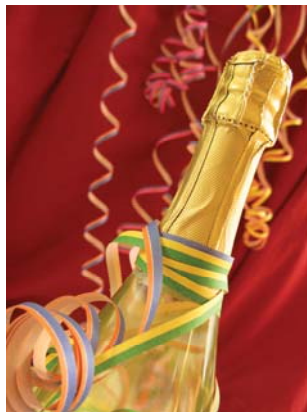


Voluntary Cooperation Programme and Development and Regional Activities

October – December 2010

Happy New Year!

The VCP Secretariat wishes you a happy new year and all the best for 2011. We would like to thank you all for your involvement in 2010 and we are looking forward to continue working with you.



VCP News

Requests for VCP assistance received from October to December 2010

The VCP Secretariat received requests from El Salvador, Pakistan and Suriname. 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 October and December 2010, VCP requests from Afghanistan, Cook Islands and Mauritania 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>.

In 2010, the VCP Secretariat received a total of 34 requests for support under the VCP. We were able to find sponsors for 28 projects, which is 82 per cent of all requests. In addition, we found partners for an additional 5 projects from previous years that were still waiting for support. We are hoping that we will find support for the other outstanding requests this year and are looking forward to your feedback and ongoing support.

We welcome offers of support for unmet outstanding requests!

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2010 – A year of change

2010 was a year of change for the VCP Programme. The VCP Secretariat has grown, with several new staff coming on board and has consequently seen improved efficiency in the management of VCP projects. With Ms Salla Himberg, the programme has now a staff member fully dedicated to the management of the individual requests and resulting projects. The newly designed website has also helped to create more awareness of the VCP and serves as a good platform and promotional tool for the requests from Members, as well as informing the public and generating more interest from people outside WMO. This newsletter was also redesigned and is currently being read around 100 subscribers.

VCP flyer and publications

The VCP flyer is a 4-page fold-out with information on the programme and is now available in French and Spanish also.

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/vcp/publications.php>

Additional publications regarding our work in the field of development and capacity building are also available in English, French and Spanish and can be found on our website at

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/publications.php>

VCP on Facebook

The VCP Facebook page has been well visited, however not many people click the “like” button. Please help us to promote the page by linking to it and support us by clicking the “like” button. <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/WMO-Voluntary-Cooperation-Programme/154814407869783>

New VCP Fund

The Japanese government has recently decided to set up a specific Trust Fund for the VCP. This will enable Japan to better manage its contributions and keep supporting a great amount of requests.

New member of staff



The Japanese government is supporting a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) within the DRA. Mr Makoto Suwa joined us in November 2010 and his main task will be the assistance with development projects, mainly in Africa and Central Asia and some VCP activities. We would like to welcome Makoto to our team and wish him all the best.

Next IPM meeting

The next Informal Planning Meeting (IPM) will be held 11 - 12 April 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. The documents will be made available as soon as possible on our website at

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/vcp/eventsandmeetings.php>

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Development Activities Update

Accreditation to the 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. This important achievement will allow WMO to work with governments to develop and submit proposals to the Fund and support their implementation, especially in relation to multi-country projects. The only agencies accredited as Multi-lateral Implementing Entities currently are UNDP, UNWP, WFP and World Bank.

Projects submitted, could include developing early warning systems to ensure that vulnerable communities are better equipped to protect their lives, property and livelihoods from extreme weather events and to prepare for the impacts of climate change. Others might include development of climate services for agricultural and other sectoral applications.

"We are extremely pleased to have been accredited to the Adaptation Fund because it will strengthen our work with governments to facilitate adaptation to climate change and to mitigate the impacts on food, water and health," said Mary Power, Director of WMO's Resource Mobilization Office. "WMO has an essential role to play both in helping to ensure that governments and communities have access to the best possible climate change information that is tailored to their requirements; and in ensuring that effective early warning systems are in place to warn of extreme weather, hours, days, weeks and months ahead."

It is increasingly recognised by the international development sector, that working with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other stakeholders to enhance early warning systems for current weather and climate events is an effective, highly cost efficient and a "no regrets" climate change adaptation intervention. "If a National Meteorological Service is able to provide a fisherman with three hours warning of a storm, so that he is able to sail into more sheltered waters, that protects his life and livelihood today. That same warning system will still be effective in the future when climate change might mean, for the fisherman, that storms become more frequent. So strengthening these warning services will show immediate benefits," said Ms Power.

