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RA II Pilot Project Newsletter

DEVELOPING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AND
HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES IN SATELLITE DATA, PRODUCTS AND TRAINING

Contents of this issue

	Page
✧ 5th WMO-CGMS VLab Management Group meeting in Beijing, China July 2010	1
✧ The successful launch of COMS, Korea's first meteorological Satellite	2
✧ Training course for Meteorological satellite data utilization in September hosted by KMA	3
✧ Members of the Coordinating Group	4
✧ From the Co-editors	5

5th WMO-CGMS VLab Management Group meeting in Beijing, China July 2010

Fifth Meeting of the Virtual Laboratory Management Group meeting was held in Beijing, China, 12-14 July 2010. CMA Training Centre(CMATA) has hosted this meeting at the venue of CMA campus in Beijing. After three days of meeting, the Seminar on Training Matters has been continued 15-16 July 2010.

About 30 Participants from WMO, Europe(EUMETSAT, EUMETCAL), United States(NOAA), Barbados, Oman, Russia, Australia, Brazil, Niger, South Africa, China, Japan and Korea have discussed the VLab

activities and shared the experiences regarding education and training for satellite data utilization. Some colleagues from Argentina, Barbados, United States have joined the discussion on-line.

There was a presentation about RA II Pilot Project by Akihiro Shimizu from JMA with the title of "Status of RA II Pilot Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training" on behalf of the co-coordinators. This presentation has introduced the RAII PP's history and the status of first phase action plans, which include the newsletter and mailing list, Web pages. The upcoming questionnaire within RAII according to the action plans has been introduced also.

After the presentation, the participants from other RAII member countries raised an issue that the current coordinating group has not seemed to be so active in distributing the information regarding RAII PP. And WMO Space Programme and co-coordinators(JMA & KMA) proposed an action to send letters to the current coordinating group members on this matter.

One of the main issue of VLMG-5 was about 'Using ESRC as the VLab Resources Library'. The VLab members have discussed on establishing a method of sharing the on-line training resources from a web page, and ESRC was proposed as a promising candidate. And the relationship between VLab and WMO Doc 258 on Education and Training was also discussed in many way, especially regarding the Basic Instruction Package for Meteorologist and Qualification Management.



Fig 1. VLMG-5 participants

(Akihiro Shimizu, JMA & Jae-Gwang Won, KMA)

The successful launch of COMS, Korea's first meteorological Satellite

The COMS (Communication, Ocean and

Meteorological Satellite), the first geostationary weather satellite of Korea was launched from the Arianespace launch site in Kourou, French Guiana at 21:41(GMT) on 26th June 2010. The launcher, Ariane 5 rocket, placed COMS and its co-passenger, Arabsat 5A, in the transition orbit, after twice delaying the launch for technical reasons on 23rd and 24th June.

It took approximately 2 weeks for COMS to arrive to its nominal position of geostationary orbit of 128.2E. On 12th July at 02:15(GMT), COMS has successfully acquired its first visible image of earth disk.

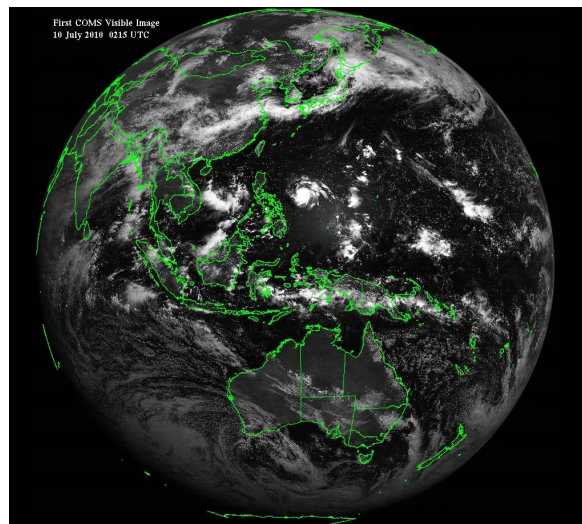


Fig 2. The first image from COMS

The commissioning period will last about 6 months for the in-orbit test, and normal operations will begin at the head of 2011. By this time frame, COMS data will be disseminated to all the Asia-Pacific regions covering many parts of RAII, and could be utilized for the weather forecast, climate monitoring and supporting the disaster prevention.

(Jae-Gwang Won, KMA)

Training course for Meteorological satellite data utilization in September hosted by KMA

Since 2007, KMA has hosted a training course for the potential user of COMS data in the Asian-Pacific region with the title of “Advanced Analysis of COMS”. In 2010, the fourth session will be held at KMA headquarter, Seoul, and KMA’s Satellite Center(National Meteorological Satellite Center, NMSC), Jincheon, Chungcheongbuk-do province, Republic of Korea, from 26th August to 17th September.

This training has been supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and 23 participants from 13 countries will participate this year’s session. The training materials will be shared via NMSC homepage by the end of this year.



Fig 3. Various activities of “Advanced Analysis of COMS” in 2009

(Jae-Gwang WON, KMA)

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From the Co-editors

The co-editors invite contributions to the newsletter. Although it is assumed that the major contributors for the time being will be satellite operators, we also welcome articles (short contributions of less than a page are fine) from all RA II Members, regardless of whether they are registered with the WMO Secretariat as members of the Pilot Project Coordinating Group. We look forward to receiving your contributions to the newsletter.

(Toshiyuki KURINO, JMA, and Jae-Gwang WON, KMA)

RA II Pilot Project Mailing Lists

Two mailing lists for discussion on the pilot project will soon be set up using the Google Groups service, and will be implemented either through the Google Groups web interface or by e-mail.

One list is for Pilot Project Coordinating Group members who are already registered with the WMO's Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific.

Group name: ra2pp_sat_cg

Group home page:

http://groups.google.com/group/ra2pp_sat_cg

Group email address:

ra2pp_sat_cg@googlegroups.com

The other list is for RA II Members in general.

Group name: ra2pp_sat

Group home page:

http://groups.google.com/group/ra2pp_sat

Group email address:

ra2pp_sat@googlegroups.com

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