

CBS software registry

6.5.7 The CBS software registry provides information to Members on the software packages offered by individual Members through the WMO Web server. Stressing that the World Weather Watch is dependent on computer-based solutions for its operation, the Commission reaffirmed the importance for WWW centres to share meteorological application software, and invited the WWW centres to consider offering meteorological application software for free exchange among Members and to provide the Secretariat with the information required to update the CBS software registry available from the WMO server.

Report of the chair of the EC Working Group on Capacity Building

6.5.8 The Commission was informed that the first formal meeting of the Executive Council Working Group on Capacity Building (EC-CB), which met jointly with the Informal Planning Meeting (IPM) of the Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP), in Dubrovnik from 18 to 20 March 2009, had addressed several matters pertinent to CBS. A report on those matters was made to the Commission by the Chairman of the EC-CB.

6.5.9 The EC-CB referred to the fact that there were several aspects in its Terms of Reference that were relevant to the CBS Workplan. It noted that CBS and EC-CB goals align in supporting and implementing robust and sustained global observing and service delivery systems. While CBS provides for the technical specifications and implementation plans, EC-CB seeks to mobilize resources to support or augment the networks (and systems), particularly in Developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). EC-CB therefore requested the CBS to work closely with the EC-CB, through its Workplan, to ensure that the EC-CB captures all related assistance needs and to support the EC-CB in focusing its advocacy and resource mobilization activities towards implementation and sustainability of systems at the developing country level.

6.5.10 The EC-CB identified several specific areas for which such close collaboration with the Commission was immediately necessary:

- (a) The implementation of and full participation in WIS and WIGOS. Articulation of the benefits with clear and urgent implementation plans at a country or regional scale have been called for by Members. This would include assistance in the migration to Table Driven Code Forms (TCDF), improving Metadata and the introduction of Quality Management Systems;
- (b) Support for the sustainability of Global Observing Systems in Developing and Least Developed Countries. The upper air observations from the GCOS Upper Air Network (GUAN) stations constitute a "global public good", but resources for the reactivation of silent stations and the provision of consumables for these and other stations in the Developing Countries and LDCs were not systematically available. The ad-hoc request-based mechanism of the Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP) was not a suitable funding mechanism for these stations. The EC-CB therefore requested CBS to support efforts by the WMO Secretary-General and all GCOS partners in communicating the need for such essential data through World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) and to the processes of the UN Framework Cooperation on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with the aim of activating the provision in UNFCCC documents to fund the cost of essential global climate monitoring observations at the Fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP-XV) at Copenhagen in 2009.
- (c) Support for Technical Cooperation Activities in the Secretariat. EC-CB is concerned that the time taken for achieving technical approval within the Secretariat of VCP and Emergency Assistance projects has been greater than would be desired. EC-CB therefore requested CBS, through its relevant bodies, to assist the Secretariat by developing a mechanism for identifying groups of experts, coordinated by the chair of the IPM on the VCP, to help in the procurement process of goods and services through the VCP (F), Emergency Assistance or Trust Fund projects.

- (d) Promote the use of Ensemble NWP Products
The EC-CB has noted the increasing interest expressed by developing countries in the use of *ensemble NWP products* in the early warnings of hazardous weather events, as shown through projects such as the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP) in Southern Africa. EC-CB requested CBS to consider the relevant training requirements in their work plan for 2008-2011 to assist the EC-CB and the Panel of Experts on Education and Training to mobilize resources accordingly.

6.5.11 The Commission thanked the EC-CB for its report and agreed that there was great merit in close collaboration between CBS and EC-CB in the overall planning of the implementation of projects in Developing and Least Developed Countries. Noting the request made by EC-CB, the Commission supported the proposal to establish an informal Task Team comprising the chair of the EC-CB, the president and vice-president of CBS assisted by the chairs of the OPAGs, and the chair of the IPM on the VCP to identify the technical support required for project implementation plans, including guidance materials, technical specifications and project documentation for resource mobilization activities. The Commission agreed to appoint a Coordinator on Capacity Building (agenda item 12.2), who would also participate in the informal Task Team. In specific reference to the implementation and sustainability of WIS and WIGOS, the Commission agreed to work towards greater liaison between all Technical Commissions, the EC-CB and the GCOS governing mechanisms, especially in relation to the GSN/GUAN silent stations. The Commission also requested the Secretariat to ensure a coordinated support to these activities (see above 6.5.10 (b)).

6.5.12 The Commission recognized the need to assist the WMO Secretariat with the development and implementation of specific projects by developing a mechanism for identifying groups of experts to help in the procurement process of goods and services (see above 6.5.10(c)).

7. WMO SPACE PROGRAMME (agenda item 7)

7.1 The Commission emphasized the role of space-based observing systems in support of all WMO and co-sponsored technical programmes. Space-based observation is a critical source of data for operational weather forecasting and its applications, providing the major part of input data to NWP; it also plays an irreplaceable role for climate programmes, atmospheric research, environment and disaster monitoring, and should provide an increasingly substantial contribution to hydrology.

7.2 The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Members operating satellite systems contributing to the GOS, whether in operational or research and development programmes, and to all involved space agencies. The Commission highlighted that Jason-2 represented a transition to operational status for ocean surface topography, and urged Members to confirm the plans ensuring continuity of such reference altimetry observation. The Commission noted that the geostationary and polar-orbiting coverage was currently nominal but that after 2009, the operation of GOES-10 would be discontinued and the geostationary coverage could no longer be ensured every 15 minutes over the whole of South America until further notice. The Commission noted also that EUMETSAT was filling a gap over the Indian Ocean with the Meteosat Indian Ocean Data Coverage (IODC) mission and wished that this mission be extended until a new programme can provide long-term continuity for the essential coverage of the Indian Ocean. The Commission also stressed the need for a follow-on to the current demonstration constellation of radio-occultation sounding.

7.3 China informed the Commission that data from its new generation polar-orbiting FY-3A satellite were disseminated in L-band, X-band (Medium Resolution Picture Transmission) and via FengYunCast, and that the geostationary satellite FY-2E was in commissioning stage. Canada reported that the Canadian Space Agency had approved the Phase A Feasibility Study for the Polar Communications and Weather Mission (PCW, or POLARSAT), a two-satellite constellation in highly-elliptical orbit that would provide every 15/30 minutes multi-spectral imaging of the Arctic circumpolar region with a focus on monitoring high-resolution winds, sea and lake ice, snow, and