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

ITEM: 9.2

**INTER PROGRAMME EXPERT TEAM ON
OBSERVING SYSTEM DESIGN AND EVOLUTION
(IPET-OSDE)
*First Session***

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**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE EVOLUTION OF GLOBAL OBSERVING
SYSTEMS (EGOS-IP)**

REVIEW OF INTERACTIONS WITH THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS (NFPs)

(Submitted by Russell Stringer (Australia))

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

The document provides a brief summary of national reports for 2013 received from NFPs and elaborates some suggestions for future monitoring of progress.

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. In particular it is invited to consider the following suggestions:

Appendix: A. National Reports for 2013 on progress at the national level against the actions of the Implementation Plan for the Evolution of Global Observing Systems (EGOS-IP)

DISCUSSION

A summary of national reports for 2013 received from National Focal Points (NFPs) is included at **APPENDIX A**.

Arising from that summary, it is suggested that IPET-OSDE consider the following steps:

1. The template for reporting by NFPs may be further optimised to facilitate both NFP responses and the subsequent compilation, interpretation and analysis of responses;
2. The forty-five NFPs who have already reported at least once since 2007 may provide a good target group for increasing the level of reporting against the new EGOS-IP;
3. Further efforts need to be made to raise the awareness of and commitment to action on the EGOS-IP amongst stakeholders; and
4. An effective focal point for the EGOS-IP be identified within each of the "agents for implementation", helping to raise awareness, progress and reporting on Actions for which they are nominated as "lead".

APPENDIX A

NATIONAL REPORTS FOR 2013 ON PROGRESS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AGAINST THE ACTIONS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE EVOLUTION OF GLOBAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS (EGOS-IP)

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on this summary of national reports, it is suggested that IPET-OSDE consider the following steps:

5. The template for reporting by NFPs may be further optimised to facilitate both NFP responses and the subsequent compilation, interpretation and analysis of responses;
6. The forty-five NFPs who have already reported at least once since 2007 may provide a good target group for increasing the level of reporting against the new EGOS-IP;
7. Further efforts need to be made to raise the awareness of and commitment to action on the EGOS-IP amongst stakeholders;
8. An effective focal point for the EGOS-IP be identified within each of the "agents for implementation", helping to raise awareness, progress and reporting on Actions for which they are nominated as "lead".

1. INTRODUCTION

The "Implementation Plan for the Evolution of Global Observing Systems (EGOS-IP)" was developed by the CBS Open Programme Area Group on the Integrated Observing System (OPAG-IOS). It was published in 2013 as WIGOS Technical Report No. 2013-4¹. It provides a set of specific actions in support of the "Vision for the GOS in 2025"². The WMO CBS Inter-Programme Expert Team on Observing System Design and Evolution (IPET-OSDE) reviews progress against the plan.

This is the sixth year of reporting by National Focal Points (NFPs). No reports were collected for 2012 which was an interim period waiting for the new EGOS-IP to be finalised and endorsed. The current reports for 2013 represent the first reports against the new plan.

¹ <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/OSY/Publications/EGOS-IP-2025/EGOS-IP-2025-en.pdf>

² http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/OSY/WorkingStructure/documents/CBS-2009_Vision-GOS-2025.pdf

2. MEMBER ENGAGEMENT THROUGH NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS (NFPs)

Since 2007, Members of WMO have been invited to nominate a National Focal Point for reporting progress and plans related to EGOS-IP. In particular, NFPs are asked to report annually on progress at the national level against the Actions specified by the EGOS-IP. Reports received from NFPs provided valuable information to ET-EGOS (the predecessor of IPET-OSDE) and enabled assessments which were presented to meetings in 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012.

Currently, 82 countries have nominated an NFP. So far only 11 NFPs have provided reports for 2013. This is not surprising given that the reminder notice asking for reports was issued only recently, that NFPs have not had visibility of this task for an extended period since no reports were required for 2012, and that some reports from some NFPs are in preparation but not completed and submitted yet. Further efforts to raise the profile of EGOS-IP and to encourage reports from NFPs are needed before the call for 2014 reports goes out.

NFPs that have submitted reports so far are:

- Belarus
- Czech Republic
- Ethiopia
- France
- Hong Kong, China
- Japan
- Latvia
- Slovakia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Uzbekistan

3. REPORTS FOR 2013

3.1 template for NFP reports

A template was sent to NFPs consisting of the summary table of Actions (Annex II of the EGOS-IP), with an added column for entry of feedback from NFPs. It may be possible to further optimise the template (for use by NFPs and for subsequent compilation and interpretation of the reported information) by incorporating:

- Guidance for NFPs on which Actions are the highest priority for response;
- Additional structure (tick boxes) in addition to the free-form text.

