**RA II Workshop on WIGOS, Beijing, China, 6-9 November 2018**

*Concept Note*

**Background**

In 2015, the 17th World Meteorological Congress decided that additional emphasis should be given to regional and national activities in the WIGOS Pre-Operational Phase (2016-2019). In addition the following five priority areas were identified:

* 1. WIGOS Regulatory Material, supplemented with necessary guidance material
  2. WIGOS Information Resource, including the Observing Systems Capabilities analysis and Review tool (OSCAR), especially OSCAR/Surface
  3. WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System (WDQMS)
  4. Regional Structure; *Regional WIGOS Centres*
  5. National WIGOS Implementation, coordination and governance mechanisms

Following this decision, a series of regional WIGOS Workshop have been held in support of the activities listed above, with a particular focus on item b, c and d. During the current financial period, the initial data availability results obtained from the WDQMS have shown poor compliance with WMO regulatory material and CBS recommendations in many areas. WMO is therefore launching the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) initiative aimed at ensuring an adequate flow of surface-based observations to the Global NWP Systems that provide the backbone for weather prediction and climate analysis activities of all WMO Members. The new provisions for GBON will be included in the next edition of the Manual on WIGOS, to be submitted to Congress-18 (2019) for approval.

Past WIGOS events in Region II have involved the ASEAN members in Southeast Asia (October 2015), Members in the Gulf region (November 2016), Members in Central Asia (October 2017), and Members in East and South Asia (March 2018). Concerning RA-II implementation of Regional WIGOS Centres, China and Japan have already submitted formal proposals to the President of the Region offering to host RWCs in pilot mode, while at the Region II Management Group Meeting in Geneva in June 2018, Saudi Arabia and India both indicated their interest in also doing so.

**RA II Workshop**

In order to prepare for the Congress-18 discussions of the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON), to further strengthen and accelerate the implementation of WIGOS in Region II, and to highlight the capabilities of China to operate its proposed Regional WIGOS Center pilot, CMA and WMO will hold a three-day *Workshop on WIGOS in RA-II and the CMA Regional WIGOS Center Pilot*, proposed for 6-9 November 2018*.*

*Purpose and scope*

The purpose of the Workshop is three-fold: (i) to inform the participants about the current status of key WIGOS initiatives and the implications for Members, primarily the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) initiative, the OSCAR databases and the WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System; (ii) to gather information and seek input from the participants regarding the status of national WIGOS implementation; and (iii) to highlight the Regional WIGOS Center capabilities offered by CMA and help ensure good coordination with other existing and proposed RWC pilots in the Region.

*Working language*

The Workshop will be conducted in English.

*Participants*

National WIGOS Focal Points or other high-level NMHS representatives responsible for observing systems (e.g. Heads of Observation Departments) from all RA-II Members will be invited. In order to ensure coordination of the various RWC efforts in the Region, representatives from India, Japan and Saudi Arabia are particularly encouraged to attend the meeting.

Other participants:

* President of RA-II
* Chair of the RA II Expert Group on WIGOS;
* Representative of the RA-VI RWC Pilot operated under EUMETNET funding;
* Representative of the proposed RA-V RWC pilot;
* WMO Secretariat representatives from Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the WIGOS Project Office.

*Workshop structure (tentative, detailed program to be developed later)*:

* Opening, introduction to WIGOS, including technical systems (1/2 day).
* Presentations from national participants (1 1/2 day).
* Technical visit and CMA presentations (1/2 day).
* RWC presentations by WMO, CMA, RA-V and VI representatives, staff (1/2 day).
* Final discussion round (RWC activities in RA-II; links between RWCs and individual Members, way forward for WIGOS implementation in RA-II; 1/2 day).
* Side meetings on RWC issues (closed; by invitation only; 1/2 day).