



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Our ref.: OBS/WIS/T.5-WIS

GENEVA, 14 October 2008

Subject: Identification of WMO Information System (WIS) Centres

Action required: To provide the identification of potential WIS centres within your country, with supporting information, not later than **5 December 2008**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Fourteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XIV, 2003) agreed to establish the WMO Information System (WIS), an overarching approach for a single coordinated global infrastructure for the collection, distribution, retrieval of, and access to data and information of all WMO and related international programmes. The Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XV, 2007) recognized the good progress made in the WIS development. Cg-XV agreed upon the three fundamental types of services that WIS should provide, and the two parallel parts for the WIS implementation, i.e., the continued consolidation and further improvements of the GTS, and the extension through flexible data discovery, access and retrieval services. Cg-XV recognized the implementation of WIS as a key Expected Result (ER 5) of the WMO Strategic Plan.

In order to progress the implementation of WIS according to the Congress guidance and decisions, the sixtieth session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-LX, 2008) stressed the crucial importance of early identification of Global Information System Centres (GISCs) and Data Collection or Production Centres (DCPCs). EC-LX emphasized that Cg-XV had endorsed in principle WIS procedures for the designation of GISCs and DCPCs and encouraged Members to adhere to them. EC-LX therefore urged WMO Technical Commissions to establish a process for identifying their programmes' candidate DCPCs, and to follow the WIS procedures for the designation of DCPCs, including early submission of candidate DCPCs to the Inter-commission Coordination Group on WIS (ICG-WIS) and the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS). Cg-XV requested necessary actions be taken with a view to preliminary identification, including some designations if possible, of potential GISCs and DCPCs, to be presented at its sixty-first session in June 2009.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services)
of Members of WMO (PR-6391)
Director of ECMWF
Director-General of EUMETSAT

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)
President of CBS and vice-president of CBS)
Chairman of the ICG-WIS) (for information)
Chairman of the OPAG-ISS)
Chairman of the EC WG/WIGOS-WIS)

Accordingly, WMO Permanent Representatives are requested to identify any potential GISC and/or DCPC within their countries in order to present to EC-LXI the inaugural list of candidate international WIS centres, as a preliminary step in the process of WIS centres designation. You are invited to provide supporting information on the status of current development as well as foreseen implementation plans, including main milestones and timelines, for ensuring the compliance of the foreseen GISC and/or DCPCs with:

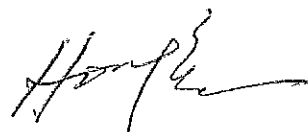
- (i) The three fundamental types of services that WIS should provide;
- (ii) The role and functions of GISCs and DCPCs, and especially the technical specifications of interoperable interfaces as described in the *WIS Functional Architecture* and the *WIS Compliance Specifications for GISC, DCPC and NC*.

In accordance with the WIS procedures for the designation of GISCs and DCPCs, your contribution on identified GISC and/or DCPC(s), including the supporting information, will be reviewed by ICG-WIS and by CBS-XIV (25.III-2.IV.2009), for consolidating the presentation to EC-LXI.

I wish to emphasize that WIS centres, i.e. DCPCs, GISCs and National Centres (NC), are functional components providing specific WIS functions, not actual organizational entities. DCPCs cover the WIS functions that are required by Centres that fulfill within specific WMO Programmes an international responsibility for the collection/generation and provision for international distribution of data, forecast products, processed or value-added information. In this regard, it is important to identify the associated lead WMO Technical Commission. The GISCs are a small number (less than ten) of centres ensuring regional and global connectivity of the WIS; their combined areas of responsibility cover the whole world. GISCs handle all information meant for routine global dissemination, and provide discovery and access services for all information available within WIS. The reference documentation is available on the WMO Website, and specifically under <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WIS-Web/RefDocuments.html>

You are invited to provide the information required at your earliest convenience, and not later than **5 December 2008**. If you feel that further information is required, please do not hesitate to ask the WMO Secretariat, preferably by e-mail. The contact persons in the WMO Secretariat are Jean-Michel Rainer, Acting Director WIS Branch (JMRainer@wmo.int) and Dave Thomas, WIS Project Manager (DThomas@wmo.int). You may also wish to send a copy of your reply as e-mail attachment directly to them, with a view to facilitating the compilation and analysis of the information provided. I thank you for your cooperation and support to WMO Programmes and activities.

Yours faithfully,



(Hong Yan)
for the Secretary-General