3.2 Number and representativeness of reports

Eleven NFP reports were received for 2013, including one NFP who was reporting for the first time. This a decline compared to previous years (see Table 1). Such a level of reporting does not provide comprehensive statistics on progress across WMO global observing systems, however it does provide some helpful case studies and indicators of progress.

Year reported on:	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2013
Number of NFP reports received for that year:	13	23	20	20	27	11

Table 1: Number of NFP reports received each year.

Forty-five countries have reported at least once (see Table 2) and may be encouraged to resume reporting now that the new version of the EGOS-IP has been published.

Number of years	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number of NFPs that have reported for the indicated number of years	37	15	13	4	8	1	4

Table 2: distribution of reporting regularity.

3.3 Responses against the EGOS-IP Recommendations

Figure 1 shows the distribution of responses received against the EGOS-IP Actions, characterised using the following three labels:

- where the NFP report for 2013 indicated that national observing systems are currently involved in the activity and responding to the action, or have capacity and plans that will lead to progress on the action – the label is “responding to the action”;
- where the NFP report for 2011 indicated that national observing systems are currently not involved in the activity, and/or have no capacity or plans for evolution as indicated in the action – the label is “not responding to action”; and
- where the NFP report for 2011 made no reference to the action – the label is “no comment”.

Table 3 summarises the responses. It shows that Member countries have the greatest level of involvement in the cross-cutting actions (which affect all countries), followed by ground-based observing system actions (many of which affect all countries, but some of which have a more specialised involvement by only some countries), followed by space-based observing system actions (affecting, for example, European countries working together through EUMETSAT and ESA), and then least of all is involvement in space weather actions.

<i>Distribution of NFP reports for 2013</i>	In total	C (13 actions)	G (59 actions)	S (35 actions)	W (8 actions)
responding to the Action	32%	49%	35%	26%	13%
not responding to Action	2%	1%	4%	0%	0%
No comment	66%	50%	61%	74%	88%

Table 3: Distribution of NFP responses in total and for each of the categories of Actions (C = cross-cutting, G = ground-based, S = space-based, W = space weather).

The greatest number of “responding to the Action” reports were made about:

- G1 (ensure traceability of observations); and
- G45 (use of dual polarisation radar);

Followed by:

- C1 (Meet growing user requirements for climate observations);
- C7 (ensure continuity of obs systems, data records, using change management); and
- C10 (monitor the flow of essential data, ensure feedback to obs networks).

The above actions remain challenging, with a lot of progress still to be made in many respects. It is encouraging then that Members are recognising the importance of these topics and giving attention to them.

There were very few “not responding to the Action” reports. Those appearing in more than one response were:

- G3 (exchange of sub-hourly data);

One response noted that such data is not freely exchanged since it remains an important source of revenue.

- G5 (surface-based obs to support validation of space-based obs);
- G7 (sustain and expand radiosonde stations in data sparse areas);

One response indicated the radiosonde frequency is once every two days, another response noted a silent station.

- G8 (reconsider radiosonde network design, considering AMDAR, wind profilers, etc); and
- G10 (optimize radiosonde network to be provide more uniform coverage).

