



16/10/2009

WMO VLMG

WMO VL Report

VL Member Activity Report

From: SAWS

To: VL Members

Copy:

Reporting period: September 2008 – April 2009

Purpose:

Action proposed:

Appendices:

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Date of submission: June 3rd, 2009



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Training courses given in reporting period:

Please list in the below table the training courses held in the reporting period

	Date	Name of training event	Host	Location	Addressed topics	Number of participants	Lecturers
Classroom courses	3+10 Feb '09	Understanding and interpreting satellite imagery	SAWS/UP	Pretoria	Basic remote sensing	11	Lee-ann Simpson
	18 Feb + 3 March '09	Understanding and interpreting satellite imagery	SAWS/UP	Pretoria	Interpretation of satellite images. System and cloud identification	11	Lee-ann Simpson
	10 + 18 March '09	Understanding and interpreting satellite imagery	SAWS/UP	Pretoria	Identification of weather hazards by using satellite imagery	11	Lee-ann Simpson
	14+21+28 April '09	Understanding and interpreting satellite imagery	SAWS/UP	Pretoria	Satellite products for aviation purposes	11	Lee-ann Simpson
	12+19 May '09	Understanding and interpreting satellite imagery	SAWS/UP	Pretoria	Using satellite imagery for now casting	11	Lee-ann Simpson
	12-14 November 2008	SWFDP now-casting workshop	SAWS/WMO	Pretoria	The uses of MSG data in Now Casting	Approx. 20	Lee-ann Simpson Estelle De Coning Eugene Poolman Deon Van Der Mescht
Distant Learning courses	12 November 2008	SWFDP now-casting workshop	SAWS/WMO	Pretoria	The use of Moodle in distance learning	Approx. 20	Winifred Jordaan
RFG events	Every day	Daily weather discussion	SAWS	All regional offices of SAWS	Discussion of the weather through the satellite conference system.	7 offices	

Planned activities for:

Please list in the below table the training courses you have planned

	Date	Name of training event	Host	Location	Topics to be addressed	Lecturers
Classroom courses	To be scheduled	AMESD training	SAWS/AMESD	Pretoria	As requested	
	26 – 30 October	SWFDP now-casting workshop	SAWS/WMO	Pretoria	The uses of MSG data in Now Casting	Approx. 20
Distant learning courses	To be scheduled	MSG upgrading information	SAWS	SADC	As requested by forecasters (a questionnaire has been sent out asking for input by the forecaster – these points will be addressed.	Lee-ann
RFG events	To be scheduled	AMESD and other topics	SAWS/ASMED	SADC	One of the aims of AMESD is that visit view should be working for training.	



What do you feel is missing in your current VL training activities?

On the moment it is the shortage of time and lecturers that is restricting the VL training activities. We are sending another person for training on MSG activities and this should alleviate the shortage of lecturers somewhat. The idea now is to send a new person for training every year and see if we cannot address the problem of shortages this way.

Another problem is that the SADC personnel trained on the use of visit view cannot get it working in their countries due to problems. Only Namibia can use visit view.

What kind of materials do you use for your courses (e.g. PowerPoint presentations, images of the month, case studies, etc.)? Please list below.

All available material from power point presentation, class notes, daily images (that is available) and case studies are used.

Who provides support in the production of your training materials?

The trainers produce their own material.

What kind of tools do you use to make training material accessible to the teaching community (real time reception of satellite data, number of PCs, network, server, hard discs, Internet capability, etc.)?

We have 3 lecture rooms all equipped with PC's that is loaded with SUMO (display software) that give access to real time data. All have internet connections. The main MSG lecture room has 20 computers all loaded with the newest software and linked to the internet. All computers in this room have 2 hard drives

What kind of course management tools do you use to conduct your courses / workshops / events?

Usually it is a structured course with the management of the course handled by the lecturer and administration officer. We are in the process to set up a server with a Moodle interface that will be used for the Severe Weather workshop by the end of the year.

What type of training and at what frequency do you provide for your training staff?

All are ad hoc training but they are now required to register for their Master Degrees.

Please specify the limitations / restrictions which might influence the quality of training in your institute below:

Financial limitations:

Due of the financial situation across the world all upgrading of training material (including computers) were put on hold. I was lucky that the project to create the Moodle interface was accepted before the financial crackdown started. My empty trainer post was also frozen (I cannot appoint a person).

Shortage of human resources:

On the moment we are in the process to broaden the Human resources that we can draw from for the training of MSG. Although I cannot appoint the persons full time in training (see above) I have an agreement with the Senior Manager: Forecasting that we can use the forecasters that are willing to give lectures.

Insufficient access to training materials and courses e.g. due to bad internet connection:

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Although the Internet connections are slow sometimes, it is much better than the rest of Africa, so we cannot really complain about the internet connection. The only problem we are experiencing is that we are looking for more advanced training in MSG. It looks like the training material will have to be drawn up by the lecturers concerned.

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Other limitations:

The top management responsible for the Meteorological Training section are not meteorologists and sometimes does not understand the importance of international connections.

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Supplementary Information

CoE Administrative Information:

Head of CoE...Winifred Jordaan.....

Names of your satellite meteorology trainers.....

Lee-ann Simpson (Clark)

Estelle de Coning (for limited advanced training).....

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Training materials you have developed over the last reporting period:

All lecture notes are yearly updated to include the newest information.

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Please use the rest of this page for any other more general remarks you may wish to make relating to the delivery of training by your Centre.