Mobile Weather Alerts in Uganda

WMO's cooperation with Ericsson to provide weather alerts via mobile technology to farmers and fishermen in the Lake Victoria region has advanced well. This pilot follows on from the project previously known as "WIFA". The first pilot phase in Uganda will start in early 2011. The project is partly funded by the World Bank under the UN SG's Food Security Task Force process. Other potential partners have shown interest as well and we are looking forward to their involvement. The project was presented to the Directors of African National Meteorological Services during the WMO Regional Association meeting in Marrakesh in November 2010. The feedback was very positive with countries keen on seeing the first results as they are interested in adopting the approach. This pilot is closely linked to the East Africa Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project as a means

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of trialling improved links into the fishing and farming community to improve the reach of, and access to, weather information bulletins.

New development initiatives

Greece fund for Central Africa

The Government of Greece has recently provided funds for Climate Change Adaptation projects in the Central African region under an Agreement signed between WMO and Ambassador to UN in late 2009. This project will support actions in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Sudan and Uganda that strengthen climate services for a range of economic sectors and will contribute to GFCS for Africa. WMO will work closely with participating countries to develop an implementation plan in the first quarter of 2011.

Improving Agricultural Services in Ethiopia

The Rockefeller Foundation is supporting a project for “Training of Trainers on Weather and Climate Information and Products for Agricultural Extension Services in Ethiopia”. This project aims to familiarize trainers from Met Service and Agricultural Extension Service to undertake and train counterparts in agricultural “Roving Seminars” for local farmers regarding products offered by the National Meteorological Service, use of weather maps and moisture indexes, impact of weather and climate on outbreak of disease and pest, and using available information to make informed decisions about crop planting and drought adaptation. This will in the long-run benefit local farmers and the communities as a whole.

The partners involved in this project are the Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia, WFP, FAO, Oxfam America as well as the National Meteorological Administration of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Institute for Agriculture Research and the Christian Relief Development Agency, an umbrella organization for NGOs operating in the country. During a recent mission, the implementation plan was developed and the topics for the first trainings agreed. The first trainings are scheduled to take place in March 2011.

ICPAC Programme on Disaster Risk Reduction

The World Bank Global Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction will finance a three-year programme on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for the IGAD countries (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda). This project, to be implemented by IGAD Climate Prediction and Adaptation Centre (ICPAC) with WMO, aims at developing the capabilities and resilience of vulnerable communities in this region by linking climate change adaptation and DRR through the systematic use of climate outlook data to better inform national sector planning. It will facilitate and increase the cooperation among governments, research centers and other institutions to better manage risk in areas vulnerable to hazards and link local risk information, preparedness plans and risk reduction activities to national and regional warning systems. This will result in an integrated system, including post disaster assessment and planning, improved management of risks and communications strategy to prevent loss of life.

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AMCOMET

The First Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa was held in April 2010. The Conference was attended by 48 African countries, over 30 ministers, and more than 300 participants, including technical experts from the weather and climate communities. The Ministers adopted a Declaration that established the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) as a high-level mechanism for the development of meteorology and its applications in Africa. A BUREAU was elected, composed of a Chairperson (Kenya), three Vice Chairpersons (Mali, Zimbabwe, Congo), and a Rapporteur (Morocco). The AMCOMET Secretariat has been established within WMO with support by a sub-regional office in Nairobi. A meeting of the Bureau of Ministers is planned for the first quarter of 2011. The final report of the Ministerial meeting can be found at the following link:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/africaconf/publications_en.html

Finland supports SADC meteorology project

The Finnish Meteorological Institute, together with the Meteorological Association of Southern Africa (MASA), has been implementing a one-year project to carry out the most urgent capacity building. The project is cooperating with 14 Southern African countries. An assessment of the socio-economic impacts of development of NMSs was produced for the Project. According to the results of this study the most important task is to develop the region's national, as well as, regional meteorological facilities' capability to respond to challenges posed by climate change. It is obvious that very few NMSs in the region have the capacity to work in this field at the required intensity, though the differences between the countries are very large. The other important sectors according to the study are "Disaster mitigation and early warning", "Water resources" and "Agriculture". The Project will focus on:

1. Establishing a SADC Climate Change Information service
2. Establishing a SADC Disaster Mitigation and Early Warning Service
3. Upgrading regional observation network with emphasis on regional lightning detection network
4. Capacity building

The Project Management Unit will be based with the MASA Secretariat at the South African Weather Service (SAWS).

