**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

**WMO RA II WORKSHOP ON WIGOS**

 **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

**2 – 3 November 2016**

**FINAL REPORT**

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**Executive Summary**

The WMO RA II WIGOS Workshop on strengthening the observing capabilities of West Asia for better climate & weather services was held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, 2 - 3 November 2016. Dr Abdullah Ahmed Al Mandoos, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates with WMO, opened the Workshop.

There were three main purposes of the Workshop: (a) to brief participants about the activities planned for the WIGOS Pre-operational Phase; (b) to advise them on WIGOS implementation at the regional and national levels; and (c) to consider a way forward in the regional planning efforts for WIGOS, specifically for establishing Regional WIGOS Centres in pilot mode in RA II.

The Workshop Programme is reproduced in [Appendix II](#App_II) and the presentations are available at the WIGOS web site: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WIGOS-WIS/meetings/RA-II_EG-WIGOS_WIGOS-wksp_Abu-Dhabi_Nov2016/RA-II_WIGOS_workshop_Abu-Dhabi_Nov2016.html>.

 Based on the presentations delivered by the invited speakers and follow-up discussions, the participants formulated their recommendations that are summarized in [Appendix III](#App_III).

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**General summary**

1. **WORKSHOP OPENING AND KEYNOTE SPEECH**
	1. The WMO RA II WIGOS Workshop on strengthening the observing capabilities of West Asia for better climate & weather services was held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, 2 - 3 November 2016. Dr Abdullah Ahmed Al Mandoos, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates with WMO, opened the Workshop.
	2. He underlined the importance of observations for weather and climate services. He also mentioned that WIGOS is needed to address standardization in observations as well partnerships and data sharing. He welcomed the participants to the Workshop, and extended his wishes for a successful meeting.
	3. Dr. I. Zahumensky, WIGOS Project Office, welcomed the participants on behalf of P. Taalas, Secretary-General of WMO, and Dr. L. P. Riishojgaard, WIGOS Project Manager.
	4. In his opening speech, he mentioned the specific regional and subregional context of the Workshop.
	5. He further listed three main purposes of the Workshop: (a) to brief participants about the activities planned for the WIGOS Pre-operational Phase; (b) to advise them on WIGOS implementation at the regional and national levels; and (c) to consider a way forward in the regional planning efforts for WIGOS, specifically for establishing Regional WIGOS Centres in pilot mode.
	6. Finally Dr. Zahumensky extended his gratitude to Dr. Mandoos and his staff at the National Center of Meteorology and Seismology (NCMS) for hosting the meeting and for all their help with the logistics.
	7. Dr Ayman Salem Ghulam, PR of Saudi Arabia with WMO, delivered a keynote speech on Status and Prospective of the WIGOS implementation in RA II.
	8. The importance of WIGOS at all three levels, global, regional and national, was stressed. In this regard, close and enhanced collaboration with partners will be more and more needed to successfully achieve WIGOS implementation.
2. **WIGOS PRE-OPERATIONAL PHASE (WPP) 2016-2019**
	1. The Secretariat delivered the comprehensive presentations on: i) Recommendations from Cg-17 and EC-68; ii) OSCAR/Surface; iii) Concept of the Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON); iv) WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System; and v) WIGOS regulatory and guidance material.
	2. The brief discussion was focused on the collaboration with partners, as well as some aspects of OSCAR/Surface.
3. **WIGOS in RA II**
	1. In a brief discussion, some experiences of West Asia Members with WIGOS Implementation were shared amongst the participants. A short presentation on observing capabilities of the NCMS was made.
	2. The Secretariat delivered the presentation “Protection of Radio frequencies in West Asia” and on the Jakarta Declaration “Satellite Data Project” and “Radar Data Project”.
	3. Dr Chen, the chair of RA II Expert Group on WIGOS (EG-WIGOS) presented the outcomes from the first session of EG-WIGOS (31 Oct-1 Nov 2016, Abu Dhabi, UAE).
4. **REGIONAL WIGOS CENTRES**
	1. A detailed presentation on the RWCs concept endorsed by EC-68 was delivered by the Secretariat. There was a very interesting discussion about this subject, including the consideration on how WIS GISC facilities could be used in support of WIGOS and what would be the process of establishing such a RWC in this region, amongst others. The Secretariat promised to provide the participants with related technical guidance.
5. **SESSION 4: NATIONAL WIGOS IMPLEMENTATION**
	1. A series of presentations was delivered under this section, namely: “National Observing Strategy and National WIGOS Implementation Plans” by the Secretariat; “Progresses in the implementation of a national integrated observing network” by Dr. Chen;
	2. Saudi Arabia delivered a presentation on the integration of meteorological and hydrological observations; the operational centre for radar data processing (as a joint effort with the UAE) was presented as well; the plan is to develop a similar centre for AWS data for the Gulf Countries.
	3. The role of NMHS in the implementation of WIGOS, the importance of WIGOS for the NMHSs, the status of the nomination of national WIGOS and OSCAR/Surface focal points and their terms of references, as well as national partnerships opportunities, were discussed.
	4. Much of the follow-up discussion was focused on the OSCAR/Surface, and matters related to national focal points, such as competencies, training, workload, etc. A training workshop on OSCAR/Surface was requested to be delivered to the West Asia.
	5. Several participants indicated an urgent need for assistance and guidance from the Secretariat on how to start with the implementation of WIGOS at the national level, and how to develop a National WIGOS Implementation Plan (N-WIP); examples of N-WIP were requested. In this regard, Saudi Arabia asked more information about how to organize a national/sub-regional meeting dedicated to national WIGOS planning, possibly also related to establishing a RWC in this sub-region.
6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**
	1. In the general discussion, the workshop recommendations were finalized and they are listed in [Appendix III](#App_III).
7. **CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP**
	1. On behalf of the Permanent Representative of the UAE with WMO, Mr. Mohamed Al Ebri, closed the Workshop. He thanked all the participants for their commitment and contributions throughout the workshop and also thanked the WMO Secretariat for their continued support.
	2. The workshop closed on Thursday, 3 November 2016, at 16:00 hours.

