

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

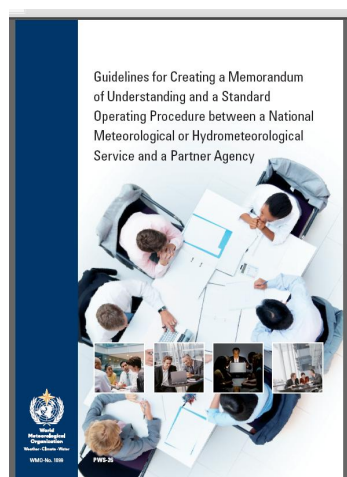
1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2012

I have the pleasure of presenting you with this Quarterly Brief, in your capacity as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Public Weather Services (PWS) Focal Point of your country. This Brief contains highlights of the activities undertaken during the fourth quarter of 2012 (1 September-31 December 2012).

New PWS Publication

“Guidelines for Creating a Memorandum of Understanding and a Standard Operating Procedure between a National Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Service and a Partner Agency” (WMO-No. 1099 PWS-26)

Two Expert Teams of the Commission for Basic Systems Open Programme Area Group on Public Weather Services (PWS), namely the Expert Team on PWS in Support of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (CBS/OPAG-PWS ET/DPM) and the CBS/OPAG-PWS Expert Team on Communication, Outreach and Public Education Aspects of PWS (ET/COPE) worked together to produce the “Guidelines for Creating a Memorandum of Understanding and a Standard Operating Procedure between a National Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Service and a Partner Agency”



The publication may be accessed by opening the following web link:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/documents/1099_PWS_26_MOUNMSPA_en.pdf

What is the purpose of the guidelines?

A formal arrangement to guide the joint activities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and user organizations such as the media and disaster management authorities is essential for the provision of quality meteorological information and services, and, in particular, warnings to enable citizens make effective decisions regarding their health, safety and economic activities. These guidelines provide principles for developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as well as Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which are the tools for formalizing joint activities between organizations.

How are guidelines relevant to the PWS Focal Points?

As a PWS Focal Point, you are requested to read the Guidelines and assess how the principles it presents could be applied to improve service delivery by your meteorological service. You are also requested to share it widely with your colleagues.

PWS Activities, Reports and Outcomes

The Southern Africa Regional Training on Severe Weather Forecasting and Warning Services: Workshop on PWS (Pretoria, South Africa, 19-23 November 2012); and

The Third Eastern Africa Regional Training on Severe Weather Forecasting and Warning Services: Workshop on Public Weather Services (Entebbe, Uganda, 26-30 November 2012)

These two workshops were attended by participants from a total of 23 countries of the Eastern and Southern African region. They provided a platform for participants to share and exchange ideas on: their experiences in developing and communicating warnings; dissemination of warnings and forecasts through the Internet; developing feedback mechanisms with users; service evaluation including carrying out of surveys on public perception and use of services and products; the use of mobile technology in disseminating warnings; and the use of social media such as Facebook, Youtube, Twitter etc in service delivery. Training on the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) standard for dissemination of alerts was also carried out. Gaps in service delivery were identified for each country and the

participants developed action plans that they would implement in their respective Services, in the future.



Participants at the Third Eastern Africa Regional Training on Severe Weather Forecasting and Warning Services: Workshop on Public Weather Services (Entebbe, Uganda, 26 – 30 November 2012)

The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Jump-Start Session Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, (22–23 November 2012) and Nairobi, Kenya (29–30 November 2012)

Two CAP Jump-Start training sessions took place in Tanzania and Kenya in November 2012. The training was organized by the PWS programme and conducted by Mr Eliot Christian who is the WMO advisor on CAP. It was intended to assist the Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) and the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) to implement the CAP standard. This followed requests by TMA and KMD to the WMO to take advantage of the CAP Jump-Start offer in which WMO organizes for an expert to visit an NMS to help them implement the CAP standard for communication of alerts. Details of the offer are available at the following web link: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/CAPJumpStart_en.html



Participants at the CAP Jump-Start Training, (Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania (22-23 November 2012)

The WMO Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP) Mission to Comoros (Hahaya/Maroni, Union of Comoros, 18-19 October 2012)

The WMO mission to Comoros was conducted to gather information on the National Meteorological Service and its principal partner organizations as a basis for the development of a Comoros-specific implementation plan for the SWFDP-Southern Africa Project. It had been recognized that, in order to ensure successful implementation of the SWFDP in Comoros, it was necessary to conduct a WMO mission to the meteorological service of Comoros. Tropical cyclones and associated severe weather are the main hazards and they cause flooding and landslides.



Participants at the WMO SWFDP Mission to Comoros (Hahaya/Maroni, Union of Comoros, 18-19 October 2012)

The outcome of the WMO mission included the development of an action plan for inclusion in the Comoros Implementation Plan. The full report of the Mission may be accessed by opening the following web link:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/document/s/Comoros_Report_English_Final.pdf

Similar missions were also carried out in Madagascar and Zambia.

Feedback from Focal Points

We greatly appreciate the feedback that we receive from PWS Focal Points regarding their activities and experience. In order to share this feedback, we have opened a Webpage which you can access by opening the following link:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/PWS_National_Focal_Points_en.html. We encourage you to write to us, using the contact information 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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