

News from the WMO Secretariat

Visits of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General, Mr Michel Jarraud, recently made official visits to a number of Member countries as briefly reported below. He wishes to place on record his gratitude to those Members for the kindness and hospitality extended to him.

Republic of Korea

On 9 November 2006, the Secretary-General visited Seoul to participate in the opening ceremony of the extraordinary session of the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS), which was hosted by the Republic of Korea from 9-16 November 2006. Mr Jarraud met with HE Woo Sik Kim, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science & Technology, and Mr Man-Ki Lee, Administrator of the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea with WMO. Mr Jarraud also participated in a press conference organized by KMA to

address a number of relevant weather-, water- and climate-related issues. In addition, the Technical Conference on the WMO Information System was held in conjunction with the extraordinary session of the WMO Commission for Basic Systems.

Kenya

The Secretary-General visited Nairobi on 15 November 2006, to participate in the High-Level Segment of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-12) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In his statement, Mr Jarraud noted that WMO was committed to support the work of the UNFCCC and would continue to address the issue of climate change through the work of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and by co-sponsoring international panels and programmes such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Global Climate Observing System and the World Climate Research Programme, as well



Nairobi, Kenya, November 2006 — The Secretary-General addresses the High-Level Segment of the twelfth session of COP-12.

as in collaboration with other relevant international organizations. The Secretary-General said that WMO's Programmes were instrumental in facilitating and coordinating such contributions by the NMHSs and other meteorological and hydrological institutions, to assist the UNFCCC and to contribute to the work of its subsidiary bodies.

Mr Jarraud expressed the belief that adaptation should be a complementary measure to mitigation and that it was essential for all countries to take part in climate monitoring and in research on global climate change. Moreover, WMO considers that all countries should systematically and carefully record climate change and its impacts, since this information will serve as the basis for formulating their respective adaptation policies, measures and implementation plans. The Secretary General noted that, while the impacts of climate variability and change posed numerous challenges to



Seoul, Republic of Korea, 9 November 2006 — Opening ceremony of the extraordinary session of the Commission for Basic Systems

sustainable development, the role of the NMHSs would be instrumental in successfully addressing many of these challenges.

United Republic of Tanzania

The Secretary General visited Dar Es Salaam on 17 and 18 November 2006, where he had discussions with senior Government officials on the enhancement of cooperation between WMO and the United Republic of Tanzania for the strengthening of meteorological and hydrological services in the country and the region. In particular, Mr Jarraud met with the Hon. Shamsi Vuasi Nahodha, Chief Minister, the Hon. Mr Maua Daftari, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure Development, and Mr John Kijazi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, as well as the United Nations Development Programme Resident Coordinator, Mr Oscar Fernandez Taranco.

Mr Jarraud also had discussions with the Director General of the Tanzania Meteorological Agency and Permanent Representative of Tanzania with WMO, Mr M. Mhita.

Morocco

On 21 November 2006, the Secretary-General travelled to Casablanca to participate in the opening ceremony of the Meeting on Measures, Alert Systems and Health Impacts in Relation to Air Quality in the presence of Mr Abdelkbir Zahoud, Secretary of State in charge of Water. During his presentation, Mr Jarraud referred to a number of important threats to human health associated with the deterioration of air quality and the environment, including the effects of greenhouse gases, air pollution, ultraviolet radiation, variations in tropospheric and atmospheric ozone and acid and particulate deposition, as well as radioactive and chemical substances.

While in Casablanca, Mr Jarraud met with the Prime Minister, Mr Driss

Jettou, with whom he discussed matters pertaining to the programmes and activities of WMO and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services. The Secretary-General also met with Mr Mustapha Geanah, Director of National Meteorology and Permanent Representative of Morocco with WMO, for discussions on international cooperation in meteorology and the strengthening of the National Meteorological Service.

Saudi Arabia

The Secretary-General visited Saudi Arabia on 11 and 12 December 2006, when he visited the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment, the Meteorology and Ocean Sciences Departments at King Abdul Aziz University and the newly established training Centre in Abha. Mr Jarraud met with HRH Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz, President, Presidency of Meteorology and Environment, and other senior Governmental officials for discussions on issues of common interest and on matters related to the development of meteorological and environmental services in Saudi Arabia, the enhancement of regional cooperation and on further collaboration between Saudi Arabia and WMO.

