

Voluntary Cooperation Programme and Development and Regional Activities

January – March 2011

VCP News

Requests for VCP assistance received from January to March 2011

The VCP Secretariat received requests for support from Armenia and Comoros. For more details on these and other outstanding requests, please visit our website at www.wmo.int/dra/vcp/partner.

Update on requests that are supported and in process

Between January and March 2011, VCP requests from Colombia, Costa Rica, Mauritius and Sudan, as well as a combined project from several Latin American and Caribbean countries (Paraguay, Costa Rica, Argentina, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Honduras, Peru, Panama, Cuba, Ecuador and Uruguay) found partners. For an overview of on-going projects and links to partners and donors, please check our website at <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/vcp/on-going.php>.

We welcome offers of support for unmet outstanding requests!

Next IPM meeting

The next Informal Planning Meeting (IPM) of the VCP will be held 11 - 12 April 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. This year, the IPM will also include a "Development Partner Round Table" with participants from UNDP, World Bank, UNISDR, UNEP, WHO and other development partners. The documents for the meeting are available on our website at <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/vcp/eventsandmeetings.php>

Fellowship Fund Appeal

On 23 March, the WMO community celebrated World Met Day. In this context, the Secretary General launched an appeal, asking individuals to donate to the WMO Fellowship Programme. The appeal will run until December 2011 initially and **we would like to ask you to support us and circulate the appeal widely**. For more information, statements, videos, and to make a donation, please visit our website at www.wmo.int/appeal.

VCP Secretariat

Development and Regional Activities Department - World Meteorological Organization
7 bis, avenue de la Paix - P.O. Box 2300 - CH-1211 Geneva 2 - Switzerland
vcp@wmo.int - www.wmo.int/dra/vcp

Staff update



We are sad to announce the retirement of Mr. Francisco Villalpando. He worked with WMO since 1992 and has been a vital member of the VCP team for the past four years. He is going to enjoy his retirement in his home country, Mexico, but is planning to stay involved with the WMO community as a consultant for specific projects. We wish him all the best and a joyful retirement.



Mr Tom Butcher, who was a seconded expert from the UK Met Office, is also leaving the team. As of 1st April, he is returning to the UK and taking up a position with the Met Office in Exeter. His new job will be to manage the Met Office's relationships with the UK Government Department for International Development and Foreign and Commonwealth Office; as well as having oversight of engagements with Non Governmental Organizations. We wish him all the best for his future.

Development Activities Update

South Eastern European Disaster Risk Reduction Project

The project closure meeting for the EU funded South Eastern European Disaster Risk Reduction Project was held in Sarajevo on 30th March. There was strong endorsement from countries of the successes and outcomes of the project. A second phase proposal is in preparation in partnership with UNISDR Europe Office. For more information, please visit our website at

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/eur/DRR_SEEProject.php

New development initiatives

Adaptation Fund

In December 2010, WMO secured accreditation to the Adaptation Fund (<http://www.adaptation-fund.org>), set up to finance projects to help developing countries cope with the impacts of climate change. The Secretariat is now in the process of establishing a mechanism to support countries to develop proposals for submission to the Adaptation Fund.

Enhancement of Services in Africa

A proposal for Enhancement of Weather and Climate Services in the Greater Horn of Africa has been submitted to the Korea International Cooperation Agency in early April. This follows on the original KOICA funded activities in Climate Services and Capacity Development of ICPAC and the Climate and Health Project in the region.

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News from Members

Finnish-Nepalese Project (FNEP)

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) in Nepal and the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) arranged together a workshop on the 'Improvement of weather services for Societal Development of Nepal'. The overall objective of the Finnish-Nepalese Project (FNEP) is to improve capability of Nepal to respond to the increased risks of natural disasters related to weather and climate.

It is well known that Nepal is very vulnerable to climate induced disasters. Some weather conditions are conducive for spreading of water borne and vector borne diseases. There are serious concerns that increased climate variability in combination with increased population density and inadequate sanitation could augment the occurrence of these diseases in Nepal. On average climate related disasters cause annually of 10 MUSD in damage and cause on average about 500 deaths in Nepal.

This Workshop gathered about 80 persons from different areas of Nepal society, ministries, disaster management offices, agriculture, aviation, energy, water induced risk management office, universities, NGO's and companies, as well as regional participants from India, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) from Bangkok and the Meteorological Research Center (SMRC) of the South Asian Association for regional co-operation (SAARC) from Dhaka.

All local and regional attendees of the workshop participated very actively to discussions and addressed their sectorial needs and concerns for weather/hydrological information and warnings. The preferred channels and ways of communication were also discussed. It was noted that the use of communication channels depends on who are the end-users. The network of district FM radio stations was considered by all sectors as a very effective communication channel, due to its good coverage in Nepal and low costs. Especially FM radio was seen as valuable backbone for weather information to ordinary citizens and the agricultural sector.

The nationwide, surface meteorological network development was mentioned to be a very important goal. Large investments and capacity building for DHM would be needed to achieve this goal. Generally it has been estimated that 1 Euro invested to meteorological services will bring 5 to 10 Euros back to the society. In Nepal the ratio could be 1 to 8-20 times, based on the Social-Economic study made by FMI. The well designed meteorological network with near real time data and technical capacity building of DHM would enable quality data for quality forecasts and warnings. There is no doubt that this development would benefit the whole society.

International Environmental Data Rescue Organization (IEDRO)

There are an estimated two to three billion historic weather observations throughout the world that are on deteriorating paper. Thousands disintegrate each day and their data is lost forever. Ship logs show tides and currents, as well as winds and waves. Other data are found in photographs of glaciers - one of the best ways to measure the change in a region's average temperature. IEDRO's Mission is to rescue this old environmental

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information, digitize it, and place it on a secure medium for everyone's use. The data rescued by IEDRO enables the meteorological and scientific communities to provide more accurate severe weather forecasting and to understand climate change. This knowledge offers the world community a greater ability to more accurately predict long-range weather patterns.

Through the US VCP Fund, we support the work of IEDRO in many developing and least developed countries. In February 2011, IEDRO has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Bolivian Meteorological Society. For more information, please visit www.iedro.org

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