

# TRAINING WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON TV PRESENTATION AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Singapore, 24 April-5 May 1995

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The Workshop was opened on 24 April by Mr Woon Shih Lai, Director of Singapore Meteorological Service and the Permanent Representative of Singapore with WMO, who welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of the workshop in view of the growing public awareness in regards to public weather services. The workshop was divided into two parts; the first part was directed at establishing some common grounds in a general approach to the production and delivery of public weather services while the second part was devoted to practical sessions with the camera. Background information was presented by Ms Haleh Kootval, Chief of Public Weather and Operational Information Services, on the WMO Public Weather Services Programme, its objectives and scope, and the programme activities undertaken since the establishment of the Programme. The importance of establishing national public weather services programmes and strengthening those already in existence were given special attention.

More detailed presentations were made by Mr K.O`Loughlin, Director, Regional Office of Victoria, Bureau of Meteorology, Australia, during the first week of the workshop. Different aspects of the public weather services were covered and emphasis was put on the main topics discussed during the two Expert Meetings on Public Weather Services held in Geneva in 1994 and 1995, and the material contained in the draft of the preliminary Guide on Public Weather Services Practices.

The topics covered in these lectures included:

- \* Formulation of forecasts and warnings,
- \* The constructive use of weather and climate data in public weather services;
- \* Presentation and dissemination technologies with special emphasis on computer graphics;
- \* Exchange of hazardous weather information;
- \* Presentation of tropical cyclone warnings;
- \* Communicating response strategies in natural disasters;
- \* Public understanding and education.

The lectures were combined with short sessions of discussions among the participants in small groups to allow the participants to put forward their own ideas on various topics and defend them with logic and reason when the groups recombined again.

The enthusiasm shown by participants in getting involved in discussions was very encouraging and in particular their comments and suggestions for improving that part of the workshop.