WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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REGIONAL ASSOCIATION II
(ASIA)

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WORKING GROUP ON PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WWW IN REGION II
Fifth Session

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REGIONAL ASPECTS OF THE WWW COMPONENTS, PWS PROGRAMME AND SUPPORT FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING REPORTS BY THE CO-ORDINATOR AND THE RAPORTEURS

Operational Information Service (OIS)

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

Summary and Purpose of the Document

The document contains information about the WWW Operational Information Services.

ACTION PROPOSED

The meeting is invited to consider the information provided and to develop recommendations to improve the exchange of operational information, in particular between RA II Members.

Operational Information Service

1. The objective of the Operational Information System (OIS) is to collect from, and distribute to, WMO Members and WWW centres detailed and up-to-date information on facilities, services and products made available in the day-to-day operation of the WWW. An important goal is to make available the updated information on the WMO server and to provide interactive on-line access services.

2. The WMO Secretariat posts versions of Volumes A, C1, C2 and D of *Weather Reporting* (WMO-No. 9) as well as the *International List of Selected, Supplementary and Auxiliary Ships* (WMO-No. 47) on the WMO server at http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ois/ois-home.htm. That OIS home page also includes links to other operational information such as the catalogue of radiosondes, the lists of RBSN and RBCN stations, the routeing catalogues of bulletins, monitoring reports, and information on additional data and products as defined in Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) — WMO policy and practice for the exchange of meteorological and related data and products including guidelines on relationships in commercial meteorological activities.

3. The Secretariat dispatches the WMO Publication No. 9 on CD-ROM once a year. The Operational Newsletter of the WWW and Marine Meteorological Services is distributed only via electronic mail every month.

4. The Information on the Data Processing and Forecast Systems is available on a yearly basis in the WWW Technical Progress Report on the GDPS on the WMO server. Further information on the processed information exchanged on the GTS is available in Volume C1 - Catalogue of Meteorological Bulletins. Fourteenth Congress agreed to delete Volume B of Publication No. 9 from the list of WMO Mandatory Publications.

5. The overall efficiency of the Operational Information Service (OIS) is dependent on the prompt notifications of changes and updated information from NMHSs. Noting that there are shortcomings as regards the completeness and updating of the operational information, the NMHSs are invited to regularly review the contents of the operational information and to update it as necessary. Best practices for the management of the WWW Operational Information are compiled in http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ois/best_practices_OI.doc.

Volume A - Observing Stations

6. The revised Volume A – Observing Stations, underwent Acceptance Testing in June 2006. Several shortcomings were identified, and were rectified before the next phase of development is started. The second stage in development will involve migration of operational data from the current version of Volume A to the new Oracle database version of Volume A. During this stage some 11,000 historical stations will be added, mainly for climate applications. CBS-ext-(06) agreed to develop procedures and tools to facilitate and improve the updating of Volume A;

7. The results of the October 2006 Annual Global Monitoring show stations for which reports were received although not mentioned as prepared in Volume A (see ftp://www.wmo.int/GTS_monitoring/AGM/From_WMO/200610/AGM2006.htm). The meeting may wish to recommend to invite the Members operating those stations to sent to the Secretariat the relevant updates to Volume A.

Volume C1 - Catalogue of meteorological bulletins

8. With respect to updating Volume C1 - Catalogue of meteorological bulletins, 14 MTN centres have taken the necessary action to conform to the required format in producing the semi-annual

updates, of which 8 MTN centres provided advanced notification of changes. The Joint implementation-coordination meeting on the MTN and meeting of the CBS Expert Team on GTS-WIS Operations and implementation (Geneva, May 2006) (ICM-MTN/ET-OI (2006)) stressed that the value of the Catalogue would greatly improve if MTN centres would provide the Secretariat with advance notifications of changes. The meeting may wish to recommend to urge RTHs Jeddah and New Delhi to participate in providing their input. The Secretariat has recently upgraded to MS Windows XP the Access application that is offered to the MTN centres to maintain their parts of Volume C1.