News from Members

Featured project – Installing AWSs on Cell Phone Towers in Russia

The National Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Russia, Roshydromet, is completing a study to assess the benefits of installing Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) on cell phone towers. The potential benefit of using the infrastructure of cell phone tower sites, access, electricity, security, and the towers themselves, could be an extremely cost efficient means to expand the network of weather observation sites.

The trial has so far showed that the installation of AWSs on cell phone towers is potentially an economical and effective way of improving the observational network to support now-casting applications for local scale verification Numerical Weather Prediction models.

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The current ground based observational network of Roshydromet often does not support prediction of local dangerous weather events, such as squall lines, thunder storms, heavy rainfall, hail storms and freezing drizzle as these occur over small spatial areas and on very short time scales. A high resolution AWS observing network on cell towers is a way of supplementing existing networks and improving prediction and monitoring of these types of events.

The first three AWSs were installed at cell towers in 2009 in the Kaluga region and a further two were installed in 2010. The cell phone tower sites were picked according to the following criteria:

- Availability of online data transmission to the control center for automatic trouble shooting
- Possibility to increase the number of sensors without making changes to the general wiring design of the tower
- Ease of replacing sensors without disrupting the operation of the tower
- Installation of sensors with maximum possible distance to the tower construction

Roshydromet is continuing the project with a further study to assess the quality of the data received from this network and the effect of the tower itself on the validity of sensor readings. The study will evaluate:

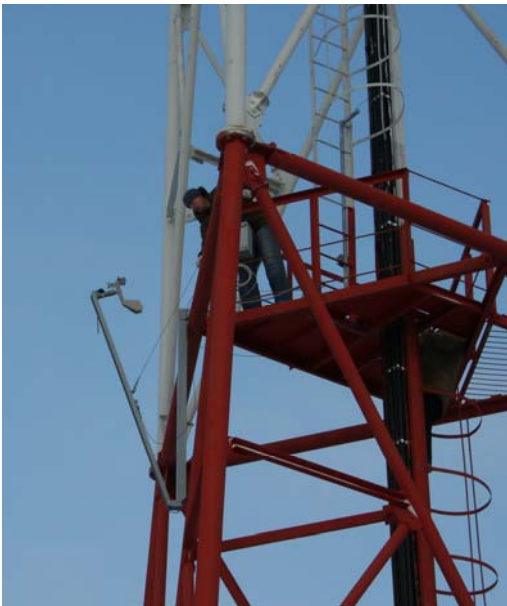
- The cost-benefits of using cell towers for siting of AWSs; i.e. evaluating the decrease in accuracy versus an increase of cost efficiency of each individual station.
- The value of having a higher density spatial network and possibly to obtain more detailed vertical profiling by mounting sensors at different heights.
- Correction algorithms to minimize any errors induced by the construction of the towers.

It is planned to enter a public-private partnership with Russia's main cell phone operator to take this project forward. WMO is working with Ericsson on a similar project in Uganda to improve local scale weather information services for farmers and fishermen in the Lake Victoria region.

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Installation of an anemometer



Installation of the communication kit

News from Pakistan

With the highest water levels in the past 110 years, Pakistan experienced heavy flooding in the past summer. Many still remember the pictures of the far-stretching water masses that have rendered thousands homeless. To support the Pakistan Meteorological Department, WMO moved its Regional Office for West Asia to Pakistan for one month. WMO is now helping to install an Integrated Flood Management System to better manage similar situations in the future and give even better warnings to the people.

Continued support for Haiti

Ever since the major earthquake hit Haiti in January 2010, Canada, Dominican Republic, France, Japan, Martinique, United Kingdom and the United States have been great supporters in the re-building efforts. The UK Met Office has currently a forecaster stationed for four month on the nearby island of Martinique to provide weather forecasts and warnings to the people of Haiti as well as other aid agencies on the ground. Last June, a website was launched to provide detailed information during the hurricane season. This website has proved to be a great success, thanks to the efforts and support of many WMO Members. With this up-to-date information, Haiti National Meteorological Center was able to help prevent further loss of life during the passing of hurricane Tomas for which is was congratulated by the country's president. For more update on activities in Haiti, please see our website at

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/vcp/haiti.php>

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