

**REGIONAL ASSOCIATION II (ASIA)**

**FIRST SESSION OF THE RA II MANAGEMENT GROUP**

**GENEVA, 10 JUNE 2009**

**FINAL REPORT**



**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**



## FIRST SESSION OF THE RA II MANAGEMENT GROUP

*(Geneva, Wednesday, 10 June 2009)*

### 1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1.1 The first session of the RA II Management Group (MG-1) was held at the WMO Secretariat on Wednesday, 10 June 2009 during the sixty-first session of the Executive Council. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to this report.

1.2 The session was opened at 08:30 hours on 10 June 2009. Prof. Victor E. Chub, president of RA II, who chaired the session, extended a warm welcome to all participants and thanked the members for accepting his invitation to attend the meeting. He also thanked the Secretariat for the arrangements made in organizing this session. Mr R. Masters, Director, Development and Regional Activities (DRA) Department, welcomed all the participants and congratulated RA II on its successful fourteenth session in Tashkent in December 2008. He wished that the Management Group would play a vital role in guiding the activities of RA II during the intersessional period.

1.3 The MG-1 adopted the agenda of the session, which is given in **Annex II** to this report.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE NINTH SESSION OF THE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

2.1 The MG-1 recalled that the ninth session of the RA II Advisory Working Group (AWG-9: June 2008) focused mainly on the development of the Strategic Plan for the Enhancement of NMHSs in RA II and the organization of the XIV-RA II session. The Management Group was informed that the English version of the Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the XIV-RA II session (WMO-No. 1037) is available on the CD distributed to EC-LXI participants.

2.2 The Group reviewed the work of the subsidiary bodies of RA II and the plan for the budgeted regional events of RA II during the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011) as given in **Annex III**. It noted that the newly established Working Group sessions on: WMO Integrated Observing System and WMO Information System (WG-IOS/WIS); Hydrological Forecasts and Assessments (WGH); and Disaster Risk Reduction and Service Delivery (WGDRS) are planned for 2010-2011.

2.3 The Group agreed that the key matters arising from AWG-9 and XIV-RA II, *i.e.*, the process to develop its Action Plan; review of the activities of RA II subsidiary bodies; and the venue and topics of the fifth Technical Conference, as well as the progress on the WMO assistance to Myanmar after *Cyclone Nargis* and the network of the international advisers in RA II (INTAD-2), be discussed under relevant agenda items 3 to 5.

### 3. FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION II (XIV-RA II) AND THE RA II REGIONAL SEMINAR (DECEMBER 2008)

#### 3.1 *Implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Enhancement of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Regional Association II (Asia) (2009-2011)*

3.1.1 The MG-1 was informed that a survey report on the basic capability of NMSs and NHSs in RA II, carried out in 2008 to monitor the progress of the implementation of previous regional strategic plans for NMSs and NHSs, is being prepared for distribution to Members

for information, as well as for part of the complete Strategic Plan for the enhancement of NMHSs in RA II (2009-2011). MG-1 requested the Secretariat for assistance in further developing the complete RA II Strategic Plan, including its Action Plan and survey questionnaires for monitoring.

3.1.2 The session was further informed of the progress on the development of the RA V Strategic Plan (2009-2011), which streamlined Regional Expected Results and Deliverables taking into account the recommendations from the fifth RA V Technical Conference (Kuala Lumpur, 20-24 April 2009), and identified 35 Regional Expected Results and 87 deliverables (from 37 Regional Expected Results and 173 Deliverables of the previous version).

### **3.2 *Development of the Action Plan***

3.2.1 The president stressed the need for a similar approach to that of RA V to prioritize the agreed 202 deliverables when considering the Strategic Action Plan by selecting possibly 100-120 realistic deliverables for implementation and monitoring.

3.2.2 In this respect, the MG-1 agreed that:

- (1) A task team on Strategic Plan be established to work on: identification of priorities among 202 deliverables; further development of the Action Plan by proposing concrete action for each corresponding priority deliverable; developing new survey questionnaires to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Action Plan; and finalization of the complete RA II Strategic Plan;
- (2) Dr B.Y. Lee (Hong Kong, China) be contacted for his acceptance to serve as Chair of the team; and
- (3) Some volunteer experts be invited to join the task team.

3.2.3 The Group further agreed that chairpersons of Working Groups be involved in the task team's work for (1) above and requested the Secretariat to facilitate the establishment of the task team.

### **3.3 *RA II subsidiary bodies including three pilot projects established during XIV-RA II***

3.3.1 The Group noted that the membership of subsidiary bodies of RA II, including Chairpersons, Coordinators and Theme Leaders of the Working Groups, is listed and the names of all the volunteer experts are mapped under the relevant Working Groups in Annex I to the abridged final report of XIV-RA II. The MG-1 reiterated the need for the concrete guidelines on the work of Working Group Chairs and Theme Leaders and requested the Secretariat to prepare such a document to facilitate the initiation of the work of the subsidiary bodies.

3.3.2 The session was informed that the list of members of the Coordination Groups for the three pilot projects established at XIV-RA II had been finalized and sent to Coordinators to initiate the projects. The session encouraged Hong Kong, China; Japan; and Republic of Korea to assist Coordinators to implement the projects and urged Members to support the Coordination Groups.