United States of America

In January 2007, the Secretary-General visited San Antonio, Texas, to participate in the National Weather Service International Session and the 87th Meeting of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). In the course of the International Session, Mr Jarraud gave a presentation entitled "WMO response to the global challenges and opportunities", which referred to the evolving role of WMO and the new challenges to be met in the context of specific changes currently occurring in international meteorology and hydrology. In particular, the Secretary-General stressed the significance of the WMO Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation



Saudia Arabia, December 2006 — The Secretary-General with HRH Prince Turki bin Nasir bin Abdul Aziz, President, Presidency of Meteorology and Environment

Programme, the international Group on Earth Observations and the Global Earth Observing System of Systems and the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004.

During a scheduled side meeting, the Secretary-General met with alumni of the AMS Summer Policy Colloquium, for informal discussions on how they might become more actively engaged in the international arena and how the AMS Annual Meeting might be used more effectively to develop US participation in international work. During his presence in San Antonio, Mr Jarraud was appointed Fellow of the American Meteorological Society.

Russian Federation

The President of WMO, the three Vice-presidents, the Secretary-General, presidents of regional associations and representatives of the World Meteorological Centres, met during the 57th session of the WMO Bureau, held in Moscow from 23 to 25 February 2007. The Bureau reviewed and discussed a number of relevant issues in the context of preparations for Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress and the 59th session of the Executive Council. On 26 February, officers of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission joined the WMO Bureau



Moscow, Russian Federation, 26 February 2007 — WMO/IOC joint meeting

for a joint meeting to review the status of collaboration between the two Organizations and to discuss matters of mutual importance.

Spain

On 1 February 2007, the Secretary-General made an official visit to Spain, in the context of preparations for the International Conference Secure and Sustainable Living:

Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services, organized by WMO under the Gracious Patronage of HM Queen Sofia and held in Madrid from 19 to 22 March 2007. Their Royal Majesties amiably received Mr Jarraud in a private audience, where he was able to express WMO's gratitude for the support that was being provided by Spain to the Organization through this Conference.

France

The Secretary-General was a guest at the Paris Conference on World Ecological Governance, a high-level forum organized by the President of France, Mr Jacques Chirac, on 2 and 3 February 2007, to facilitate international discussions on environmental governance. The Conference closed with an appeal for action and a universal declaration on environmental rights and obligations.



Madrid, Spain, 1 February 2007 — The Secretary-General with (from left to right) HM King Juan Carlos of Spain, HM Queen Sofia and HE Mr Juan Antonio March Pujol, Ambassador of Spain in Geneva

Pakistan

Mr Jarraud visited Islamabad on 5 and 6 February 2007, on the occasion of the Fourth Technical Conference on Management of Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Asia: Weather, Climate and Water Services for Secure and Sustainable Living. Mr Jarraud met with H.E. Mr Ishfaq Ahmad, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister for Science and Technology, HE Ms Anisa Zeb Tahir Kheli, Minister of State for Education, and Mr Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry, Director-General of the Pakistan Meteorological Department and Permanent Representative of Pakistan with WMO, for discussions on weather, climate and water services in Pakistan.

The Conference, which brought together 37 directors or senior officials of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in WMO Region II (Asia), exchanged views and experiences on effective planning and management of NMHSs against a background of technological and scientific advancement, challenges and opportunities and evolving socio-economic issues. Upon opening the Conference, the Secretary-General delivered a keynote lecture entitled "Weather, water, climate and sustainable development: the role of WMO".

Burkina Faso

The Secretary-General visited Ouagadougou to participate in the opening of the fourteenth session



Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, February 2007 — Participants in the 14th session of Regional Association I (Africa)

of Regional Association I (Africa), held from 14 to 23 February 2007. Mr Jarraud met with several ministers present on the occasion for discussions on important issues of national and regional relevance. In addition, he joined all the

permanent representatives present in Ouagadougou for a general exchange of views on matters of significance to WMO and the Members of RA I.