

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

CBS/OPAG-IOS/ET-SBO-1/Doc 2

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

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EXPERT TEAM ON SURFACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS
FIRST SESSION

ITEM: 2

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REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Submitted by Stuart Goldstraw, Chair of ET-SBO, UK

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document provides a report of the work of the Expert Team on Surface Based Observations since its establishment in September 2012 and includes measures for success for the ET-SBO-1 meeting.

ACTION PROPOSED

1. ET-SBO are asked to review the document.
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REPORT OF THE CHAIR

1. Introduction

The Expert Team on Surface Based Observations (ET-SBO) was established by the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) at its 15th session in Jakarta. The terms of reference (ToR) for ET-SBO were approved by CBS-XV following development by Karl Monnik and Stuart Goldstraw at the 7th meeting of the Inter Commission Team on Integrated Observing Systems (ICT-IOS-7). These ToR reflect the merger of two existing Expert Teams on Automatic Weather Stations (ET-AWS) and Surface Based Remotely Sensed Observations (ET-SBRSO) and the need to address new issues, notably the operational implementation of WIGOS.

Expert Team membership of ET-SBO was discussed with the CBS Management Team, the WMO Secretariat and WMO Members and the team was formally announced in April 2013.

A top level work plan for ET-SBO was developed by the Chair and submitted to the Management Team of the CBS Open Programme Area Group (OPAG) IOS for approval. The approved top level work plan was published on the WMO Website in May 2013.

The first meeting of the newly formed Expert Team, ET-SBO-1, has been arranged for the 9th to 12th of July 2013. It is expected this will be one of only two times the whole Expert Team will meet during the inter-sessional period. The session meeting is likely to be in late 2015.

Details of the ToR, Membership and top level work plan can be found at:

www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/OSY/WorkingStructure/OPAG-IOS_ExpertTeams.html

2. Progress to date

In February 2013 I welcomed by email the majority of Expert Team members to the newly formed group and circulated two documents for thoughts and feedback. The first was a personal commentary on the terms of reference for ET-SBO and the second was a draft of the top level work plan for ET-SBO. This work plan will be further developed during ET-SBO-1 under agenda item 6.3 and become the detailed work plan for ET-SBO. The commentary on the ToR will also be discussed under agenda item 6.2.

In April 2013 the UK Met Office hosted a WMO Workshop on the Regional and Global Exchange of Weather Radar Data. The outcome of this workshop will be discussed under agenda item 4. The workshop was triggered by an action (G48) in the Implementation Plan for the Evolution of the Global Observing Systems (EGOS-IP). There are a number of actions in the EGOS-IP that require the attention of ET-SBO and these will be discussed under agenda item 6.2.5.

In July 2013 I attended, along with Dean Lockett from the WMO Secretariat, a Workshop on Observations Monitoring organised jointly by ECMWF and the EUMETNET EUCOS Management Team. Attendees from RA-IV were also at the meeting, via Webex. The thrust of the meeting was to address the need to refine the observations monitoring guidance undertaken by members on behalf of WMO. I, on behalf of ET-SBO, agreed to take ownership of various components of the observations monitoring updates as part of our work plan. This will be discussed in more detail under agenda item 6.2.

In light of the need for cost effective satellite based telecommunications infrastructure to support effective access to remotely deployed AWS, Karl Monnik has recommended ET-SBO representation at the forthcoming Argos Joint Tariff Agreement meeting in Paris in late September 2013.

3. Plans for the next three years

The WIGOS Implementation plan contains a wide range of activities across 10 key activity areas. Whilst we will not be expected to contribute expert advice to all areas we can expect to undertake a significant number of tasks that will assist in the operational implementation of WIGOS. The area will be discussed in agenda item 3 and form part of our breakout sessions.

The EGOS-IP contains a very large number of actions and it will not be possible for ET-SBO to support all of them. However by careful selection we can expect to help deliver a number of key tasks. A detailed review of the EGOS-IP will be undertaken as part of agenda item 6.2 and as part of the breakout sessions.

A number of outstanding tasks from the work plans of the previously existing expert teams, ET-AWS and ET-SBRSO, will need careful attention to ensure they are delivered. Most notable are the completion of the introduction of a high temporal resolution BUFR template for AWS data and the questionnaire on implementation status for Wind Profilers. These will be picked up under agenda item 6.1.

IPET-OSDE has a number of requests for work from ET-SBO including: a review of the observational requirements statements in the WMO database, OSCAR; a review of the Statement of Guidance for Aeronautical Meteorology and a review of the IGOS Cryosphere Theme. These will be picked up in agenda item 6.2.4.

A number of ET-SBO work plan items require co-ordination with other Expert Teams and Groups in other OPAGs of CBS and in other Commissions. The systematic engagement with these groups will require careful co-ordination.

We will hold a second meeting in late 2015 to review progress with the wide range of activities assigned to us. However this would be too long a gap between team wide engagement. It is therefore suggested that regular WebEx style meetings are held to ensure all ET members are kept up to date with the latest status of all the activities assigned to the Team.

4. Key objectives for ET-SBO-1

ET-SBO-1 will be a success if, by the end of the meeting we have:

Obtained an improved understanding of our role in the context of WIGOS

Developed a detailed work plan that turns our top level work plan into a set of achievable tasks for each of the 8 work plan areas.

We have agreed who will lead each task within the detailed work plan

We have agreed how we will work together over the next 3 years to deliver the work plan.

Arranged the first WebEx session to review progress

Enjoyed our time spent at the WMO HQ.