### **3.4 *Fifth Technical Conference on Management of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in RA II***

3.4.1 The MG-1 recalled that XIV-RA II agreed that some of the following eight topics of concern in RA II could be discussed at the Technical Conference:

- (a) Strategic planning and management of NMHSs;
- (b) Human resources development in NMHSs;
- (c) Social and economic benefits of weather, climate and water services;
- (d) Emerging technologies in meteorology, climatology and hydrology;
- (e) Role of NMHSs in disaster risk reduction including emergency response;
- (f) Adaptation to climate variability and change;
- (g) Quality management for weather, climate and water services;
- (h) Partnerships with stakeholders.

The Group considered that sand and dust storms would also be an important potential topic for the Conference.

3.4.2 The MG-1 welcomed the offer at XIV-RA II of Republic of Korea to host the Fifth Technical Conference in Jeju or Seoul in 2010. Taking into account the planned XV-RA V session from 30 April to 6 May 2010 and the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of IPCC in October 2010 in Busan, Republic of Korea, the Group considered that the Technical Conference could be held tentatively in February-March 2011. The Group requested the Secretariat to continue to finalize the plan of the Conference in consultation with Republic of Korea for final decision by MG-2 in June 2010.

#### **4. ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC AND THE WMO OFFICE FOR WEST ASIA**

4.1 Progress on the activities of the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific (RAP) and the WMO Office for West Asia was briefed to the session. The Management Group was pleased to note that RAP Office had been fully involved in the restoration process of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), Myanmar following *Cyclone Nargis*. Further to the WMO emergency assessment mission to Myanmar in May 2008, the WMO fact-finding mission was carried out from 9 to 13 February 2009, in collaboration with UNESCAP and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones. The mission assessed technical details of *Nargis* and its impacts; timeliness and usefulness of DMH cyclone monitoring and warning services for storm surge; responses by stakeholders; community-level dissemination and public awareness; and priority requirements for further enhancement of DMH capacity. The mission implemented a workshop and coordination meetings with partners and stakeholders on national disaster risk reduction activities and users' response to *Nargis*; and a training workshop on storm surge and wave forecasting, including installation and operation of storm surge and wave models, and an electronic cyclone atlas. The mission made various recommendations on the assistance to DMH with possible mechanisms and procedures for the implementation; and for the development of effective early warning systems for cyclone and storm surge forecasting and warning.

4.2 The Group further noted that the WMO Office for West Asia supported the organization of a regional workshop on the role of NMHSs in Disaster Risk Reduction held in Bahrain in February 2009; played a key role in preparation for the launch of the ISDR Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (Bahrain, May 2009); and delivered a presentation on WMO Sand and Dust Storm Warning and Advisory Assessment System (SDS/WAS) to the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the League of Arab States Permanent Committee of Meteorology (Algeria, May 2009).

#### **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 The Group was briefed by Dr J.-C. Nam (Republic of Korea), chairperson of INTAD-2, on the activities of INTAD-2 with reference to a successful WMO Workshop of Advisers on External Relations for RA II/V, held in Jeju in April 2008, and an INTAD-2 side meeting during XIV-RA II in Tashkent in December 2008. The Group noted that due to Dr Nam's

planned research work in the United States from August 2009, Ms M. Nazarova (Uzbekistan) is expected to serve as chairperson of INTAD-2, and the new vice-chairperson will be nominated by INTAD-2 in due course.

**6. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION**

6.1 The first session of the RA II Management Group was closed at 09:30 on 10 June 2009.

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**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

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*(Geneva, 10 June 2009)*

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**1. Members of RA II Management Group and Representatives of Members of RA II**

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Mr Yu Jixin Adviser to Dr Zheng Guoguang	China	yujx@cma.gov.cn
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**2. WMO Secretariat**

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**AGENDA**

1. Organization of the Session
  2. Matters arising from the ninth session of the Advisory Working Group
  3. Follow-up to the fourteenth session of Regional Association II (XIV-RA II) and the RA II Regional Seminar (December 2008)
    - 3.1 Implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Enhancement of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Regional Association II (Asia) (2009-2011)
    - 3.2 Development of the Action Plan
    - 3.3 RA II subsidiary bodies including three pilot projects established during XIV-RA II
    - 3.4 Fifth Technical Conference on Management of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in RA II
  4. Activities of the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific and the WMO Office for West Asia
  5. Other business
  6. Closure of the session
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**BUDGETED REGIONAL EVENTS  
DURING THE FIFTEENTH FINANCIAL PERIOD  
(2008-2011)**

Regional Events \ Years	2008	2009	2010	2011
Fourteenth Session of the Association	5-11.XII.2008 Tashkent, Uzbekistan			
Meeting of Advisory Working Group <i>/Management Group*</i>	18-20.II.2008 Jeddah and 25.VI.2008 Geneva	10.VI.2009 Geneva	.VI.2010 Geneva	X
Session of <i>WGs on WMO Integrated Observing System and WMO Information System (WG-IOS/WIS*) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Service Delivery (WGDRS*)</i>				X
Session of WG on Climate Matters	7-8.VIII.2008 Tokyo, Japan			
Session of <i>WG on Hydrological Forecasts and Assessments (WGH*)</i>			X April 2010	
Technical Conference on Management of Meteorological and Hydrological Services				X Republic of Korea
Regional Seminar on Alternative Service Delivery and NMHSs Administration	3-4.XII.2008 Tashkent, Uzbekistan			

\* newly established by XIV-RA II