

**REGIONAL ASSOCIATION IV (NORTH
AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN)**

First Session of the RA IV Management Group

Nassau

1 May 2009

FINAL REPORT



**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION**

**RA IV MANAGEMENT GROUP
Meeting No. 1**

(Nassau, Bahamas, 1 May 2009)

The first meeting of the Regional Association IV Management Group was held on 1 May 2009 from 13:00 to 14:30 hours with attendance by:

Mr. Arthur Rolle – RA IV President

Mrs. Luz Graciela de Calzadilla – RA IV Vicepresident

Mrs. Courtney Draggon – United States of America

Ms. Caroline Corvington – United States of America

Mr. David Grimes – Canada

Ms. Danielle Lacassa – Canada

Mr. Tyrone Sutherland – British Caribbean Territories

Mr. Fred Sambula – British Caribbean Territories

Mr. Mark Guishard – United Kingdom

Mr. Robert Masters – WMO

Mr. Miguel Rabiolo – WMO

Mr. Oscar Arango - WMO

The following issues were discussed:

- Planning for the upcoming EC-LXI
- Tasks to be initiated immediately
- Population of RA IV Task Teams and Hurricane Committee
- Priorities for EC-LXI

PLANNING FOR THE UPCOMING EC-LXI

- The RA IV President was informed that the meeting of Presidents of Regional Associations will be held in Geneva on Sunday 31 May 2009 at the WMO building and, therefore, he was requested by the meeting to arrive in Geneva prior to this date.
- The second Management Group meeting was scheduled for Friday 5 June 2009 from 8:30 to 9:30 A.M. at a place that will be informed in due time.

TASKS TO BE INITIATED IMMEDIATELY

- In order to start with the process of establishing the required Task Teams, it was decided that the first step will be for the RAIV President to consult with the MG to finalize the priority areas.
- After priority areas are agreed upon, the RA IV President will send letters, as soon as possible, to all RA IV Members requesting them the names and corresponding CVs of qualified experts in specific areas.
- Action sheets derived from the XV RA IV Session held in Bahamas to be delivered by 1 September 2009 or before if it is possible.
- The priorities for RA IV need to be defined as well as possible sources of financing. The meeting agreed that:
 - A good starting point to define the above-mentioned priorities, are the areas dealt with in Document 5.1 of the XV RA IV Session.
 - It is not necessary to establish right away detailed terms of reference for the Task Teams, but only a short description of the responsibilities which they will be charged with.
 - An important issue to be taken into account for every Task Team to be established, is going to be readiness since in some cases, the funding may be available but the task may not be ready to be started.

POPULATION OF RA IV TASK TEAMS AND HURRICANE COMMITTEE

- As was previously mentioned, in order to populate the regional Task Teams, a database containing names and CVs of qualified experts from the different RA IV Member countries will need to be established first and, therefore, high priority should

be given to this issue. The RA IV President will send a letter before EC-LXI requesting this information.

- Regarding the composition of the Hurricane Committee, it was agreed to accept the list of members provided by the Hurricane Committee which held its meeting just before the XV RA IV Session in Bahamas.
- MG requested the WMO to send the current list of Hurricane Committee members so it could be updated or the names confirmed.

PRIORITIES FOR EC-LXI

- The meeting recognized that the RA IV needs and priorities needed to be articulated in order to be able to influence the WMO budget and Plan of Operations. In this respect, the meeting discussed the possibility of having the RA IV Plan of Operations before September 2009 for this purpose. In any case, it was recognized that the Regional Plan of Operations is definitely needed before October 2010 in order for it to have an impact for next Congress.
- The meeting emphasized that a clearly identified priority is the aeronautical meteorology issue since there seems to be readiness and also, it is urgent to take on board the qualification of aeronautical meteorologists and the QMS.
- With regards to the QMS issue, the meeting decided that:
 - Documentation resulting from the Tanzania Project can be used as soon as they become available to avoid duplication of efforts.
 - It is necessary to assemble a situational analysis in order to characterize the current circumstances.
 - The meeting discussed the possibility of hiring a company to act as external auditor for the whole region but no decision was made at this point.
 - The process will need to have to distinct phases: documentation and external auditing.
 - The NMSs will need to demonstrate that they have a QMS process for the aviation services but not for the entire service.
- The MG also discussed the priorities for strategic and operational planning. Therefore, the MG agreed to draft a charge for the establishment of a Strategic and Operating Planning Task Team and an Aviation Task Team
- The MG gave language to the WMO on the charges for the two Task Teams.

SOP TT:

- Develop input to the SG budget for the 16th financial period
- Develop regional operating plan:
 - 2 yr OP for 15th FP
 - 4 yr OP for 16th FP

Aviation TT:

- Determine regional needs
- Consider a regional pilot for QMS implementation (explore a combined approach where NMHS share resources)
- Review ways to share lessons from Tanzania Pilot and other NMHS experiences
- Consider EC decisions on AFQ
- Assemble situational analyses regarding what the processes are for QMS implementation
- Report back to MG on best ways forward for region

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