RSMC Obninsk report of activities for 2017

Executive Summary

RSMC Obninsk activities for 2017 were mainly connected with the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC) suite of tests, including the quarterly IAEA-led tests.

In addition, in February and October RSMC Obninsk provided atmospheric backtracking products for the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

The RSMC Obninsk report of activities for 2017 is available on the WMO ERA Web page at http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/DPFSERA/resources.html.

The document summarises the activities and changes during 2017.

1. Introduction

The Federal Environmental Emergency Response Centre of Roshydromet (FEERC of Roshydromet) is designated by the WMO as the Obninsk Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) for the provision of atmospheric transport model products for environmental emergency response. The region of responsibility is WMO Regional Association (RA) II, which encompasses Asia. RSMC Obninsk performs its functions jointly with RSMC Tokyo and RSMC Beijing in WMO RA II. In addition to emergency response, RSMC Obninsk contributes global inverse modeling support to the CTBTO.

2. Operational Contact Information

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3. Responses and information on dissemination of products

Participation in international inverse dispersion modeling events and exercises with CTBTO

During 2017 RSMC Obninsk has received requests for support from the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), both for real and exercise scenarios. In all cases, the products were supplied to CTBTO within the expected timescale.

4. Routine operations

RSMC Obninsk participated in quarterly exercises of 2017:

21 February (RA III and RA IV),

21-22 June (RA I and RA VI) - exercise coincided with ConvEx-3,

15 August (RA V).

RSMC Obninsk, Beijing and Tokyo have held discussions on joint statements during the exercises. The final versions of the joint statements were sent to the lead RSMC. Transport model graphical products were posted onto the mirrored RSMC web pages. After completion of the exercises, RSMC Obninsk conducted monitoring of all mirrored RSMC web pages and compiled check-list of all products required.

All the products were uploaded onto the mirrored websites:

Beijing	http://rsmc.cma.gov.cn/rsmc-bin/jntrsmc.pl
Exeter	http://rsmc.metoffice.gov.uk/cgi-bin/jntrsmc.pl
Melbourne	http://reg.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/reg/EER/jntrsmc.pl
Montreal	http://eer.cmc.ec.gc.ca/eer-bin/jntrsmc.pl
Obninsk	http://www.feerc.ru/rsmc-bin/jntrsmc.pl
Tokyo	http://eer.kishou.go.jp/cgi-bin/jntrsmc.pl
Toulouse	http://www.meteo.fr/cmrs/rsmc2-bin/jntrsmc.pl
Washington	http://ready.arl.noaa.gov/rsmc2-bin/jntrsmc.pl

Additionally in 2017 RSMC Obninsk participated in exercises ConvEx-1a, ConvEx-1c, ConvEx-2b, ConvEx-3 and all communication tests.

5. Email and fax tests

In 2017 RSMC Obninsk participated in all communication tests. In July 2017 RSMC Obninsk independently examined email and fax communications with registered centres of 29 countries in RA II. The requests were sent by fax and via e-mail to all NMHSs of the region to test communication channels and the relevance of contact information.

The test results showed that

Contact information has been changed in 6 countries;

Requests by e-mail were successful for 27 countries (93%).

Requests by fax were successful for 16 countries (55%).

6. Lessons learned from recent experiences and significant operational and technical changes

During 2017 all requests received by the RSMC Obninsk were carried out in a timely fashion.

But in some cases, the requests received by fax during the exercise were written in a hard-to-read font, therefore we offer that a standard request form (Environmental Emergency Response Request for WMO RSMC Support by IAEA) for transmission by fax to be printed in bold font type.

As reported in the results of communication test in the Asian Regional Association (RA II) unsuccessful connections were mainly caused by technical failures in the transmission of faxes and e-mails.

7. Operational issues and challenges:

The main problems of interaction of RSMC Obninsk with NMHSs of RA II arose when sending data by fax and e-mail. Errors of transferring data via SSH and FTP protocols occurred during only one exercise.

8. Plans for 2018:

RSMC Obninsk continues working with all RSMCs during training, emergency situations and everyday activities using the established channels of communication: Fax, E-mail, SSH and FTP connections (in case of publishing information on RSMC mirrored web pages).

It is planned that during the course of 2018 RSMC Obninsk will perform all calculations using the software updated in 2017.

RSMC Obninsk is going to participate in the exercises ConvEx-2c, ConvEx-2e, ConvEx-2f.

It is expected that the quality of communication with WMO, IAEA, NMHSs in RA II will be improved.

References:

- WMO, 2011: Documentation on RSMC Support for Environmental Emergency Response. *WMO-TD/No.778*. Available online at

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/DPFSERA/td778.html

- MEETING OF THE CBS EXPERT TEAM ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES (ET-ERA)

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 30 November to 4 December 2015