

**RAII / RA VI Regional Training Seminar on GDPFS and PWS in Support of Natural
Disaster Reduction, Langen, Germany
(18-22 September 2006)**

Training Impact Evaluation

Introduction

The **RAII / RA VI Regional Training Seminar on GDPFS and PWS in Support of Natural Disaster Reduction** was held in Langen, Germany from 18 to 22 September 2006. The first week of the training seminar concentrated on topics related to Numerical Weather Presentation (NWP) and forecasting techniques (GDPFS), while the second week of the Seminar was dedicated to topics related to service delivery in the framework of public weather services.

The objective of the PWS part of the Seminar was to equip National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) with the necessary skills to enable them to contribute effectively to disaster risk reduction for weather and climate hazards. The training included: Effective service delivery including timely, useful and accurate information, improving presentation and user consultation; Service evaluation including verification; Coordination with the media and disaster management authorities and; Social and economic benefits of PWS among other topics.

There were participants from sixteen different NMHSs which comprised Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Iran, Iraq, Kyrgyz, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. In order that lessons learned from this training event may serve as an input to the planning of future events, an evaluation of the impact of the training was carried out. This is an analysis of responses received from ten of these NMHSs.

Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation was carried out through sending questions to the Permanent Representatives of beneficiary Member countries in form of a letter. The questions sought responses on the participant's assessment of the level of Training Seminar compared to their expectations; How the participant could improve performance and how training would affect his/her activities in a few years; Whether the participant passed knowledge to colleagues and; Impact of the training on quality of work, the production process and products delivered by the NMHSs.

Summary of Evaluation Results

Ten out of sixteen NMHSs which participated responded. The summarised responses from NMHSs are annexed. Below are the general conclusions:

1. An overwhelming majority of participants felt that their expectations of the level of training were met. Some of them felt that their expectations were even exceeded. However, there was a comment that more was expected in the part dealing with improvement of forecasts e. g. fog and freezing rain. Similarly, it was felt that it would have been helpful to have examples of practical applications of delivered information.

2. There was a general agreement that participants did gain useful skills in forecasting techniques as well as in dissemination of forecasts and warnings.
3. There was express mention of improvement in presentation of forecasts and warnings on the web; improvement of coordination with the media; and improved communication with the public.
4. There was expressed need for acquisition of the necessary TV weather presentation software before improvement can be realised in one of the NMHSs.
5. Almost all participants passed knowledge to their colleagues through various ways including: holding of seminars; distributing course materials on CDs; discussions; and through mission reports.
6. The examples of UK, DWD and Hong Kong inspired a lot of participants.
7. The Training Seminar contributed to the effort of some NMHSs to achieve the ISO quality standard.
8. The Seminar is expected to contribute to the quality of work, production process and service delivery.

Conclusions

1. The main objective of the training seminar, which was to equip National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) with the necessary skills to enable them to contribute effectively to disaster risk reduction for weather and climate hazards, was achieved.
2. Passing of knowledge to colleagues in NMHSs by the participants vindicates the high value the participants attached to the training seminar, and is providing a multiplier effect in spreading acquisition of skills in NMHSs;
3. Inclusion of 'best practice' examples from UK, DWD and Hong Kong proved to be very inspirational to the participants and similar examples should be retained in future seminars.
4. The idea of suggesting to participants to pass knowledge to their colleagues is a good one and should be retained. Ways of equipping participants with the tools to carry out this exercise effectively could be explored.
5. For future events possibilities of including examples of practical applications of delivered information could be considered.

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Training Course Impact Evaluation: - Summarised Responses from NMHSs

Country NMHS	Participant	Level of Training Seminar compared to participant's expectation	How participant could improve performance and how training will affect his/her activities in a few years	Whether the Trainee passed knowledge to colleagues	Impact of the training on work quality, product etc
Kyrgyz	T. Chernikova	Level of training and quality of documents very high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement of website content - Coordination with the media improved 	Knowledge passed to colleagues through a report by the participant	Quality of forecast products have improved
Macedonia	Mrs Tanusevska	Satisfied with topics and lectures	Could improve by working on complicated weather events	Passed knowledge through discussion with colleagues	Knowledge expected to impact on work quality positively
Croatia	Mr Miljk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training exceeded expectation in relations with media and users. - More was however expected in part dealing with improvement of forecasts eg. For fog and freezing rain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through enhancing user feedback - Learned a lot from examples of UK, DWD and Hong Kong 	Communicated knowledge to colleagues through discussion and distributing material to colleagues on CD	Training to contribute to the effort of the NMHS to achieve the ISO quality standard.
Romania	Ms Bancila	Exceeded expectations	Will seek to improve communication with the public	Placed all information received during training at the disposal of colleagues and also made a presentation	Training expected to contribute to the work quality, production process and service delivery.
Lithuania	Ms Tatjana Kempis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exceeded expectations in most aspects - Lacked examples of practical applications of delivered information. 	To use knowledge in probabilistic and biometeorological forecasts	Participant carried out a seminar for her colleagues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To introduce biometeorological Forecasts as a result of learning from the example of Hong Kong - Positive impact expected

Belarus	Mr. Palishchuk	Fully met expectations	Participant improved performance	The participant passed knowledge through meetings and a Masters class. Distributed material acquired during training.	Format and quality of services transformed as a result of the seminar
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms Ahmovic	Fully met expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement unlikely until NMHS acquires a weather presentation software - Improvement in forecasting possible since NWP models are now available 	Gave colleagues the CD seminar content	Yes
Tajikistan	Mrs Jamila Baidulloeva	-	-	Participant has passed knowledge to others through her duties as trainer	- Improvement in accuracy of forecasts by 10-12% due to availability of ECMWF products.
Azerbaijan	Ms Umayra Taghiyeva	Fully met expectations.	- Participant's skills in forecasting improved after training of ECMWF products	- Passed knowledge to colleagues	- Improvement of accuracy of forecasts
Bulgaria	Ivan Tsonevsky	Participants expectations were fully met	- Acquisition of qualifications by participant considered important for the Service.	- Participant held a seminar for colleagues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training will contribute to NMHS getting the ISO 9001 - Improvement in forecasting techniques - Improvement in dissemination - To disseminate warnings through the web in order to reach more people.