



**World Meteorological Organization**  
**Commission for Instruments and Methods of**  
**Observation OPAG on Remote-Sensing**  
**Technologies**

**1-day Workshop on transitioning away from**  
**mercury-based instruments**  
Offenbach, Germany, 23 October 2017

**CIMO/ICAWS-Workshop**  
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The Secretariat  
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## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

### **1. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP**

#### **1.1. Opening of the Workshop**

The 1-d Workshop prior to the International Conference on Automatic Weather Stations (ICAWS-2017) will open at 09:00 hours on Monday, 23 October 2017, at the Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD) Headquarters in Offenbach am Main, Germany.

#### **1.2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The provisional agenda will be submitted to the workshop for adoption.

#### **1.3. Working Arrangements**

The participants will agree on details concerning the organization of its work, including working hours. The documentation and workshop will be conducted in English only.

### **2. GUIDANCE MATERIAL ON TRANSITION AWAY FROM MERCURY-BASED INSTRUMENTS**

WMO Members are still in need of guidance for the process of transitioning away from mercury-based instruments. A draft document, titled "Guidance on the replacement of Mercury-Based and Obsolete Meteorological Instruments", has been developed within the CIMO Expert Team on Operational Metrology (ET-OpMet) to address the impact of the Minamata Convention on Mercury on WMO Members and to support them in sourcing alternatives for the instruments that cannot be calibrated and/or repaired. The document will be shared among the workshop participants prior to the workshop for their review, thus enabling them to add in the document their own experience with the transition from mercury-based instruments to modern alternatives.

At the workshop, participants will be invited to critically review the document and to work towards its finalization, addressing in particular topics such as user requirements, manual and automatic alternatives to mercury-based instruments, data acquisition systems, quality assurance and quality control procedures needed for and after transition, and current technology gaps.

The participants will also be invited to assess whether additional documentation would be needed to support Members in this transition process away from mercury-based instruments and to propose drafts of such documents, if appropriate.

### **3. TRAINING SCHEME TO SUPPORT NMHSS IN IMPLEMENTING MIGRATION PROJECTS**

Although a lot of guidance material on automation of meteorological measurements and migration to modern measurement techniques already exists, WMO Members are still facing problems with the implementation of automatic weather stations (AWSs). Rather than developing another guidance document, the CIMO Expert Team on Operational In Situ Technologies (ET-OIST) has developed a concept of training modules on migration to AWSs that should prepare NMHSS to successfully implement migration projects. A document describing the tentative training modules will be shared with the workshop participants for their review.

They will be invited to recommend improvements and modifications to the concept, to contribute to its further development and finalization, and to recommend the format and optimal ways for the delivery of such training modules.

#### **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

Under this agenda item, the workshop will be invited to consider any other issue brought forward by participants at the workshop.

#### **5. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP**

The Workshop is tentatively scheduled to close around 18:00 on Monday, 23 October 2017.

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