



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Our ref.: OBS/WIS/WIS Centre

GENEVA, 1 December 2009

Subject: Guidelines for the Demonstration of WIS Centre Capabilities

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter follows on the letter sent to all WMO Members in October 2008, Subject: "Identification of WMO Information System (WIS) Centres". So far, 13 WIS Global Information System Centres (GISCs) and about 110 Data Collection or Production Centres (DCPCs) have been proposed to the Inter-commission Coordination Group on WIS (ICG-WIS). We are pleased at this very positive response, and ICG-WIS certainly welcomes proposals for additional WIS Centres at any time.

Here, we are providing guidelines for the demonstration of GISC and DCPC capabilities. WMO Members and partner organizations that wish to have their potential WIS Centres designated at the next WMO Congress (Cg-XVI) should apply the guidelines by March 2010 and arrange for capability demonstrations as described therein. There will be an annual process thereafter to perform subsequent demonstrations of GISC and DCPC capabilities.

The WMO Congress and the WMO Executive Council (EC) have the authority to designate Centres which are the major components of WIS. According to the procedure endorsed by Congress (Cg-XV), Congress or EC will receive recommendations concerning WIS GISCs and DCPCs.

When appropriate, candidate GISCs and DCPCs will be invited to demonstrate to the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) their ability to provide WIS services according to the required functions and responsibilities, and with the necessary reliability and quality. This may include real-time data and product collection and dissemination, as well as non-real-time services for requests. This should also include providing relevant up-to-date metadata catalogues, and appropriate coordination with GISCs. Furthermore, the adherence to WIS standards and relevant data exchange policies and access rights must be granted. GISCs also need to show the capability to store the complete set of WIS data and products, appropriate planning for mutual back-up, and an acceptable implementation schedule.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6468)
 Presidents of technical commissions
 Director-General of EUMETSAT
 Director of ECMWF

cc: Presidents of regional associations)
 Chairman of the ICG-WIS)
 Chairman of the OPAG-ISS) (for information)
 Chairman of the EC WG/WIGOS-WIS)
 Chairman of the ET-GDDP)

To assist in the WIS Centre demonstration process, CBS established an ad hoc Expert Team on GISC and DCPC Demonstration Process (ET-GDDP). With support from the WIS Project Office in the WMO Secretariat, ET-GDDP is providing an online tool (English only) for candidate GISCs and DCPCs, addressing all of the demonstration requirements. A Guidance Document for that online tool is available at <http://www-db.wmo.int/WIS/centres/guidance.doc>.

I would like to encourage you and all WMO Members to have your technical experts and managers engage actively in this next essential step in the realization of WIS. From all reports, the implementation of WIS is proceeding smoothly and I hope the benefits to your organization of WIS implementation are now well apparent.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hong Yan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(Hong Yan)
for the Secretary-General