

COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS OPEN PROGRAMME  
AREA GROUP ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

CBS/GCOS EXPERT MEETING ON COORDINATION  
OF THE GSN AND GUAN

Item : 1.3

Original: ENGLISH

OFFENBACH, GERMANY, 15-17 MAY 2002

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

### **1. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

#### **1.1. Opening of the meeting**

The Expert Meeting on the Coordination of GSN and GUAN (EMCGG) will open at 09.30 hours on Wednesday, 15 May 2002 at the Headquarters of the Deutscher Wetterdienst in Offenbach, Germany. The objectives of the meeting are to review the WWW and GCOS monitoring activities for GSN and GUAN stations; to agree on a strategy for improving the performance of the stations and ensuring the quality and quantity of GCOS baseline data; and to provide recommendations to CBS for supporting the strategy, including potential modifications to WMO regulations as may be appropriate.

#### **1.2. Election of chairman**

The meeting will elect a chairman from among the participants.

#### **1.3. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda, as contained in CBS/OPAG-IOS/EMCGG-1/Doc. 1, will be submitted for adoption. The order of the items may be modified and additional items may be introduced if necessary.

#### **1.4. Working arrangements**

The work of the meeting will be conducted as a committee of the whole. Sub-groups may be established as required to consider specific problems. The session and documentation will be in English only. The session will decide on other arrangements, such as its working hours.

### **2. GCOS STRATEGY TO SUPPORT BASELINE OBSERVING SYSTEMS**

The Meeting will review the strategy adopted by GCOS/AOPC to develop and maintain baseline observing systems for climate observations.

### **3. MONITORING ACTIVITIES WITHIN WWW WITH EMPHASIS ON CLIMAT AND CLIMAT TEMP**

The Meeting will review experience with monitoring activities carried out within WWW from among the stations making up the GOS. Following the recommendation of CBS-XII, the meeting will be invited to consider how the existing arrangements can be used to improve monitoring of CLIMAT and CLIMAT TEMP reports.

#### **4. MONITORING OF GCOS ATMOSPHERIC NETWORKS**

The current GCOS Monitoring Centres are carrying out an essential function in compiling and analysing discrepancies in the availability of data from the GSN and GUAN stations. However, transmission of the results to the appropriate NMS, and the taking of the necessary remedial action, has been problematic to date, with the result that the needed remedial action is either insufficient or so late as to cause excessive loss of data. Monitoring results for 1999 and 2000 show that the reporting percentages for GSN and GUAN are on the whole no better than those for the GOS as a whole. The group, therefore, will be invited to discuss the means and procedures for exchanging and publishing monitoring results in a timely, effective fashion.

#### **5. DIFFERENCES AND MATCHES IN THE COLLECTION/DISSEMINATION OF CLIMATE DATA**

The meeting will take up the causes of discrepancies in the collection and dissemination of climate data. The adequacy of current standards and the possible need for additional agreements on standards for monitoring will be discussed.

#### **6. STATUS AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOFTWARE FOR MONITORING**

The DWD and Japan monitoring centres have developed a software package that they would like to share. The package makes monitoring more efficient and less labour-intensive. The meeting will be invited to consider this initiative and provide proposals, as appropriate.

#### **7. FOCAL POINTS AND LINKING OF ACTIVITIES**

The meeting will discuss the creation of "Network Points of Contact" (POCs) within each NMHS to whom discrepancies detected by the monitoring centres may be reported and who will follow up with appropriate action within the NMS concerned. Once approved, this list should be posted on the WMO web site and maintained up to date so that the POCs can be notified of all discrepancies.

#### **8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO CBS**

In accordance with the terms of reference of the OPAG/IOS Rapporteur on GCOS matters and based upon the results of discussions during the session, the meeting will be invited to develop appropriate recommendations for submission to the next session of CBS.

#### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Any items of business requiring attention of the group, but not covered above, will be considered.

#### **10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The session is tentatively scheduled to close at 13h00 on Friday, 17 May 2001.

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