

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

CBS/OPAG-IOS/ICT-IOS8 / 2
(07.04.2014)

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

ITEM: 2

**IMPLEMENTATION-COORDINATION TEAM
ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEM
(ICT-IOS)**
Eighth Session

Original: ENGLISH

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 7 – 10 APRIL 2014

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

(Submitted by Jochen Dibbern (Germany), OPAG-IOS Chair, and Lars Peter Riishojgaard (Secretariat), former OPAG IOS Chair)

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document provides a report of the work of the OPAG IOS Chair since the seventh Session of the ICT-IOS, together with subsequent progress, and recommendations.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Meeting is invited to note the information contained in this document when discussing how it organises its work and formulates its recommendations.

Appendix: A. Terms of Reference of the ICT-IOS

DISCUSSION

1. Introduction

1.1 This document report on some of the major activities undertaken by OPAG-IOS since the seventh Session on ICT-IOS held from 18 to 22 June 2012. Since the activities of OPAG-IOS originate from guidance provided by CBS, the remainder of this document lists some of the most important decisions regarding OPAG-IOS made by CBS-XV in Jakarta, along with a status update on the activities undertaken by OPAG-IOS in response to them.

1.2 In January 2014 Lars Peter Riishojgaard became a member of the WMO Secretariat, the CBS Management Group decided to nominate Jochen Dibbern as the acting Chair of OPAG-IOS until confirmation by CBS Ext(14); he keeps his position as IPET-WIFI Chair. The new Co-chair of OPAG-IOS is Anthony Rea in addition to his function as Chair of ET-SUP.

2. From the 15th Session of the Commission for Basic Systems

2.1 At the 15th CBS Session in Jakarta, September 2012, a number of decisions regarding the work of OPAG-IOS were made; see the final report of CBS-XV, WMO-No. 1101. Especially worth noting were the following (original text from the Final Report in italics, OPAG-IOS response in regular font):

4.2.4 The Commission noted with satisfaction the actions taken by OPAG-IOS toward the implementation of WIGOS, in particular its engagement in the development of the WIGOS Framework Implementation Plan (WIP) that was approved by EC-64, through the participation of OPAG-IOS experts in the ICG-WIGOS and its Task Teams. The OPAG-IOS was restructured to contribute to the GOS related components of the different Key Activity Areas of the WIGOS Implementation Plan. The TORs of the two IPETs (OSDE and WIFI) all relate to WIGOS and the ETs have all WIGOS related tasks in their work plan. Experts from OPAG-IOS provided significant contributions to ICG-WIGOS activities.

4.2.6 The Commission also emphasized that the Implementation Plan for the Evolution of Global Observing Systems (EGOS-IP) will be an important contribution to the WIGOS Implementation [...]. The implementation monitoring of EGOS-IP is one of the major activities of IPET-OSDE. At its first meeting IPET-OSDE will review the progress of EGOS-IP actions and make proposals for facilitating the process.

4.2.7 The Commission noted with appreciation the involvement of OPAG-IOS in initiating the development of Architecture for Climate Monitoring from Space [...].

4.2.8 The Commission considered and endorsed specific actions to be undertaken by CBS as its contribution to the WIGOS Framework Implementation Plan (WIP), taking into account a decision of Cg-XVI of the leading role of CBS in the WIGOS implementation. The leading role of CBS is reflected through IPET-WIFI Sub Groups on Regulatory Material, Metadata and Quality Management; all working close with ICG-WIGOS.

4.2.11 *The Commission further recognized that there is a need for a holistic approach to unite the various databases (e.g. standards, observational user requirements, observing systems capabilities, and platform metadata) required for WIGOS implementation and operations into a WIGOS Operational Information Resource [...].* The WMO Space Programme, Secretariat staff and IPET-OSDE developed the WIR so that it gained enormous visibility and it should be promoted as the unique repository of observation requirements. The management of the RRR database (OSCAR) will be moved from the WMO Secretariat to MeteoSwiss, so that the continuous further development and support of the databases will be secured.

