and Public Education Aspects of PWS (CBS/OPAG-PWS ET/COPE)”, Mombasa, Kenya, 5-9 December 2011, which may be accessed at: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/documents/ET-COPE-Final-Report-3Jan2012.pdf>.

The report makes reference to the role of PWS Focal Points which should be of interest to you, as it will make you anticipate some of the forthcoming tasks that you may be requested to participate in. These include:

- Assisting with the completion of an online survey to measure the usage of different media for PWS delivery – you will be informed when this survey is ready;
- Reading PWS guidelines and summary guides and applying the knowledge they contain to improve on delivery of services. In this regard, the ET/COPE plans to produce:

- Guidelines to assist NMHSs to develop a corporate external communication strategy;
- A template for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between an NMHS and a media organization; and,
- Summary Guides on: (i) using social media by NMHSs; (ii) communicating socio-economic benefits of PWS; and, (iii) conducting PWS outreach activities.

Meeting of CBS/OPAG-PWS ET/DPM

The “Meeting of the Commission for Basic Systems Open Programme Area Group on Public Weather Services Expert Team on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (CBS/OPAG-PWS ET/DPM)”, was held in Beijing, China, 17-21 October 2011. You are invited to review the full report of the meeting at: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/documents/Meeting-Report-CBS-OPAG-PWS-ET-DPM-5Jan2012.pdf>.

Training of PWS Focal Points

I am also pleased to inform you that, under the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project – Eastern Africa (SWFDP-EA), training was organized for PWS Focal Points from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The training was focused on equipping participants with skills for effective delivery of services associated with severe weather, in support of saving life and property. Specific tasks for the Focal Points were agreed upon for them to perform in their respective NMHSs after the workshop.



Participants at the “SWFDP-Eastern Africa Regional Training Workshop” (Arusha United Republic of Tanzania, 28 November - 2 December 2011)

A similar approach of involving Focal Points is planned for, and will include, training of PWS

Focal Points in the SWFDP projects in South East Asia (Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam), and the SWFDP - Bay of Bengal (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand). We are looking forward to the active participation of Focal Points in these events.

PWS Focal Points platform

This year, we are poised to create an online PWS Focal Points platform through which we can share ideas, and experiences. The platform would allow any PWS Focal Point willing to air his/her views or to ask questions on PWS subjects to fellow Focal Points, to do so easily. We are presently looking at the various options to create such a forum and as soon as it is ready, we will inform you accordingly.

Tell us about your activities

As we continue to inform you about the PWS activities, we require feedback from you on how you are going about implementing the PWS activities or programmes in your Service. Please do write to us using the contacts given below and inform us about your experiences, for example on how you are putting PWS publications to use as well as how you are sharing such material with your colleagues.

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