# regional instrument centres

The Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-17), 2015,took decisions relevant to Regional Instrument Centres.

Congress noted that all regional associations have put strong focus on the strengthening of Regional Instrument Centres (RICs), including increasing their support to Members of the Region, in their Regional WIGOS Implementation Plans (R-WIPs). Congress also noted that further improvement/modernization had taken place in some RICs. Congress welcomed the increased awareness of Members and their interest in the services that the RICs can provide through ensuring the traceability of reference standards used by Members and through capacity development and training related to instrument calibration and maintenance of instruments. Congress urged Members hosting RICs to continue their efforts to maintain and improve their capabilities, including pursuing accreditation under ISO 17025, and encouraged them to proactively reach out to the Members of their Region, thus supporting them in achieving the goals listed in the R-WIPs. Congress requested regional associations to monitor regional needs for RIC services, to ensure their RICs are regularly evaluated and to actively cooperate with CIMO and JCOMM in conducting training to meet the needs of their Members.

Congress welcomed the guidance material that had been developed to support RICs and Members’ calibration laboratories to estimate calibration uncertainties and the plan to develop a training workshop on this matter. Congress noted the strong interest shown by Members for training courses on instrument calibration and maintenance that had been held recently. Congress encouraged Members hosting Regional Training Centres and RICs to organize additional such courses to meet the demand of Members, and to improve traceability of observations to the International System of Units (SI) and their quality.

**Congress requested** the regional associations:

(1) To continue providing proactive support for regional aspects of the Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme, especially as regards capacity development;

(2) To assess, together with CIMO a relevant national or international agency, at least every five years, existing RICs to verify their capabilities and performance;

(3) To regularly review the requirements of their Members for services to be provided by RICs;

(5) To inform CIMO of their particular requirements and priorities related to the development of guidance material and training needs pertaining to instruments and methods of observation and to collaborate with CIMO in organizing such events;

***RICs websites***

The capabilities and contact details of several RICs have been posted on the WMO websites to facilitate communication between RICs and Members. A dedicated page was made for each RIC which provided the needed information and can be found on: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/IMOP/instrument-reg-centres.html>

There is a need to identify actions needed to follow-up on the decisions of Cg-17, in particular, with respect to:

* Monitoring regional needs for RIC services,
* Ensuring their RICs are regularly evaluated,
* Organizing inter-laboratory comparison between RICs of the Region,
* Considering organizing training courses on instrument calibration and maintenance for Members of the Region,
* Identifying particular requirements and priorities related to the development of guidance material and training needs pertaining to instruments and methods of observation in the Region, and communicate them to CIMO.

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