

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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Distr.: RESTRICTED

**COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS**

CBS/MG-IV/Doc. 2(3)  
(3.VI.2003)

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**MANAGEMENT GROUP**  
*Fourth Session*

ITEM: 2

Langen, Germany, 13-16 October 2003

ENGLISH only

**ISSUES RELEVANT TO CBS ARISING FROM  
CONGRESS, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND  
THE 2003 MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS**

**CBS Involvement in THORPEX**

*(Submitted by the Secretariat)*

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**Summary and purpose of document**

This document provides information on THORPEX. The MG is invited to consider way and means of the involvement of CBS in THORPEX.

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## DISCUSSION

1. EC-LIV noted the international interest and progress in developing **The Observing System Research and Predictability EXperiment** (THORPEX) and emphasized the need that both the research and operational meteorological communities be fully engaged in developing THORPEX within the WWRP.
  2. A THORPEX programme overview together with other related items of the project were discussed during the THORPEX International Scientific Steering Committee (ISSC) meeting held in Paris on 11 April 2003. Following the consultation with the acting president of CBS and agreed with THORPEX organizers, a senior staff of WWW-B Department participated in that meeting. It was stressed during the meeting that close and active involvement of CBS and especially WWW basic systems in THORPEX activities is very important. Organization and implementation of observational programmes, as envisaged by the THORPEX planners, the associated data management and dissemination functions should be coordinated with CBS.
  3. Cg-XIV had discussed THORPEX and adopted Resolution on this programme. In particular, Cg noted that THORPEX was being developed as a ten-year international research programme, under the auspices of CAS and its World Weather Research Programme (WWRP), to accelerate improvements in short-, medium- and extended-range weather predictions and the social value of advanced forecast products. THORPEX would examine global-to-regional influences on the predictability of high-impact weather and establish the potential to produce significant statistically verifiable improvements in forecasts of those time scales. Cg endorsed the rationale and basic ideas of THORPEX, and the establishment of an International Science Steering Committee and an International Core Steering Committee for THORPEX to lead the planning and implementation of the programme.
  4. THORPEX would not address directly the question of the overall optimization of the WWW-GOS, but rather demonstrate through regional projects that by adding observations in specific areas, by using new observing techniques including targeting observations, by applying advanced data assimilation systems, the numerical weather prediction products could be improved. Planned activities would include Pacific, Atlantic, Asian and other Observing System Tests (TOSTs) and regional forecast demonstrations.
  5. Research results of THORPEX would serve as advice and recommendations to CBS to facilitate the overall coordination of the GOS. Cg, therefore, considered it to be essential to have a strong link between CAS and CBS, and requested that an expert designated by the president of CBS serves as a member of the ICSC.
  6. Congress noted that THORPEX would emphasize improvements in the observing strategy over sparse areas of the globe and especially the oceans. Therefore, in addition to coordination with CBS, THORPEX should maintain strong links with JCOMM.
  7. It should be recalled that the established link from CBS to CAS/WWRP has been implemented through the OPAG/PWS, and the chair of the OPAG/PWS participates in WWRP meetings representing CBS.
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