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EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE UTILIZATION AND PRODUCTS

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Training Plans in new Application Areas: Land / Ocean

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Summary and Purpose of Document

This document reports on the ongoing and planned activities to address new user communities of space based observations, especially for land and ocean areas.

The related training activities are set up by EUMETSAT in cooperation with its Land Surface Analysis and Ocean and Sea Ice Satellite Application Facilities (SAFs) and with international partners such as NOAA and the WMO VLab.

ACTION PROPOSED

The sixth session is invited to take note of the ongoing and planned training activities for the Land use and Ocean communities.

Training Plans in new Application Areas: Land / Ocean

Introduction

With enhanced availability of space-based datasets relevant for land and ocean applications, space agencies in CGMS identified the need to better address the needs of these communities for training in the use of satellite data.

Training in Land Surface Application using Satellites

In Europe, EUMETSAT together with its Satellite Application Facility on Land Surface Analysis (LSA) has created a **S**atellite **A**pplications in **L**and surface analyses **G**roup for **E**astern **E**urope (SALGEE). The main purpose of the user group is to foster research and operational activities of land surface processes as well to progress the use of satellite land surface analysis techniques in Eastern Europe and other regions of interest. Since 2009 two workshops had been held in Sofia, Bulgaria, and in Antalya, Turkey, in 2011.

In the context of the WMO VLab, a land surface application training course was held in Maputo, Mozambique for Portuguese speaking countries in November 2009. The course benefitted from a precursor course on land applications which was held in Brazil in 2008. It is anticipated to re-run this course in 2012 in West Africa once the relevant material has been translated into French, probably in the Centre of Excellence in Niamey. Thereafter, this course will also be held in English.

Ocean Training for Marine Forecasters

In Europe a course for marine forecasters has been held twice together with experts from NOAA and IOC/IODE. The courses were hosted by IOC project Office for IODE in Oostende, Belgium, in December. The training concentrated on the use of scatterometer data (e.g. ASCAT and OSCAT) for operational marine forecasting applications. But also the data of the JASON satellites were discussed.

In the context of the VLab Brazil also expressed an interest to conduct a joint training course for marine forecasters together with NASA in April 2012. EUMETSAT plans to hold another training course for marine forecasters on the Southern Hemisphere in Cape Town, South Africa during the first half of 2012.

In autumn 2011, an event week on marine applications was conducted by EUMeTrain in form of bundled lectures on the Internet.

The expectation is that in the context of the WMO/CGMS VLab, these ocean training courses will be regularly repeated each year. It is anticipated that in the future, additional applications like ocean colour and fishery support, as well as problems of coastal inundation forecasting and warnings (see related CGMS action) will be addressed.

Conclusion

This document addresses training activities for ocean and land use communities in support of better promoting the use of satellite data for new operational applications in different parts of the world. The WMO VLab offers an ideal platform for joint training planning and delivery.