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**Appendix I**

**List of Participants**

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**Appendix II**

**WIGOS Workshop for West Asia**

**Strengthening the observing capabilities of West Asia for better climate & weather services**

**Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (2 – 3 November 2016)**

**Final Programme [[1]](#footnote-1)**

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| **Wednesday, 2 November** |
| 08:30 – 09:00 | ***Registration*** |
| **Opening** (Chair: Dr Abdullah Ahmed Al Mandoos) | Speaker |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | Welcome remarks, Director-General of the National Centre for Meteorology & Seismology, Permanent Representative of United Arab Emirates | Dr Abdullah Ahmed Al Mandoos |
| 09:15 – 09:30 | Statement by the Representative of WMO Secretary-General | Dr Igor Zahumensky |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | **Keynote speech**: Status and Prospective of the WIGOS implementation in RA II | Dr Ayman Salem Ghulam |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | *Coffee/Tea Break* |
| **WIGOS Pre-operational Phase (2016-2019)** (Chair: Dr Abdullah Al Mandoos) | Speaker |
| 10:30 – 10:50 | Recommendations from Cg-17 and EC-68 | Dr Igor Zahumensky |
| 10:50 – 11:20 | OSCAR/Surface | Mr Luis Filipe Nunes |
| 11:20 – 11:50 | Concept of Regional Basic Observing Network | Dr Igor Zahumensky |
| 11:50 – 12:10 | WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System | Mr Luis Filipe Nunes |
| 12:10 – 12:30 | WIGOS Regulatory and Guidance material | Dr Igor Zahumensky |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | *Lunch Break* |
| **WIGOS in RA II** (Chair: Mr Abdulla Al-Mannai) | Speaker |
|  | Experiences of West Asia Members with WIGOS Implementation |  |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | United Arab Emirates | Dr Abdullah A. Al Mandoos |
| 14:30 – 15:30 | Other Members and discussion | *Volunteers* |
| 15:30 – 15:50 | *Coffee/Tea Break* |
| 15:50 – 16:10 | Protection of Radio frequencies in West Asia | Mr David Thomas *(by videoconference)* |
| 16:10 – 16:30 | The Jakarta Declaration: The “Satellite Data Project” and the “Radar Data Project” | Mr Luis Filipe Nunes |
| 10:50 – 11:20 | Outcomes from the RA II EG-WIGOS session | Mr Yongqing Chen |
| **Thursday, 3 November** |
| **Regional WIGOS Centres** (Chair: Mr Abdulla Al-Mannai) | Speaker |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Concept of Regional WIGOS Centres  | Dr Igor Zahumensky |
| 09:30 – 10:40 | Regional WIGOS Centres in West Asia – Discussion  | All |
| 10:40 – 11:00 | *Coffee/Tea Break* |
| **National WIGOS Implementation** (Chair: Dr Abdullah A. Al Mandoos) | Speaker |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | National Observing Strategy and National WIGOS Implementation Plans | Dr Igor Zahumensky  |
| 11:20 – 11:40 | Progresses in the implementation of a national integrated observing network | *China* |
| 11:40 – 12:00 | Role of NMHS in implementation of WIGOS | *Saudi Arabia* |
| 12:00 – 12:20 | Importance of WIGOS for the NMHSs | *Qatar* |
| 12:20 – 12:30 | National WIGOS and OSCAR/Surface Focal Points in West Asia  | Dr Igor Zahumensky |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | *Lunch Break* |
| 14:00 – 14:40 | WIGOS relevant national partnerships opportunities and arrangements - Examples | *United Arab Emirates, Volunteers* |
| **Recommendations to RA II MG** (Chair: Mr Abdulla Al-Mannai) | Speaker |
| 14:40 – 15:30 | Recommendations | All |
| 15:30 – 15:50 | *Coffee/Tea Break* |
| 15:50 – 16:50 | Recommendations | All |
| **Closure** (Chair: Dr Abdullah A. Al Mandoos) | Speaker |
| 16:50 – 17:00 | Closing remarks | Dr Igor ZahumenskyDr Abdullah A. Al Mandoos |

**Appendix III**

**Recommendations to RA II Management Group**

1. To support the urgent delivery of training on OSCAR/Surface for NFPs of West Asia

2. To support the development of the WDQMS and related training in West Asia

3. To support the development of a Regional WIGOS Centre in pilot mode for West Asia

4. To consider the establishment of specific thematic RWCs for sub-regions of RA II, e.g. for Weather Radar data processing, AMDAR data processing

5. To take into account the existing infrastructures of GISCs as a basis for sub-regional RWC – putting WIS and WIGOS working close together

6. To support further promotion and communications on benefits of WIGOS to Members of West Asia

7. To urge Members of West Asia to support the protection of Radio-Frequencies used for observing systems, by taking appropriate actions at national level

8. To urge Members of West Asia to nominate the national WIGOS FPs as well as the OSCAR/Surface NFPs, if not done yet

9. To support the sharing of national documentation on WIGOS, such as National Implementation Plans from the Members of RA II

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1. See <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WIGOS-WIS/meetings/RA-II_EG-WIGOS_WIGOS-wksp_Abu-Dhabi_Nov2016/RA-II_WIGOS_workshop_Abu-Dhabi_Nov2016.html> for the presentations and the references [↑](#footnote-ref-1)