4.2.12 *The Commission acknowledged the value of the database of space- and surface-based capabilities as a key building block of the WIGOS Rolling Requirements Review (RRR) process, and the pivotal role of this database and associated analysis tool in support of global coordination of observing systems planning [...].* The RRR database is well developed for the space based component, but further efforts are needed to compile the data for the surface based observing systems and observing system capabilities.

4.2.16 *The Commission noted with concern that the regional working groups dealing with observing systems and respective implementation aspects are not active in some Regions [...].* Due to a revised structure of the Regional Associations there is no “Rapporteur” existing any more having an overview about the regional networks, their quality and reliability. OPAG-IOS has proposed to invite the chairs of the regional working groups for observing systems to the ICT-IOS and/ CBS Sessions. The interaction between Regions and OPAG-IOS on observing system development should be revised.

4.2.21 *The Commission recognized the efforts made by Members operating AMDAR programmes to increase the coverage of AMDAR observations over data sparse areas, such as the African continent, through AMDAR programme expansion and enhancement and encouraged its continuation in line with the associated actions in the Implementation Plan for the Evolution of the Global Observing Systems (EGOS-IP).* ET-ABO has developed a Strategic Implementation Plan to increase coverage of AMDAR observation in data sparse areas and in addition is developing Regional SIPs to improve the cooperation with Regional Associations.

4.2.26 *The Commission agreed on the necessity to organize the Workshop on the Regional and Global Exchange of Weather Radar Data with the goal to provide clear guidance to Members on the requirements for exchange of Doppler radial winds and reflectivity data [...].* The Workshop has been organized under the responsibility of ET-SBO. A number of recommendations have been developed during the workshop and CBS Management Group accepted that a new ET-SBO Task Team on Weather Radar Data Exchange is set up.

4.2.34 *The Commission recognized, that the gap analysis performed by ET-SAT had*

specifically highlighted gaps in early morning orbit sounding coverage, geostationary hyperspectral infrared sounding, the transition to operations of global precipitation measurements, Earth radiation budget, and limb sounding.

4.2.38 The Commission confirmed the need to monitor the progress of satellite data access and use by WMO Members and requested that CBS Members respond to the 2012 survey on this matter.

4.2.48 The Commission recognized that there are now various tools which are available to perform impact studies on a relatively cost-effective basis, and encouraged the operators of the observational programmes to propose specific questions on the impact of observations on NWP through the Inter-Programme Expert Team on Observing System Design and Evolution (IPET-OSDE) [...].IPET-OSDE organized a workshop on Observing System Design in November 2013. The outcome of the meeting was material to form the basis for a set of WIGOS “principles” for Observing System Network Design and also high-level guidance elaborating these principles. The document was presented at ICG-WIGOS and received positive and will be further elaborated at IPET-OSDE-1 and presented to ICT-IOS-8.

APPENDIX A

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION-COORDINATION TEAM ON
INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEM (ICT-IOS)**

(Approved by CBS-XV)

- (a) Contribute to the implementation of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), in response to guidance from ICG-WIGOS and in coordination with other relevant WMO Programmes and TCs; Provide relevant advice and support to the president of CBS;
- (b) Coordinate the work of the OPAG-IOS Expert Teams, Inter-Programme Expert Teams, Steering Groups and Rapporteurs and report on results to the Commission for Basic Systems;
- (c) Monitor, report and make recommendations regarding the utilization of the composite observing systems under WIGOS and their capability to meet the requirements of all relevant WMO and co-sponsored programmes;
- (d) Review deficiencies in coverage and performance of the existing GOS; make proposals to improve the availability of data to meet stated requirements; monitor and report on progress in the evolution of the GOS;
- (e) Coordinate and consolidate the development of standardized high quality observing practices and prepare related recommendations;
- (f) Assess the impacts of introducing new technology systems into the GOS on the status of regional observing networks, particularly those affecting the role of developing countries;
- (g) Consider and report on the issues of costing, joint funding and management of the GOS;
- (h) Contribute to strengthening the collaboration between CBS and the regional associations, by providing advice on possible solutions for newly identified requirements;
- (i) Coordinate the work of the Steering Group on Radio Frequency Coordination and report results, issues and provide recommendations regarding the work of this Group to the Commission for Basic Systems.