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COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS

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ITEM: 5

ENGLISH only

CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

Summary and purpose of document

The document contains a proposal to organize a technical conference on Public Weather Services in conjunction with CBS-XIII.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Meeting is invited to discuss the proposal contained in the document and record its decision in the report of its work.

DISCUSSION

1. Following the practice of holding a technical conference in conjunction with a Commission session for the last three sessions of CBS, and the fact that such conferences were considered to have improved participation of experts from developing countries, it is recommended that a conference on public weather services be held in association with the thirteenth session of CBS in 2004.
2. It is proposed that the conference be held during the two days preceding the Commission session to be held in the last quarter of 2004. The chair of the OPAG/PWS will consult with the members of ICT on PWS (which includes representatives from Regional Associations, and Expert Teams) to get more concrete ideas for the programme of the conference. Initial thoughts are that the conference should focus on both new trends in public weather services as well as improved capability in service delivery that will result from a modernisation of the basic systems of the World Weather Watch including new observing technologies, the FWIS, and new products from the GDPFS.
3. The conference will be organized by a conference committee, headed by a conference director and including the session chairs, and assisted by the Secretariat. It is proposed that the chair of the OPAG/PWS, Mr Kevin O'Loughlin (Australia), serve as the conference director and other members of the committee will be the session chairs.
4. It is proposed to include the sessions as follows for the conference committee to consider and further develop as necessary.
 - Application of new and emerging technology and research to PWS
 - Integrated approaches to forecast dissemination and service delivery
 - Trends and technology in the media
 - Standardization of formats for public weather forecasts and warnings
 - Quality management procedures and practices including core service assessment criteria or PWS
5. It is proposed that arrangements for organizing the conference be based on the following activities and schedule.
 - The Secretariat, assisted by the conference committee, should draft and issue a call for papers by mid-December 2003. The call for papers should be directed to a wide audience including Members, all members of CBS, members of other Technical Commissions, representatives of related international programmes, the environmental research community and the private sector. The conference and call for papers should also be announced via the WMO Bulletin and the WMO web site.
 - Abstracts of papers should be received by 1 March 2004.
 - The conference committee should review the abstracts and select papers to be presented at the conference by 1 May 2004.
 - Final papers should be provided to WMO Secretariat by 1 July 2004 and published on a conference web site created on the WMO server. Contributors could provide papers in any of the four official WMO languages, with the papers posted on the conference web site in the language in which they are received.
6. Recognizing that at present no budgetary allocations exist to support the conference, sources of funding should be sought from outside of the Secretariat. The chair of the OPAG/PWS will work with the Secretariat to coordinate efforts to seek sponsors and donors for additional support.