

WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES

A workshop on Public Weather Services was organized by WMO and hosted by the Indonesian Meteorological and geophysical Agency on 11 September as part of the seventh session of the RAV Tropical Cyclone Committee (TCC). In an introductory presentation, Ms H. Kootval, Chief, Public Weather and Operational Information of the WMO Secretariat outlined the objectives and expected outcome of the workshop. It was pointed out that the emphasis of the present workshop was on enhancing visibility and raising the status of NMHSs through provision of effective public weather services.

Presentations were made on: Public and Severe Weather Products and Services (Mr Rex Falls, Australia), Raising Public Awareness in dealing with Natural Disasters (Mr Steve Ready, Chairman of RAV/TCC), Use of the Internet in Public Weather Services (Mr James Weyman, USA), Dissemination of PWS Products (Mr Rex Falls), and Partnership with the Media (Mr James Weyman). The presentations were followed by discussions and question and answer sessions. An additional presentation on Public Weather Services Communications had been given by Mr Sri Diharto (Indonesia) earlier in the week.

The workshop made a number of recommendations including:

1. Organization of national workshops with the participation of NMHS staff and the media, especially the radio weather presenters, in order to facilitate communication between providers of public weather services and products, and the media.
2. Organization of training and establishment of a focal point, preferably a meteorologist of liaison with the media.
3. Making efforts to educate the public about meteorology and meteorological services and products at all levels, including at schools, and at village, as well as at decision-making levels.
4. Including the list of appropriate Internet sites in the RAV/TCC Operational Plan.
5. Improving relations with the media by being pro-active through organizing workshops, issuing media releases, arranging for media conferences and carrying out user surveys.
6. Taking advantage of new technologies in producing public weather products in a concise manner, which could be easily interpreted and understood.
7. Organizing a joint workshop between SPREP and WMO PWS Programme with the focus on improving relations with the media, as part of enhancing public weather services of both SPREP and WMO Members
8. Organizing a similar workshop on PWS in conjunction with the next session of RAV/TCC. The suggested topics for that workshop include: Partnership with the media in enhancing the dissemination of PWS Products of NMHSs. Demonstration of systems and applications of technologies should also be arranged in parallel with the workshop.