

(12.X.2011)

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

ITEM: 4.5

Original: ENGLISH ONLY

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

PROJECTS PLANNING AND WORK PROGRAMME

AMDAR Documentation, Training and Outreach

WMO Aircraft Observations Website

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

Provides a summary of the status of the WMO AMDAR Observations website hosted on the WMO Internet server.

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.

References:

1. WMO Aircraft Observations Website: <http://www.wmo.int/amdar/>
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BACKGROUND

1. The AMDAR Panel AMDAR website was migrated to the WMO area that it currently occupies (<http://www.wmo.int/amdar/>) around 2006 and now has the title “Aircraft Observations”.
2. ET-AIR information (ToR, Membership, Workplan 2009-2012) can be found under the CBS website (http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/OSY/WorkingStructure/OPAG-IOE_ExpertTeams.html) while a reference to AMDAR related meetings (<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/BAS/CBS-meetings.html>) and AMDAR documents (<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/CBS-Reports/IOS-index.html>) is (also) made under the CBS website.
2. This document summarises the current status of the website and makes some recommendations for its update and improvement.

WEBSITE CURRENT STATUS

3. Under the structure of the WMO website, the “Aircraft Observations Programme” is couched as a sub-programme of the Global Observing System (and WIGOS) under the umbrella of the World Weather Watch Programme, although this is not explicitly stated in the Introduction.
4. Currently, the website has two primary topics of AMDAR and WIGOS. The WIGOS topic links to the WMO WIGOS page. The AMDAR topic has the following sub-topics:
 - About
 - AMDAR Panel
 - Meetings
 - Resources
 - Reports
 - Data Statistics
5. The “About” page has a brief history of ASDAR and AMDAR and several sections that are listed as “under construction”
6. The “AMDAR Panel” page contains the working documents and terms of reference for the AMDAR Panel.
7. The “Meetings” page has a tabulated list of the most recent meetings with links to the document plans or agendas and the reports from the meetings.
8. The “Resources” page has a table with the following links:

TOPIC	Link Page	Content
Reference Material	AMDAR Reference Manual AMDAR Panel Flyer	Link to manual and flyer
FAQ	FAQ on AMDAR	Limited FAQ section with links to existing pages and mainly “under construction”.
Overview	Existing AMDAR Systems (national/regional) Involvement of the Aviation Industry	Page with links to older status reports; Under Construction; Outdated list of participating airlines;

	Participating Airlines Global Growth and Coverage	Link to outdated global data output plot.
Systems	Information on Sensors Downlink Software Specification Onboard Software Developing Programs AMDAR Questionnaire	Limited information on WVSS sensors; Link to copy of the ARINC 620 Version 4 (ARINC 620 Supplement 5); Link to copy of the ARINC 620 Version 4 (ARINC 620 Supplement 5); Links to reports of developing programs;
Data Description, Coding, Exchange, and Usage	Operational Use of AMDAR Data Data Exchange and Operation Use (Code) New Observed Elements Data Optimisation and Targeting	Under construction; Link to WMO Table-driven Codes Format and BUFR; Under Construction; Brief description of Data Optimisation and Targeting.
Data Quality and Control	Performance and Standards System Descriptions and Typical Quality Monitoring Figures Secure Data Quality Sites (Restricted) Data Monitoring Reports	Under Construction; Under Construction; Links to some DQ sites with some dead links; Links to similar DQ and data visual sites;
Research and Studies	Reports of Impact Studies	Links to a few data impact studies by Petersen.
Newsletter and Communication	Communications	Under construction.
Training	Training Programs and Material	Results of questionnaire.

9. The “Reports” page has a tabulated listing of reports from the meetings of the AMDAR Panel.
10. The “Data Statistics” page has four sub topics: Data Statistics, Data Monitoring Reports, Data Monitoring Sites and Data Viewers.
11. The ET-AIR information can be found under the CBS website and has the following topics:
 - Terms of Reference
 - Membership
 - Work Plan 2009 – 2012
12. The “ToR” page is reflecting the Terms of Reference for ET-AIR as approved by CBS-XIV
13. The “Membership” page provides the members of the Expert Team for Aircraft-based Observations (updated 21 September 2011)
14. The “Work Plan” page has the work plan for the period 2009-2012, updated August 2009.
15. The CBS page on “Final Reports of CBS-IOS related Meetings” is referring to AMDAR documents as referred to in 7 above.

Issues with the Website

16. The following issues with the website are identified:

- Many areas are “Under Construction”;
- Many areas are not up-to-date;
- There is duplication in some areas that could be consolidated and harmonized;
- The website requires updating to reflect the changing structure of the Aircraft Observations programme and clearly define the working structures, roles and responsibilities;
- There is currently a lack of focus in relation to the various stakeholders associated with the programme that includes: Programme Managers, Data Users, Data Managers and Aviation;
- The concepts of AMDAR versus Aircraft Observations and the related data types are not clearly defined.

17. Generally, the website is not well laid-out and lacks the necessary information on the index page to guide the reader to the areas that they might be interested in being referred to or requiring information on.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING THE AIRCRAFT OBSERVATIONS WEBSITE

18. **Recommendation 1:** It is recommended that the Joint Meeting seeks to appoint a small committee (e.g. 3 Members) to review the status of the Aircraft Observations website and make recommendations to the AMDAR Management Group for its update.

19. **Recommendation 2:** The Aircraft Observations Website Review Committee should consider and make recommendations on the following aspects:

- 1) The focus of the website;
- 2) The layout of the website;
- 3) How to handle or resolve the following issues:
 - a. Meeting the needs of different stakeholders that include: AMDAR Programme Managers, Aviation representatives including airlines and ICAO members and contacts, Data Users; Data Managers; private industry stakeholders;
 - b. Definitions of the various aspects of the programme;
 - c. Documentation of the work of both the Panel and the ET-AIR;
 - d. Other aircraft data sources including: ICAO (ADS), TAMDAR, AFIRS, etc;
 - e. Documentation of the AMDAR Panel’s evolution and changing relationship with WMO;
 - f. Better integration into WMO and WIGOS and reference to documentation;
 - g. Harmonizing the AMDAR Panel website and the CBS/ET-AIR website.
- 4) If the website is to be re-designed or over-hauled, how to resource this work, given that it is expected that, whilst maintaining the website is the responsibility of SO/ARO, an overhaul would be beyond the position’s capacity.

20. **Recommendation 3:** Taking into consideration recommendations 1 and 2, the Panel is invited to consider the funding of a temporary technical human resource to implement the overhaul of the Aircraft Observations website under the management of the AMDAR Management Group and SO/ARO.