

**CBS Lead Centres for GCOS
Coordination Meeting**

TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
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CBS AND WWW ACTIVITIES

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

Summary and purpose of document

This document provides information on the establishment of the CBS Lead centres for GCOS, their Terms of Reference and related activities

ACTION PROPOSED

The group is invited to take into account the information provided in the document when considering individual agenda items.

BACKGROUND

1. The Extraordinary session of the Commission for Basic Systems, Cairns, 2002, (CBS-Ext(02)) recognized the difficulties encountered in bringing results of monitoring the GSN and GUAN networks to the attention of station operators in order that remedial action could be taken in a timely manner. The Commission agreed with recommendations developed by the first meeting of the Expert Meeting on Coordination of the GSN and GUAN (Germany, May 2002) and requested that CBS Lead Centres for GCOS data (one for GUAN and one for GSN) be established on a trial basis to facilitate the exchange of that information directly with the NMHSs involved, with the terms of reference as presented in the final report of the Expert Meeting (see item 6). CBS-Ext(02) noted that Japan would assume responsibility for the CBS Lead Centre for GSN as from 2003 on a trial basis. CBS-Ext(02) further requested that Points of Contact be nominated by each NMHS, who could be contacted directly by the Lead Centres and who would be tasked by the Permanent Representative to follow up with appropriate action within the NMHS concerned (see also item 7).
2. The Thirteenth session of the Commission for Basic Systems, St. Petersburg, 2005, (CBS-XIII) recognized that a list of Focal Points for GCOS and related climate matters had been established (see also item 8) and was being used by the GCOS Lead Centres to address problems of receipt of expected messages. CBS-XIII was also informed of Lead Centre efforts to collect historical GSN data and updated metadata for GUAN stations.
3. The Extraordinary session of the Commission for Basic Systems, Seoul, 2006, (CBS-Ext(06)) was informed that Many of the problems identified in the *Analysis of data exchange problems in global atmospheric and hydrological networks* were addressed at the Second Session of the CBS/GCOS Expert Meeting on Coordination of the GSN and GUAN. Based on the recommendations resulting from the Expert Meeting, a coordinated CBS Lead Centre training session was held, which included representatives from the CBS Lead Centres for GCOS in Japan, USA, Iran, Morocco and Australia. These Lead Centre representatives produced a working document that describes the steps to be taken to remedy the absence or misreporting of CLIMAT messages. Since the time of this Lead Centre training, Chile officially accepted to take on the role of Lead Centre for much of Region III and the British Antarctic Survey agreed to serve as Lead Centre for Antarctica. Negotiations were in progress to also establish Lead Centres in southern Africa and in Western Europe. CBS-Ext(06) was also informed that the CBS Lead Centres are working to improve CLIMAT report receipt from the GSN stations in their regions and that the GCOS Lead Centre/Archive Centre at NOAA/NCDC continues to request historical daily temperature data from GSN stations and historical metadata concerning instrument and location changes at GUAN stations.
4. The second meeting of the Expert Meeting on Coordination of the GSN and GUAN (USA, September 2005) developed recommendations related to the Responsibilities of CBS Lead Centres for GCOS.
5. To assist countries in production and transmission over GTS the needed climatological data, WMO Secretariat decided to developed guidelines for CLIMAT and CLIMAT TEMP Reporting and to organize the series of training workshops to be held in every WMO Region to increase the climate data availability worldwide. In this regards, the WMO Handbook on CLIMAT and CLIMAT TEMP Reporting specifically addressed to the personnel who are responsible for compiling and transmitting CLIMAT and CLIMAT TEMP messages at the national level had been prepared and published in 2004 in four official WMO languages as WMO/TD No. 1188. In addition, the specialized climatological software CLIREP has been developed to fully automate the process of encoding the observations for CLIMAT and CLIMAT TEMP messages. Three training workshops were already held in RA I (Morocco, December 2005), RA II (Russian Federation, November 2004) and RA III (Argentina, October 2006) for countries, which have problems in generating and

exchanging climate data. The major goal of these seminars was to address national observing network managers or coordinators with training and practical exercises that would improve the availability of climate data from those Regions. The training workshop for RA V is preliminary planned to be held in Fiji in March 2008.

6. The Terms of Reference of the CBS Lead centers for GCOS:
 - (a) Evaluate the monitoring results of the GCOS Monitoring and Analysis Centres;
 - (b) Coordinate activities with other GCOS Centres and/or other centres as appropriate;
 - (c) Liaise with nominated Points of Contact for GCOS data to improve data availability and quality;
 - (d) Monitor and report to CBS and GCOS on action taken and progress achieved;
 - (e) Maintain the list of Points of Contact in cooperation with the WMO Secretariat.

7. Terms of Reference for Points of Contact for GSN and GUAN:
 - (a) Liaise within the NMHS on GSN and GUAN issues related to data availability and quality;
 - (b) Inform Lead Centres on current and potential problems that might impact data availability and quality;
 - (c) Respond to requests from CBS Lead Centres for GCOS Data regarding data availability and quality.

8. The list of National Focal Points for GCOS and related climatological data (RBCN) is on the WWW/GOS website: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/FocalPoints.html>.

9. The List of CBS Lead Centers for GCOS and their areas of responsibility:
 - **RA I: Morocco** (Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia).
 - **RA I: Mozambique** (The rest of RA I)
 - **RA II: Iran** (Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, India, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen).
 - **RA II: Japan** (Brunei, Cambodia, China, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Vietnam).
 - **RA III: Chile** (All Members of RA III)
 - **RA IV: US** (most of WMO Region IV plus Hawaii, Antarctica (a separate Lead Center may be established)).
 - **RA V: Australia** (most of Region V except those countries noted for Japan and US).
 - **RA VI: Germany** (All Members of RA VI).
 - **Antarctica: UK** (British Antarctic Survey).