

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

ET-AIR-3 and AMDAR Panel-14/Doc.3.1

(10.X.2011)

**JOINT MEETING:
CBS EXPERT TEAM ON AIRCRAFT BASED
OBSERVATIONS
(Third Session)
AND
AMDAR PANEL
(Fourteenth Session)**

ITEM: 3.1

Original: ENGLISH ONLY

(QUEBEC CITY, CANADA, 2-4 NOVEMBER 2011)

AMDAR PROGRAMME STATUS

Status of Technical Support to the AMDAR Panel

(Submitted by the Secretariat and the AMDAR Panel Chairman)

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

Summarises the new arrangement under which the WMO Secretariat provides technical support to the AMDAR Panel.

ACTION PROPOSED

1. The Panel is invited to note the information contained in the document.
 2. The Panel is invited to consider the recommendations made within the document.
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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. With a view of concern of sustainability of the AMDAR TF at the level to support a full position in the WMO Secretariat, the Joint Meeting agreed in October 2010 (Geneva) that the AMDAR Technical Coordinator (TC) role, that was at that time funded fully from the AMDAR TF, may change from a full position to a half of a newly proposed position (Scientific Officer - Aircraft and Remote Sensing Observations) and equally funded from the WMO Regular Budget (RB) and the AMDAR Panel Trust Fund. It was also agreed that the final objective would be full support from the WMO RB.
2. Subsequently, the WMO Secretary-General agreed to fund half of the above post "Scientific Officer - Aircraft and Surface-based Remotely-sensed Observations (SO/ARO)" in the Observing and Information Systems Department.
3. In November 2010, WMO advertised for the position of SO/ARO and conducted interviews in March 2011. Mr Dean Lockett was appointed to the position at the P4 level and commenced work in the Secretariat in June 2011.
4. CBS-Ext.(2010) and Cg-XVI, fully supported the proposed integration of AMDAR into WMO structures and subsequently Cg-XVI agreed on the additional resources to be allocated for this purpose. Therefore, as of 1 January 2012, the position of the Scientific Officer - Aircraft and Remote Sensing Observations will be fully funded from the WMO RB
5. As a result, the AMDAR Panel will therefore, from January 2011, cease funding of the 50% of the AMDAR Programme TC functions and role.
6. Whilst this arrangement means that the AMDAR Panel effectively has no responsibility for the funding of a TC position, it also means that the Panel has access to the services and support of SO/ARO in the TC role at only 50% work capacity.
7. This means that more financial support will now be available for addressing long-standing tasks and activities that are of high priorities, through the provision of contracts to individual experts if the ET-AIR and AMDAR Panel can not provide these resources.
8. The proposed technical coordination duties and responsibilities that are currently to be provided by the Secretariat through SO/ARO are provided as Appendix 1, as extracted from the Vacancy Notice.

AMDAR PANEL TECHNICAL COORDINATION AND TECHNICAL WORK PROGRAMME

9. In the past, whilst the Panel TC has certainly had responsibility for much of the technical coordination associated with the Panel work programme and will continue to do so, the occupant of the position has also historically taken responsibility for much of the technical work associated with accomplishing the Panel work programme. One of the ways to accommodate the reduced capacity will clearly be for SO/ARO to be largely limited to meeting the coordinating functions of the previous role. This means that the Panel work programme tasks and projects will have to be undertaken and accomplished through also other means to fill a potential gap.
10. It is suggested that this gap in the work programme activity can be filled in the following ways:

- With funds not now required to be maintained for the TC salary, the Panel Trust Fund can be more actively utilized in the future for the employment of consultants to undertake work under WMO Special Service Agreements (SSA) or other arrangements as approved by the Panel or the Panel Management Group.
- The Panel Members may wish to increase the amount of collaborative work undertaken by and allocated to Members as time and national priorities allow.

