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COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE UTILIZATION AND PRODUCTS

ITEM:

SIXTH SESSION

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 12-16 DECEMBER 2011

Original: ENGLISH

RA II Pilot Project

(Submitted by JMA)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document outlines the background and mission of the RA II Pilot Project to develop support for NMHSs in satellite data, products and training along with the accomplishments of the second phase, and also details the action plan for the third phase.

ACTION PROPOSED

- (a) The sixth session is invited to take note of the information provided in this report.
 - (b) It is recommended that all RA II Members answer the RA II Pilot Project Web Questionnaire by the end of 2011.
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RA II PILOT PROJECT

1. Introduction

The 14th WMO Regional Association II (XIV-RA II) session held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (from 5 to 11 December 2008) adopted a resolution to establish a Pilot Project for the development of support for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the areas of satellite data, products and training. After the session, the WMO Secretariat invited WMO Members to join the Pilot Project Coordinating Group, whose members were Japan (co-coordinator), the Republic of Korea (co-coordinator), Bahrain, China, Hong Kong (China), India, Kyrgyzstan, the Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and, as an observer, EUMETSAT (as of 31 May 2011).

The project was established as a kind of self-help effort for NMHSs in RA II to improve the flow of satellite-related information. The major focus of the initiative is to facilitate the timely provision of satellite-related information by satellite operators themselves to users, i.e., NMHSs in RA II, especially in developing countries including LDCs. As there are also other ongoing activities such as the Virtual Laboratory (VL), we understand the need to create synergies and provide greater benefits with a lower level of exertion while avoiding duplication of effort.

2. First and Second-Phase Accomplishment

The accomplishments of the RA II Pilot Project's first phase and second phase (from September 2009 to August 2010 and September 2010 to August 2011, respectively) can be summarized as follows:

- (1) The 1st Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II Pilot Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training.

The meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 21 - 23 February 2011. Meeting participants:

- agreed to clarify satellite users' needs and determine the status of utilization through the RA II Pilot Project questionnaire system;
- agreed to share information on access to satellite imagery, data, products and training information through the RA II Pilot Project portal site; and
- shared an understanding that cultivating human resources is essential in promoting the utilization of satellite products.

- (2) Issuance of newsletters to RA II Members

The newsletter is aimed at sharing the latest satellite-related information in areas such as imagery, data, products and training. Five newsletters were issued in the first phase and four in the second phase. Content has included:

- Information on access to satellite imagery, data and products, including application products;
- News on meteorological satellites;
- News on services;
- Brief progress reports on the Pilot Project;
- Introduction to the activities of other RAs and WMO VL activities.

- (3) RA II Pilot Project website

The RA II Pilot Project website hosted by WMO Space Programme (WMO SP) was set up in the first phase (http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/ra2pilotproject-intro_en.php), and the following content was uploaded in the second phase:

- Report on the Coordinating Group of the RA II Pilot Project meeting;
- Information on access to satellite imagery, data/products and training;

- RA II Pilot Project questionnaire relating to the availability and use of satellite data and products.

3. Third-Phase Action Plan

(1) Ongoing issuance of quarterly newsletters to RA II Members

Content will include:

- Access to satellite imagery, data and products, including application products;
- Training activities currently available or expected to be available in the future;
- News on current status and future meteorological satellites;
- News on new services of satellite imagery, data and their format, products etc;
- Research work on satellite imagery, products and their applications to various areas;
- Brief progress reports on the Pilot Project;
- Introduction to the activities of other RAs and WMO VL activities.

(2) Enhancement of Pilot Project web pages on the WMO SP website

Web pages will include:

- Information on access to satellite imagery, data/products and training;
- Newsletter archives ;
- RA II Pilot Project questionnaires ;
- Meeting reports.

(3) Enhancement of RA II Member and Coordinating Group Member mailing lists (by April 2012)

- More effective collection and sharing of opinions on newsletters, requirements, etc. from RA II Members

(4) Identification of RA II Member requirements (by April 2012)

- Implementation of an RA II Member survey through the web-based RA II Pilot Project questionnaire system on satellite data utilization;
- Sharing of questionnaire results through the website;
- Identification of RA II Member requirements through the questionnaire system.

The web-based RA II Pilot Project questionnaire is now opened to RA II Members, and they are expected to answer the questionnaire by the end of 2011.

(5) Alignment of Pilot Project activities and Virtual Laboratory activities to optimize assistance to NMHSs in RA II (by August 2012)

- Ongoing liaison with the WMO Secretariat and the VL Secretariat (EUMETSAT) in order to optimize assistance to NMHSs;
- Sharing training materials to avoid duplication of effort and facilitating training activities.

(6) Planning of the 2nd Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II Pilot Project to be held in 2012

- KMA will host the 2nd Meeting of CG of RA II PP in the 4th quarter of 2012;
- RA II PP training workshop/users meeting as joint meeting.

(7) Creation of the fourth-phase working plan (by August 2012)
