

COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
OPAG on DPFS

(Corr.Draft 23.VII.2008)

**IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION TEAM
ON DATA-PROCESSING AND
FORECASTING SYSTEM**

MONTREAL, CANADA
29 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER 2008

Original: ENGLISH

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM (DRAFT)

1 Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting of the Implementation Coordination Team (ICT) on Data-Processing and Forecasting Systems (DPFS) will open at 9:30 AM, on Monday 29 September 2008 at Environment Canada, at the Québec Region Headquarters (exact location to be provided), Montreal, Canada. Opening welcome and introductory remarks will be made the Chairperson, local host, and the Secretariat.

The documents for the meeting, by the members of the ICT and the Secretariat will be made available at the WMO Web-site as soon as they become available at:

<http://www.wmo.int/web/www/BAS/CBS-meetings.html>

2 Organization of the Meeting

2.1 Adoption of the Agenda. The meeting will be invited to consider the provisional agenda with a view to agree to its adoption.

2.2 Working arrangements. The meeting will agree on the details concerning the organization of its work including the working hours. The documents will be available in English only and the meeting will be conducted in the English language.

3 Introduction and Background

The Chairperson of the ICT, Mr Bernard Strauss (France), will provide introductory remarks regarding the work of the OPAG on DPFS, report on the progress made relative to actions from its previous meeting, the Terms of Reference revised at CBS-Ext.(06), with the view to update and propose direction of work and activities to CBS-XIV, planned for March 2009. The Secretariat will provide background related to relevant outcomes of the Fifteenth WMO Congress and Executive Council, as well as CBS-Ext.(06).

All ICT members are invited to propose revisions of the structure and Terms of Reference associated with the OPAG on DPFS for the consideration by the meeting, including its teams and rapporteur, for recommendation to CBS-XIV.

4 Severe Weather Forecasting

The Chairperson of the CBS Steering Group of the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP) will report on the outcomes of its second meeting (February 2008). The Secretariat will report on status of the SWFDP regional subproject in RA I, and developments in other WMO Regions, including cooperation with Public Weather Services and Disaster Risk Reduction programmes, and on how the SWFDP represents an implementation of a NWP Strategy for improving severe weather forecasting in developing countries.

The Rapporteur on Applications of NWP to Severe Weather Forecasting, Mr Jean-Marie Carrière (France) will report on developments under its Terms of Reference.

5 Very Short-Range Forecasting

(Rapporteur, Jean-Marie Carrière)

The CBS/DPFS Rapporteur on Applications of NWP to Severe Weather Forecasting, Mr Jean-Marie Carrière, will report on the outcomes of the Expert Meeting on Very Short-Range Forecasting (November 2007). The meeting will consider developing practical coordination mechanisms and recommended priority areas of work that would link NWP with existing “Nowcasting” activities, to cover the forecast period out to t+12-hours.

The meeting will consider and recommend proposals for amendments to the Manual on the GDPFS, if any.

6 Extended and Long-range Forecasting

The Chairperson of the Expert Team on Extended and Long-range Forecasting, Mr Richard Graham (UK), will report on relevant meetings and workshops, including one of the Expert Team (April 2008), as well as progress made with respect to Multi-Model Ensemble for Long-Range Forecasts, designations of Global Producing Centres (GPC) and Regional Climate Centres (RCC), in coordination with CCI, and the use of GPC outputs to meet seasonal forecasting needs of RCCs, Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOF), and National Meteorological Centres.

The meeting will consider and recommend proposals for amendments to the Manual on the GDPFS.

7 Probabilistic Forecasting and Ensemble Prediction Systems, and Applications

The Chairperson of Expert Team on Ensemble Prediction Systems, Mr Ken Mylne (UK) will report on progress made with respect to EPS-based products, probabilistic forecasting methods, and applications, coordination with THORPEX/TIGGE especially related to implementation issues, and other aspects related to the ET’s Terms of Reference.

The meeting will consider and recommend proposals for amendments to the Manual on the GDPFS, if any.

8 Emergency Response Activities

The Chairperson of the Coordination Group on Nuclear Emergency Response Activities, Mr René Servranckx (Canada) will report on the meeting of the Coordination Group (May 2008), and progress made with respect to Nuclear ERA, including the planning and results of the ConvEx-3 (2008) exercise, and the provisional implementation of the joint ATM response system with CTBTO.

The Chairperson of the Expert Team on Applications of Atmospheric Transport Modelling (ATM) for Non-nuclear ERA, Mr Christopher Ryan (Australia) will report on the meeting of the Expert Team (June 2007), and progress made with respect to extension of the ERA programme to include non-nuclear environmental emergency response, for example the demonstration of the ATM-backtracking capability.

The meeting will consider and recommend proposals for amendments to the Manual on the GDPFS, if any.

9 NWP Forecast Verification

Mr David Richardson (ECMWF) will report on the status of NWP Verification, including coordination with and his participation at the Commission for Atmospheric Sciences’ Joint

Working Group on Forecast Verification Research. The meeting will consider and decide how to advance its work as included in its Terms of Reference, including setting priorities for its work, e.g., review and update of the procedure for upper air forecast verification (“WMO Standard Scores”).

10 Status of the GDPFS

The Secretariat will present the status of the Global Data Processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS) and its evolution, including the role of its Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMC) relative to National Meteorological Centres (NMC). For example, the SWFDP in SE Africa has been a demonstration of the potential role of WMO designated RSMCs. As well, WMO has adopted Results Based Management framework and approach for its programmes of activities, and in this context the GDPFS is directly or indirectly contributing to a number of the Expected Results. The meeting is invited to consider ways to effectively align its work to contribute to the Expected Results.

Technical documentation related to the GDPFS requires ongoing revision and updating, the contents of which are the responsibility of WMO Members, primarily within CBS. However, in some aspects, close collaboration with other Technical Commissions is needed, and facilitated by different organizational units of the Secretariat. These documentation include:

- Manual on the GDPFS (WMO – No. 485)
- Guide to the GDPFS (WMO – No. 305)
- Annual Report of the Status of Implementation of the GDPFS including NWP Research
- Documentation on RSMC Support for ERA (WMO-TD - No.778)
- WMO Web site (WWW/GDPFS, ERA)

The meeting is invited to consider and decide on priorities and ways to update and maintain the information for Members.

11 Regional perspectives on NWP infrastructure

The 6 Regional Rapporteurs on DPFS, each of whom have been appointed by their respective Regional Associations, will report on the status of implementation and activities related to NWP and weather forecasting infrastructure in their respective Regions. The Rapporteurs are also invited to express needs specific to their regions for improving the GDPFS especially in enhancing their capabilities to produce better weather forecasts and warnings. The meeting will discuss the major issues that arise and make recommendations, as required.

The meeting will consider the appointment of a Rapporteur on NWP Infrastructure, including its Terms of Reference as adopted at CBS-Ext.(06).

12 Future work programme

The meeting will consider any changes or revisions, proposed by the chairpersons and rapporteur, on the structure of the OPAG on DPFS, the Terms of Reference for its teams and rapporteur, considering practical strategies, priorities, and looking for cost efficiencies for undertaking the activities.

13 Other business

The Meeting will discuss other business arising.

14 Closure of meeting

The Meeting is anticipated to be closed at 17:00 hours, 3 October 2008.
