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**COMMISSION FOR INSTRUMENTS AND
METHODS OF OBSERVATION**
OPAG-UPPER-AIR

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JOINT MEETING

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**CIMO EXPERT TEAM ON
UPPER-AIR SYSTEMS INTERCOMPARISONS**
First Session

(16.III.2004)

AND

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (IOC) ON
UPPER-AIR SYSTEMS INTERCOMPARISONS**
First Session

ITEM: 9.1

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GENEVA (SWITZERLAND), 17-20 MARCH 2004

**TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR RICs TO PERFORM INTERCOMPARISON TESTS
OF NEW RADIOSONDE SYSTEMS FOR CLIMATE PURPOSES**

(Submitted by John Nash, Chairman of ET)

Summary and purpose of document

This document provides information on a proposal for the training programme for Regional Instrument Centres to perform intercomparison tests of new radiosonde systems for climate purposes.

Action proposed

The meeting is invited to note and comment on the information contained in the report and take actions on the issues raised in the report, as appropriate.

**Training programme for RICs to perform intercomparison tests
of new radiosonde systems for climate purposes**

1. The climate monitoring community need to identify the changes in measurement characteristics that occur when new radiosonde types are introduced.
2. Experience from previous WMO Radiosonde Comparisons shows that the main test needs to be supported by subsidiary tests representative of conditions other than those at the main radiosonde test sites in Western Europe and North America, if climate-monitoring requirements are to be satisfied.
3. RICs have been established for some time in all WMO Regions. Whilst these have generalised terms of reference for maintaining regional calibration standards, etc. these have not had specific tasks placed on them to support the IMOP Programme.
4. The expert team is requested to consider whether selected RICs should be requested to perform overlap testing between current and next generation radiosonde systems. A programme would have to consider resources available, number of sites required, training required for local staff and number of comparison ascents to be made.
5. As well as overlap testing, should some RICs be supplied with ground systems for additional high quality radiosondes so that on a regular basis the high quality radiosondes would be compared together with the routine radiosondes in use?
6. Is this desirable? How many sites can be afforded?
7. Are the RIC's the best venue for this type of operation or should independent sites be identified, e.g. island sites that have more use for satellite collocation and verification exercises?