



# WMO AMDAR Observations Programme Newsletter

Volume 1, October, 2011

<http://www.wmo.int/amdar/>



## Feature Article

### The AMDAR Observations Programme

Following on from the successful ASDAR programme, the AMDAR Panel was formally established in March 1998. At the inaugural meeting the goal, terms of reference, membership and operating procedures were agreed upon. The goal of the AMDAR Panel is to enhance the upper-air component of the Composite Observing System of the WMO. This is to be achieved through cooperation among Members in the acquisition, exchange and quality control of meteorological observations from aircraft using automated reporting systems. The Panel recognized a fundamental principle of WMO to broaden and enhance the free and unrestricted international exchange of data, and noted the increasing availability of aircraft platforms with suitable sensors, avionics and communications systems.

The Panel was established to take advantage of the opportunity to use these new cost-effective global data sources to better respond to the needs of WMO and WMO-sponsored programmes such as the WMO, World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), and to bring potential benefits to end-users in aviation and other communities. The Panel is considered necessary to ensure a coordinated approach to the development of AMDAR as an operational global programme with particular benefits in data-sparse areas of the world. To help facilitate the work of the Panel, a Technical Coordinator (TC) was appointed in April 1999. An AMDAR Trust Fund was established to assist with the work of the Panel and is reliant on voluntary contributions from Panel members.

For more information see: <http://www.wmo.int/amdar/>

## AMDAR Data

### Global AMDAR Programme Growth Recovered

The Global AMDAR Programme rate of growth, which had shown steady increase over the last decade, has now recovered after having temporarily declined over 2009 and 2010 in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis and several significant changes to international Programmes.

The total Programme output, as received and measured by the Environment Canada, Canadian Meteorological Centre, climbed over 300,000 observations for the first time earlier in 2011, mainly as a result of the commencement of the Alaska Airlines AMDAR programme as a component of the United States Federal Aviation Authority and National Weather Services Meteorological Data Collection and Reporting System (MDCRS) programme.

For more information see: <http://www.wmo.int/amdar/AMDARStatistics.html>

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For more information see: <http://www.wmo.int/amdar/AMDARStatistics.html>

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