

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

Third Session of the RA IV Management Group

Atlanta

18 January 2010

FINAL REPORT



**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION**

**RA IV MANAGEMENT GROUP
Meeting No. 3**

(Atlanta, United States of America, 18 January 2010)

The third meeting of the Regional Association IV Management Group was held on 18 January 2010 from 9:00 to 10:30 hours with attendance by:

Mr. Arthur Rolle – Chairman and President of RA IV

Mr. David Grimes – Canada

Ms. Sylvia Gravel - Canada

Mr. Jack Hayes – United States of America

Mr. Dan Thompson – United States of America

Mr. Fred Branski – United States of America

Ms. Courtney Draggon – United States of America

Ms. Caroline Corvington – United States of America

Mr. Michael Graf – United States of America

Mr. Bill Read – Director of the National Hurricane Center

Mr. Tyrone Sutherland – British Caribbean Territories

Mr. Robert Masters – WMO

Mr. Oscar Arango – WMO

The following issues were discussed:

- Aeronautical Meteorology Task Team
- DRR and Hydrology Task Team

- Strategic and Operating Plan Task Team
- WMO-GEO Relationship
- Other issues

AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGY TASK TEAM

1. The Chairman of the Task Team, Mr. Michael Graf, reported to the meeting with regards to the first teleconference of the task team when its charges were revised and QMS was discussed. He considered the teleconference as very positive and informed that a second call is expected to be held by the end of January 2010.
2. The Management Group stated that the task team needs to identify concrete actions as well as expected dates for their completion and draft Terms of Reference for approval by the Management Group.
3. The Management Group also indicated the need to identify a mechanism to find out the level at which all countries are presently and also define ways to start. There is also a need to identify how competencies are developed and, with respect to QMS, there is also a need to demonstrate why countries need it. The Management Group also recommended the Task Team should coordinate with the EC Panel of Experts on Education and Training that is also looking at qualifications for an AMF.
4. The Representative of the British Caribbean Territories informed that through the CMO, they are trying to help governments specify standards for all countries. In this respect, it was felt by the Management Group that it may not be possible to have a common standard for RA IV since there are local issues to be taken into account.
5. Finally, the Management Group requested that a first draft of the above-mentioned issues be prepared within the next one or two months.

DRR AND HYDROLOGY TASK TEAM

4. The Management Group suggested that both DRR and Hydrology be considered as separate task teams. The Management Group then requested the President to clarify with Members the separation of the hydrology tasks and the DRR tasks as well as distribute a revised Charge for the DRR/Hydrology Task Team for comments and request nominations for the TT.
5. It was decided that a letter from the President of RA IV, Mr. Arthur Rolle, be sent to the Regional Hydrological Adviser, Mr. Eduardo Planos, with regards to the meeting that is being organized by him in Panama for May 2010, especially the issue dealing with the funds proposed to hold the meeting. The Management Group recalled that all remaining RA IV funds available previous to the meeting in Bahamas, were to be used for future activities of the different task teams that

could be established. The Management Group then requested the President to clarify

6. The Management Group, with respect to the DRR Task Team, discussed and agreed on the following:

- The task team needs to identify precise actions and their outcomes.
- The role of the task team with respect to the WMO Secretariat must be defined.
- The resource mobilization responsibility must not be given to the task team since it needs to concentrate on technical and strategical issues.
- It was strongly felt that the task team should focus more on a system (EWS for example) rather than on a specific project.

STRATEGIC AND OPERATING PLAN TASK TEAM

7. The Management Group was informed that Canada will make contacts with key people to provide inputs to the Strategic and Operating Plan. The first approach will be to obtain these contact information from the Management Group.

8. The Management Group agreed that the Strategic and Operating Plan should be simple (few pages) indicating the immediate priorities of the Region and the way to achieve them. It was also decided that two bullets should be added to indicate the:

- Relationship between planning and budget, and
- Alignment between goals and objectives.

WMO-GEO RELATIONSHIP

9. Some concerns were raised with regards to the recently held GEO meeting in Washington D.C., especially to the way branding is being handled by GEO (forecasting issues).

10. In this regard, it was indicated that RA IV needs to have a consolidated view on this issue and consultation to Members needs to be carried out.

OTHER ISSUES

11. The Management Group was informed of the activities of the WIGOS Task Team. In this respect, it was recognized that it is necessary to have more Members participating in this team.

12. VCP funds are currently being sought to put up the RA IV radar mosaic.