

**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

---

CBS/OPAG-IOS/IPET-OSDE1 / Doc. 9.4.2  
(11.03.2014)

---

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

ITEM: 9.4.2

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

Original: ENGLISH

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 31 MARCH – 3 APRIL 2014

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

**PROPOSALS FOR FACILITATING PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AND FOR  
SUPPORTING NFPS**

*(Submitted by John Eyre (United Kingdom))*

---

**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT**

The document provides an assessment of problems in making effective progress on EGOS-IP Actions and proposes a new mechanism for facilitating progress on these Actions and for supporting National Focal Points.

---

**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.

---

## DISCUSSION

1. An important task for ET-EGOS was to monitor progress against the Actions in the old EGOS-IP, a task that it performed very effectively. In fact this monitoring and the issues so identified formed an important part of the input to the new EGOS-IP.
2. It is therefore anticipated that an important task for IPET-OSDE will be to monitor progress against the Actions in the new EGOS-IP – to record this progress (or lack of it), to note problems and issues as they arise, and to revise or supplement the Actions as necessary. This task is anticipated in the Work Plan of IPET-OSDE and is seen as an important contribution to WIGOS.
3. EGOS-IP, responding to the Vision for Global Observing Systems in 2025, represents a major achievement under the umbrella of WIGOS. Whilst monitoring progress against this Plan is important and necessary, in the opinion of the author it is **not enough**; it should be the role of IPET-OSDE, with the support of OPAG-IOS and WIGOS as a whole, not only to monitor progress but actively to promote it. Monitoring is essentially passive, whereas the EGOS-IP requires implementation action by many agents.
4. Experience with the old EGOS-IP (responding to the old Vision for the GOS in 2015) is that some agents are very effective and that they supervise action that is fully consistent with the Implementation Plan. This has included progress on:
  - space-based observations, via the WMO Space Programme working directly with CGMS and space agencies),
  - ocean observations, via JCOMM, and
  - aircraft observations, via the AMDAR Programme.
5. However progress was relatively slow in areas dependent on action by WMO Members and Regions. A network of National Focal Points (NFPs) was established to facilitate reporting by Members against the Actions in EGOS-IP. This network could also be used to facilitate the necessary activity, but it needs support. A mechanism to do this should be developed, supported by adequate resources.
6. It is interesting at this point to recall the experience of the African Monsoon experiment (AMMA). During the AMMA project, the observation network in west Africa was considerably enhanced and then maintained at a high level of effectiveness throughout the campaign – see Doc.6.4. Problems with the observations network were often quickly detected and fixed, through effective interaction both between the project participants and with experts in North America and Europe. This included some input of technical resources but usually of relatively low value. This model – of central coordination, together with effective technical support – could be considered as a model for a network to support NFPs in their work on EGOS-IP Actions.
7. There should be a strong incentive for the NMSs of developed countries to support such a network; for a relatively modest investment of resources (mainly the time of experienced observation specialists), it should be possible to enhance greatly the making and delivery of observations, to the benefit of the NMSs making the observations, for their internal applications, and to the benefit of other NMSs for applications that are regional or global in nature.

8. **It is therefore proposed** that we develop, within the framework of WIGOS, a network with the following components:

- NFPs, who monitor progress against EGOS-IP Actions and identify obstacles to progress,
- a central coordinator who maintains contact with NFPs, performs a preliminary analysis of the problems they report and puts the NFPs in touch with experts who should be able to assist them,
- a small number of experts (typically identified by NMSs in developed countries), each of whom devotes a small fraction of his/her time to providing advice and support to NFPs.

Although this network is proposed initially and primarily as a mechanism to facilitate progress on EGOS-IP Actions, it is probably that it could also facilitate other WIGOS initiatives.

9. IPET-OSDE is invited to discuss this outline proposal, to develop it further and to make recommendations to ICT-IOS and hence to CBS along these lines. For example, the IPET-OSDE could propose to ICT-IOS the development of a Recommendation to be submitted to CBS-XVI for adoption. The Recommendation could include the Terms of Reference of (i) the NFPs, (ii) the central coordinator, and (iii) the experts in order to formalize their roles, and provide them with sufficient legitimacy for action.

---