

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

**Sixth Session of the RA IV Management Group**

**Seattle**

**25 January 2011**

**FINAL REPORT**



**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION**

**RA IV MANAGEMENT GROUP  
Meeting No. 6**

**(Seattle, United States of America, 25 January 2011)**

The sixth meeting of the Regional Association IV Management Group was held on 25 January 2011 from 9:00 to 11:00 hours with attendance by:

Mr. Arthur Rolle – Chairman and President of RA IV

Mr. David Grimes – Canada

Mr. Michael Crowe – Canada

Ms. Jennifer Milton – Canada

Ms. Kerri Swail - Canada

Mr. Jack Hayes – United States of America

Mr. Dan Thompson – United States of America

Mr. Fred Branski – United States of America

Ms. Caroline Corvington – United States of America

Ms. Courtney Draggon – United States of America

Mr. Kenneth Korporal – United States of America

Mr. Lynn Maximuk – United States of America

Mr. Tyrone Sutherland – British Caribbean Territories

Mr. Fred Sambula – British Caribbean Territories

Mr. Glendell DeSouza – British Caribbean Territories

Mr. David Farrell \_ - British Caribbean Territories

Mr. Juan Carlos Fallas Sojo – Costa Rica

Mr. Albert Martis – Curacao

Ms. Mary Power - WMO

Mr. Oscar Arango – WMO

The following issues were discussed:

1. Approval of the Fifth Management Group meeting report
2. RA IV Task Teams Reports
3. WMO Meetings in 2011
4. Other Topics

#### **APPROVAL OF THE FIFTH MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING REPORT**

1. No comments were received with regards to the minutes of the fifth Management Group meeting and therefore, it was approved.

#### **RA IV TASK TEAMS REPORTS**

2. The **WIGOS Task Team report** was presented by Mr. Glendell DeSouza which included the following issues:
  - A survey to all Members of RA IV was distributed requesting them to provide basic information with regards to radars in their countries. 17 Members in the Region have radar capabilities but 8 (47%) did not respond. In consequence, the MG requested the President to contact those Members that have not responded the survey.
  - For the implementation of the RA IV Radar Demonstration Project, two alternative work plans were proposed. One includes training and the second one requires only the development of the required formats to get data (Metadata). For this purpose, tools that are scalable and extensible are thought to be the best way to proceed and will need to be developed so that anyone can use them. In this respect, Mr. Fred Branski has offered the Task Team assistance to find out if there are tools available already for this purpose.
  - The Task Team indicated its preference to proceed with the second approach.
  - An update on the Mesoamerican Radar Project was provided and the Management Group requested that the coordinators of that project be informed of the RA IV Demonstration Project so that a common methodology could eventually be used.
  - Quality control aspects were also discussed and the MG urged to take these into account which will necessarily need a strategy in terms of training or other mechanisms.

- The MG acknowledged that the RA IV WIGOS Project is a demonstration project that could eventually be replicated in other regions. The recommendation in this sense, is to document very well the costs of implementation and these costs to be sent as integral part of the operational plan.

3. The **Aeronautical Meteorology (Aviation) Task Team report** was presented by Mr. Glendell DeSouza which included the following issues:

- The MG expressed its concern with regards to the Finnish “Strengthening Hydrometeorological Operations and Services in the Caribbean Sids” project which considers the identification of challenges Members face to meet the upcoming requirements of ICAO Annex 3 / WMO 49 Volume and the establishment of projects in the areas of QMS implementation and training to meet the above-mentioned requirements, and requested that all efforts be made by all those involved to help solve the issues which are preventing it to begin its implementation.

- In this regard, Canada recognizes that is a priority and offers expertise and support to translate the documentation available into Spanish. The United States of America agreed and expressed its willingness to contribute to address this issue.

- The MG noted with concern that Spanish speaking countries do not actively participate in the activities of the task team and requested the President to look into this issue. In this context, the MG considered important to establish contact with the Iberoamerican Programme to join efforts and avoid duplications.

- The MG urges its members to document all their activities leading to ISO 9000 certification. It is felt that all countries have the capacity and means to carry out all actions to be certified instead of hiring consultants for this job. It was then suggested that a workshop be organized on QMS (hands on) so that countries can go back home and achieve this objective by themselves.

- **In summary, the follow-up actions for this task team are as follows:**

- Organization of a workshop on QMS
- Inventory of existing documentation, methods and templates available
- Important to consider that all countries have a common starting point before the workshop. In this case, the templates to be used by each country need to clearly relate to their specific SOPs.
- The President is requested to send a letter to all RA IV Members informing them on QMS issues, the workshop and requesting them to assign someone to the task.
- It was suggested that a task team be established within the Iberoamerican Programme in order to organize the QMS workshop in Spanish using the templates provided by Canada. Mr. Adrian Vazquez (Mexico) will make the necessary consultations and inform the MG accordingly.

4. The **Disaster Risk Reduction Task Team report** was introduced by Mr. Juan Carlos Fallas (Costa Rica and Chairman of the task team) and presented by Mr. Dan Thompson (USA):

- In analyzing the activities of the task team, the MG recognized the need to focus more in other threats, such as droughts, and not only in flooding.
- In view of the activities currently being carried out in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, the MG approved the suggested changes to the charges of the DRR Task Team and consequently established two sub-task teams to cover the Caribbean (English speaking countries) led by Dr. Albert Martis (Curacao) and a second one to cover Central America and Mexico (Spanish speaking countries) led by Mr. Luis Garcia (El Salvador).
- The MG requested that communication between the Chairman and the sub-task teams be clear and efficient and appropriate mechanisms established for this purpose.

5. The **Strategic Operational Plan Task Team report** was presented by Mr. Michael Crowe (Canada):

- The MG was informed that of the priorities established by WMO (WIS, WIGOS, DRR, GFCS, Aviation, among others,) the RA IV has established task teams for four of them. In this regard, it was suggested that the Association, through its Management Group, establish task teams for the missing areas.

6. The **proposed Hydrology Task Team terms of reference**, submitted by Mr. Eduardo Planos (Regional Hydrological Adviser), were considered by the MG and the following comments and suggestions made:

- There is a need to refine or better relate the goals with the specific tasks..
- Instead of proposing to go out in search of funding for activities, it would be desirable to have funding sources and tasks already identified for their implementation.
- With regards to the proposed terms of reference, the following comments were provided:
  - The first three goals can be included in the Terms of Reference section.
  - Item d), Collaborating on the creation and development of the Hydrologic Cycle Observing System (HYCOS) components in RA IV, needs to be more specific.

- The proposed specific task (fourth bullet), coordinate with WMO Regional Training Centers in surveying Members training needs in hydrology, and facilitate both the adaptation of existing courses and development of new training courses in hydrology, was considered by the MG as specific and concrete actions which could be considered as the basis for the charges of the Hydrology Task Team.
- In view of the above, it was considered that only item d) was a real goal and it was then suggested that the MG, through the President of RA IV, provides Mr. Eduardo Planos with concrete guidelines and a deadline to work on the following issues that are thought to build up to HYCOS and the regional WIGOS implementation plan:
  - Regional Flash Flood Guidance System
  - Identification of needs and gaps

#### **WMO MEETINGS IN 2011**

7. With respect to the WMO Technical Conference (TECO) to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 3 to 4 March 2011, the MG requested the President to ensure that the deliverables from the meeting be identified for RA III and RA IV to implement in a coordinated manner.