

High-Level Taskforce on the Global Framework for Climate Services

Newsletter No.2 16 March – 5 May 2010

Development of the Report

Experts from various organizations and institutions worldwide have been requested to contribute material that would be used when preparing the various sections of Part I of the HLT report which addresses the “supply side” – What climate services are, and may become available, from all sources around the world. Many of these experts agreed to contribute the requested information which was expected to be with the HLT Secretariat by late-April. A draft of Part I of the report is under preparation for consideration at the second meeting of the HLT, scheduled from 24 to 26 May 2010.

Two experts have been engaged to support the writing up of the HLT report, Dr Reid Basher, a former employee of ISDR and Dr Andrew Thow, on secondment from OCHA. Reid will be engaged for the period 3 May to 26 November 2010 while Andrew will initially be available from 19 April to 21 May 2010.

Consultations

Consultations with a few members of the Like Mind Group

An informal meeting was held in Geneva at the request of a group of Like-Minded countries, to brief the group on the status of the work of the HLT and the status of consultations.

They were briefed by Dr. G. Love, Director of Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services Department (D/WDS) that the HLT has started its work, having held its first meeting on 25 and 26 February 2010. He provided them with a briefing on issues discussed at the HLT-1 especially the process and timeline of activities and proposals for the consultation process.

Consultations at the First Conference of Ministers responsible for Meteorology in Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, 12-16 April 2010)

At the First Conference of Ministers, HLT Co-Chair, Dr Egeland and Dr Love gave presentations in the expert segment on the concept, role and proposals for the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), including a description of the work of the HLT. In addition to these presentations, Dr Egeland gave a keynote presentation in the Ministerial Session and followed by a Minister’s lunch where further consultations were held. The interest in the GFCS was widespread with a great deal of support being offered for its implementation.

Inter-Agency Consultation meeting

An Inter-Agency consultation meeting was planned for Wednesday 21 April 2010 in Geneva. Due to closure of airports caused by the Iceland volcanic ash, the meeting was postponed to 18 May 2010.

Consultations at the fifteenth session of RA V (Bali, Indonesia, 30 April-6 May 2010)

HLT member, Dr Emil Salim and Dr Love conducted a briefing session for attendees at that session. The briefings provoked a useful discussion on how the development of GFCS would affect regional priorities and resulted in good support for the GFCS concept.

Questionnaire

A questionnaire has been developed to collect information from stakeholders that will assist the HLT in preparing its report. The questions in the questionnaire are to provide answers that will help

the HLT in responding to issues that are in the three parts of the report. The questionnaire has been distributed widely and is available in all UN Languages at the following links:

English	http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/documents/GFCS_Questionnaire_en.doc
French	http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/documents/GFCS_Questionnaire_fr.doc
Spanish	http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/documents/GFCS_Questionnaire_es.doc
Russian	http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/documents/GFCS_Questionnaire_ru.doc
Chinese	http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/documents/GFCS_Questionnaire_zh.doc
Arabic	http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/documents/GFCS_Questionnaire_ar.doc

Comments from countries, organizations and Institutions

A number of countries, organizations and institutions have responded to the request by the WMO Secretary-General for comments on the GFCS. So far responses have been received from 27 countries and 29 organizations and institutions. The HLT will take these comments into consideration in their work.

Second meeting of the High-Level Taskforce on GFCS

The second meeting of the High-Level Taskforce on GFCS is scheduled from 24 to 26 May 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. Documentation plan as well as information note will be put on the HLT web page as soon as they become available.