distribution of responses 2013

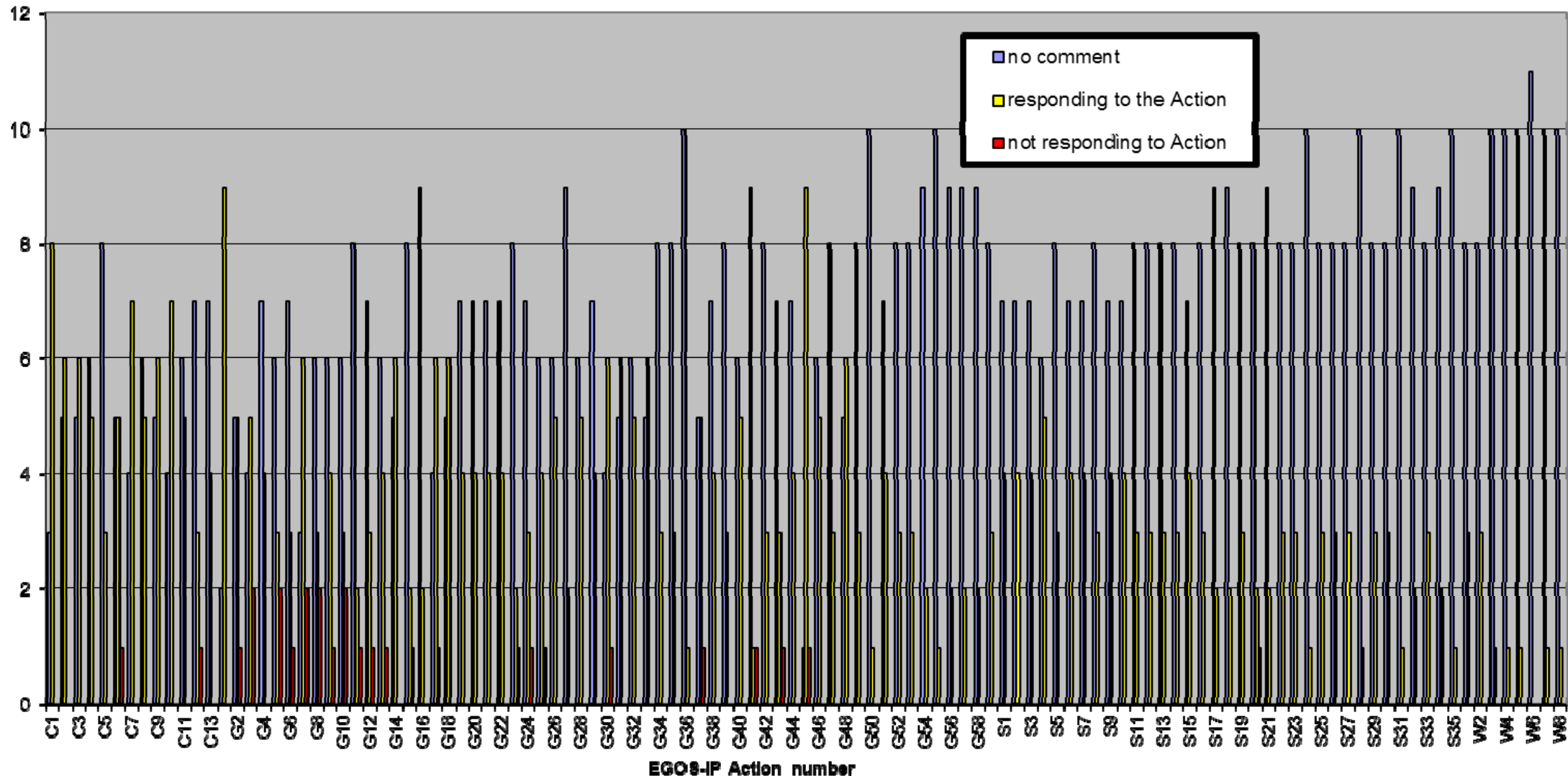


Figure 1: Distribution of responses against EGOS-IP Actions.

4. ISSUES

There is a need to raise the awareness of EGOS-IP amongst stakeholders. This is needed both to:

- ensure the agents for implementation are aware of their role and prompted to carry out the relevant actions, and
- encourage information sharing and reporting of progress.

In theory, Member countries were exposed to the EGOS-IP through CBS (in 2012) where it was adopted as a recommendation to EC, then at EC (in 2013) where it was approved. Also, the WIGOS framework Implementation Plan (WIP)³ draws attention to the EGOS-IP in the context of the design, planning and evolution of global observing systems. Similarly, the Regional WIPs also provide a vehicle for raising the profile of the EGOS-IP.

It may be noted that relatively few of the Actions are led by Member countries (through their NMS / NMHS and the like). Those actions are: C3, C4, C5, C6, C8, C13, G26 and G28. The EGOS-IP nominates other agents to lead the other 107 Actions. Some of those agents are:

- WMO Technical Commissions: CBS, CIMO, CAS, JCOMM, CHy
- WMO Regional Associations: RA-1, RA-2, RA-3, RA-4, RA-5, RA-6
- WMO Programmes (and co-sponsored): Space Programme, WIS, GCOS, GTOS
- NWP Centres (ECMWF,?)
- CGMS
- Others.....

It would be highly desirable to have an effective focal point within each of the agents for implementation, having a role similar to the NFP in each country.

For example, Action G11 "Improve quality, availability and sustainability of GUAN, ensuring maintenance of the existing network, and data quality" is under the lead of CBS and S12 " All meteorological geostationary satellites should be equipped with a lightning imager able to detect cloud-to-cloud and cloud-to-ground strokes" is under the lead of CGMS.

The NFPs can provide comments on national contributions to these Actions, but it is a focal point within CBS and CGMS respectively who could most authoritatively report overall progress against the Action.

³ <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/documents.html>