

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

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2012

I have the pleasure of presenting you with this brief, in your capacity as the WMO Public Weather Services (PWS) Focal Point of your country. The brief contains highlights of the activities of the first quarter of 2012 (i.e., 1 January to 30 March 2012).

PWS Publications

New publication available

A new publication entitled, "Proceedings of the WMO Regional Association VI (Europe) Conference on Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services" (Lucerne, Switzerland, 3–4 October 2011), was produced as the 23rd PWS publication (PWS-23/ROE-1 (2012)).



The Conference proceedings were produced by the PWS Programme in collaboration with the WMO Regional Office for Europe (ROE). The volume contains studies presented at the Conference. The objectives of the Conference were to promote and encourage the conduct of socio-economic assessments and studies among the RA VI Members. Studies contained in these proceedings will be used in the development of guidelines on undertaking the analysis, assessment and demonstration of socio-economic benefits of meteorological and hydrological services. This publication is now available on the WMO Socio-Economic Website at: www.wmo.int/socioec.

Translation of PWS publications into more languages

Following many requests by Members to translate PWS Guidelines from English into other official WMO languages, five publications have been translated into French and Spanish. These are:

- "Guidelines on International and Cross-Border Collaboration in the Warning Process (PWS-22; WMO/TD No. 1560)";
- "Guidelines on Early Warning Systems and Application of Nowcasting and Warning Operations (PWS-21; WMO/TD No. 1559)";
- "National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, their Partners and User Communities (Follow-up to the Madrid Action Plan - for Improved Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services) (PWS-19; WMO/TD No. 1510)";
- "Guidelines on Communicating Forecast Uncertainty (PWS-18; WMO/TD No. 1422)"; and,
- "Examples of Best Practice in Communicating Weather Information (PWS-17; WMO/TD No. 1409)"

The publications are now available as hard copies, and are also on the Web in .pdf format, which can be accessed at the following web-link: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/publicationsguidelines_en.htm.

PWS activities, reports and outcomes

Training of TV Weather Presenters

In collaboration with the 9th International Weather & Climate Forum, WMO co-organized a Training Workshop for TV Weather Presenters at the WMO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, 22 March 2012. The training focused on how to prepare TV weather bulletins to communicate warnings when extreme weather phenomena occur. TV weather presenters from the following countries attended this event: Burkina Faso, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Morocco, Seychelles and Zambia.

Training on Hurricanes and Public Weather Services

The “RA IV Workshop on Hurricane Forecasting and Warning, and Public Weather Services”, was held in Miami, Florida, United States of America, from 12 to 23 March 2012. The PWS component, which was held during the second week of the Workshop, addressed the service delivery issues associated with communication of advisories, alerts and warnings to the public, the media and to the Disaster Management and Civil Protection Authorities (DMCPAs).

The “Technical Planning Workshop on Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP) Development for the Bay of Bengal Region”

One of the important activities of the PWS Programme is the implementation of the PWS component of the SWFDP. The two main objectives of this Project are to improve forecasts and provide greater lead time for severe weather alerts; and, to build the service delivery capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), and improve links with the Media and DMCPAs.

In order to kick off the Project in the Bay of Bengal, the “Technical Planning Workshop on SWFDP Development for the Bay of Bengal Region” was held in New Delhi, India, from 23 to 27 January 2012. Among other areas, the PWS component of the Project addressed a strategy for an improved service delivery warning system under the SWFDP that would ensure effective user engagement; public education and awareness raising; training of the staff of NMHSs in various areas of service delivery; and monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Project. The workshop documents are available through the following web-link:
http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/DPFS/Meetings/TPW-SWFDP-BB_New-Delhi2012/DocPlan.html .

It may be noted that so far, the Project has been successfully established in 16 countries in Southern Africa, and is under implementation in six (6) countries of Eastern Africa; nine (9) Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in the Southern Pacific; and that preliminary work has been carried out to establish the Project in the RA II Southeast Asia.



Participants at the “Technical Planning Workshop on SWFDP Development for the Bay of Bengal Region”, New Delhi, India, 23-27 January 2012

PWS Focal Points platform

The PWS Programme is still pursuing the creation of an online PWS Focal Points platform through which ideas and experiences among experts can be shared. Tests with a few providers of this service are on-going, and we hope to commission the platform soon.

Tell us about your activities

As we continue to inform you about the PWS activities, we require feedback from you on how you are implementing PWS activities or programme(s) in your Service. Please do 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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