Routeing catalogues

9. Each RTH should prepare a routeing catalogue accessible by other GTS centres, in particular by its associated NMCs. The routeing directory should be updated monthly if possible, but not less than every three months. There are still MTN centres, including two centres in Region II (Jeddah and Tokyo), which have not made their routeing catalogue accessible during the last two years. The frequency of updating the routeing catalogues is improving, but is insufficient for some centres. The ICM-MTN/ET-OI (2006) invited all RTHs to make their routeing catalogues accessible and in the format according to the Manual on the GTS, Volume I, Part II, Paragraph 2.10.3, preferably directly from their web site.

Comparisons between Volume C1, routeing catalogues and SMM monitoring results

10. Every three months together with the analysis of the SMM statistics, the Secretariat prepares comparisons between the abbreviated headings in Volume C1, in the RTH routeing catalogues and in the SMM monitoring results and posts them on the WMO server:(see http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ois/Operational_Information/Comparisons/AHLComparisons.html).

11. These comparisons include tables showing for each station included in the Regional Basic Synoptic Network (RBSN) or in the Regional Basic Climatological Network (RBCN):

- The abbreviated heading of bulletin(s) in which report(s) from the station were received during an SMM exercise;
- The abbreviated heading of bulletin(s) in which report(s) from the station should be compiled in accordance with Volume C1.

12. The ICM-MTN/ET-OI (2006) strongly encouraged all RTHs to review the comparisons, and to update their part of the catalogue and their routeing catalogue as necessary.

13. The ICM-MTN/ET-OI (2006) reviewed the differences in the availability of reports at MTN centres and noted with appreciation that the WMO Secretariat has contributed considerable amount of effort in producing the output data and figures regularly for the AGM and SMM exercises. The ICM-MTN/ET-OI (2006) recommended that in order to coordinate the efforts of RTH centres and respond to the results of the analyses an ad-hoc group be formed to deal with the following issues:

- The discrepancies due to the information in Publication No. 9: Volume C1 – Catalogue of Meteorological Bulletins not being updated
- The discrepancies due to the information in the Routeing Catalogue not being updated
- The discrepancies in data reception due to errors in Publication No. 9: Volume A, or the RBSN and RBCN not being updated
- Contribute to resolving problems as identified in the RTH centres and their associated NMCs
- Develop additional tools to capture the information from the data tables provided in the AGM analysis and SMM pre-analysis

The ad-hoc group consists of RTH Focal Points from Algeria, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, China, Cairo, and Nairobi.

Volume C2 – Transmission programmes

14. Volume C2 contains the transmission programmes of satellite distribution systems, RTT and radio-facsimile broadcasts of the GTS (see http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ois/Operational_Information/VolumeC2/VolC2.html). In order to avoid unnecessary duplication of information, in particular with Volume D and routeing catalogues of RTHs, CBS-EXT.(02) agreed that Volume C2 should contain the identification and the technical specifications of each data distribution system and a summary of the transmission programmes. The information contained in Volume C2 is incomplete since:

- Only three countries provided information to be included in Volume C2 in the new format agreed by CBS.
- Many entries appear obsolete or incomplete. Information on satellite distribution systems is particularly insufficient

The ICM-MTN/ET-OI (2006) recommended to invite the RTH focal points to review the contents of Volume C2 in coordination with their associated NMCs and to send amendments to the WMO Secretariat as required.

Presentation of the operational information in XML

15. CBS-XII noted that the OIS could improve its services by making data available in a more universal form, such as XML, for direct use by automated centres. The Secretariat exports Volume C1 in the form of an .XML file and an .XSD file from a Microsoft Access database. These files are available on the WMO server: (ftp://ftp.wmo.int/wmo-ddbs/OperationalInfo/VolumeC1/From_WMO/VolumeC1/VolC1.xml). CBS-Ext.(06) agreed to extend the presentation of the operational information in XML.

Development of an interactive on-line access to the OIS

16. Fifteenth Congress reaffirmed that an important goal was to facilitate the access to the information through interactive on-line access services. A project for the interactive on-line access to Volume C1 is being developed by the Secretariat. A first phase of the project was implemented and the relevant application is available from http://192.91.247.60/wwwois/index.html. CBS-Ext.(06) agreed to extend the interactive on-line access to Volume C1 to other parts of the OIS.