11. In assuming that the Panel will indeed make increased use of the AMDAR Panel Trust Fund in support of meeting the requirements of the work programme, the following suggestions are made:

12. **Recommendation 1:** To ensure that AMDAR Panel Member NMHSs understand this situation and continue to support the work programme of the Panel through contributions to the Panel Trust Fund, it is recommended that the Panel adopts a more rigorous and detailed approach to the planning and coordination of its work programme.

13. **Recommendation 2:** It is recommended that the Panel works towards the establishment of a more detailed planning process with documentation that encompasses the compilation and maintenance of long, medium and short term plans and clearly establishes an annual work programme taking into account availability of financial and other resources. The planning activity and work programme should take into account: WMO programme outcomes; the terms of reference and work programme of OPAG IOS; and, the over-arching planning associated with the evolution of the Global Observing System under the leadership and coordination of OPAG-IOS/ET-EGOS.

Introduction of Biennial Joint Meetings After 2012

14. Another efficiency that the Joint Meeting may consider is the introduction of biennial meetings of the AMDAR Panel conjointly with ET-AIR. The following reasons and justifications are suggested for moving to biennial meetings:

- Biennial meetings are consistent with the expected meeting schedule for CBS expert teams (Note: ETs of other TCs meet normally once every 4 years);
- Biennial meetings will allow for a more efficient use of the technical coordination resource with the Secretariat (SO/ARO);
- The stable operational status of the AMDAR Programme means there is no longer the need for annual meetings;
- Biennial meetings could be extended to 4-5 days;
- In alternate years, when Joint Meetings are not held, there could be a focus on and use of resources for holding a workshop or aviation meeting or forum;
- Management Group meetings have become a focus for activity and coordination between Joint Meetings, which alleviate the need for annual meetings; and,
- Alternative forms of communication between and among members can be utilized to ensure collaborative work can be coordinated and maintained including: email, teleconferencing, use of wiki and other collaborative media, quarterly newsletters, etc.

15. **Recommendation 3:** Joint AMDAR Panel and ET-AIR meetings to be conducted biennially from and subsequent to AMDAR Session 15 and ET-AIR Session 4 (2012).

APPENDIX 1

PROPOSALS FOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WMO SCIENTIFIC OFFICER RESPONSIBLE TO SUPPORT WMO AMDAR PANEL ACTIVITIES

Under the overall guidance of the Chief of the WMO Observing Systems Division, the incumbent will perform the following duties:

- a) Act as Secretariat lead for the aeronautical and in-situ remote sensing observations;
- b) Coordinate the planning and implementation activities relevant to aircraft-based and in-situ remote sensing observational systems within the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), including the World Weather Watch (WWW), AMDAR and Instruments and Methods of Observation (IMOP) Programmes, on matters related to the standardization of the above observations, observing systems design, optimization and evolution, and instrument and systems evaluations. Ensure liaison with other relevant programmes, technical commissions, international organizations, aircraft and instrument manufacturers as well as aviation communication providers;
- c) Coordinate and support the work of the relevant CBS, CIMO and AMDAR Panel subordinate bodies (including pre-session and in-session documents and final reports), as well as organize and support expert meetings, technical conferences and training workshops. Assist and provide specialist support to the chairpersons of the respective CBS, CIMO and AMDAR Panel subsidiary bodies in conducting their duties, such as in coordinating and monitoring programmatic and development activities, in preparing technical and scientific analysis, budget proposals and in monitoring expenditures;
- d) Provide scientific/technical advice to technical cooperation projects and other support activities related to AMDAR and in-situ remote sensing observations as a part of CBS and CIMO responsibilities;
- e) Coordinate quality monitoring of data generated by the surface-based Global Observing System (GOS) and prepare scientific reports, studies and analyses;
- f) Promote observational data and product utilization by coordinating and supporting the generation of the observational data products, especially from the remote sensing systems, as well as by supporting the training and education activities relevant to the aircraft and remote sensing observations;
- g) Inform regularly the Members and user community of conducted activities and plans. Maintain up to date the respective components of the WMO Website;
- h) Carry out other relevant duties as required.