

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

ET-SUP-7/Doc. 2
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COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE UTILIZATION AND PRODUCTS

ITEM: 2

SEVENTH SESSION

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 27-30 MAY 2013

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(Submitted by Dr Anthony Rea)

Summary and Purpose of Document

The document provides a summary of relevant developments since the sixth ET-SUP meeting, a reflection on the work of the team over the past three meetings and outlines the views of the Chairman on the future work program for ET-SUP.

ACTION PROPOSED

The seventh session is invited to:

- (a) Note this information.
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Introduction

1. It is my great pleasure to welcome all of the members of ET-SUP to this, the seventh meeting of the team. To those new members, I look forward to working with each of you; to the returning members, I thank you for your contributions thus far and thank you for continuing to contribute to this important group. I would also like to thank each of your organisations for providing the time for you to contribute to this team. Thanks also to Stephan Bojinski and the WMO Space Programme Secretariat for their excellent support to this team and for their efforts in organising this meeting. Finally, I would like to thank Luiz Machado for his excellent chairmanship over the previous two meetings.

2. I am extremely honoured and humbled to be the chairman of this very important team, which I have been a member of since ET-SUP-5 in March 2010. I am passionate about the work of the team and am very excited about the challenges and opportunities of the next four years. In terms of my own perspective, Australia does not operate its own meteorological satellites; however, the Bureau of Meteorology is highly reliant on satellite observations. This reflects our position in the southern hemisphere, surrounded by ocean, and the sparseness of our in situ observing networks.

3. Because they cover broad areas of the globe, meteorological satellites are used almost universally by national meteorological and hydrological services. All nations benefit directly or indirectly from satellite their applications, and further benefit can be obtained through cooperation and collaboration. The fact that the same data can be used by multiple users is a great facilitator of cooperation.

Developments since ET-SUP-6

4. The advent of advanced geostationary imagers, including Himawari-8/9, GOES-R, Fengyun-4, [Korea] and Meteosat Third Generation provides a number of challenges and opportunities for users. The sheer volume of data and amount of information will push acquisition and processing systems to their limit, and test the ability of humans and systems to assimilate the data.

5. The changes to the US polar program increase significantly the need for users to source their data from multiple providers. This model is already in place through the Joint Polar System operated successfully by the US and EUMETSAT. However, users are looking to providers such as JAXA and ISRO to meet their future needs and this development increases the complexity of acquisition and processing systems, and the need to maintain and manage relationships with data providers.

6. In an attempt to address these issues, ET-SUP-6 agreed to progress the concept of the Sustained, Co-Ordinated Processing of Environmental Satellite Data for Nowcasting (SCOPE-NWC), building on the SCOPE-CM (Climate Monitoring) initiative. Some pilot studies are underway and I see this initiative as being a major component of the work of the team over this session and the coming years.

7. Outside of WMO, the North America-Europe Data Exchange Meetings (NAEDEX) and the Asia-Pacific Satellite Data Utilisation and Exchange Meetings (APSDEU) have now had two joint sessions. My perception is that NAEDEX and APSDEU have evolved into a mechanism linking the 'power-users' of satellite data (i.e. NWP centres) with satellite operators. This has allowed a streamlined approach which is not held back by the need to accommodate the requirements of all 179 WMO member states. This should not be seen as a negative as, firstly, all member states benefit from global NWP and, secondly, the exchange mechanisms that are set up in NAEDEX-APSDEU can be seen as a pathfinder for future exchanges under WIS. The strength of APSDEU-NAEDEX, and perhaps the point of interest to ET-SUP members, is its ability to function alongside WMO mechanisms, and indeed to be complementary to these

8. The joining of NAEDEX and APSDEU reflects the fact that there are now many satellite operators and NWP centres outside of North America and Europe, and that North America and Europe

can no longer rely only on each other for operational data. I anticipate that, as the use of satellite data grows in other parts of the world such as Africa and Latin America, and as they develop mature NWP capabilities, or operate meteorological satellites, they will also join this framework, in the same way that APSDEU has been 'added on' to the mature NAEDEX framework.

8. The initiation of the Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users Conference by CMA in 2010 is also an important development for RA-II and RA-V. The existence of this conference, which parallels the EUMETSAT Meteorological Satellite Conference or the NOAA Satellite Conference, has also allowed APSDEU to focus on data exchange (rather than utilisation) and facilitated the joining up with NAEDEX.

Agreed Work Programme

9. ET-SUP has an agreed program of work, which includes:

- (a) monitoring the progress of satellite data availability and use by WMO Members;
- (b) providing advice and support to the development and implementation of WIGOS;
- (c) initiating and promoting activities to improve the availability of satellite data;
- (d) reviewing present and future R&D satellite data and products and providing advice with a view of increased utilization by WMO Members;
- (e) reviewing and assisting in addressing the needs of WMO Members for information regarding access to and utilization of satellite data and products;
- (f) promoting development and harmonization of satellite data and products responding to WMO Members' needs; and
- (g) keeping under review the needs of WMO Members for training in satellite meteorology and related fields.

10. These activities have one common thread, and that is a user focus. This gives the team a requirements-driven approach which is very important in an area such as satellites which may tend towards being technology driven.

Vision for the next Four Years of ET-SUP

11. The work program outlined above is broad and relatively high level. The challenge for the team is to focus on those specific activities that can address the points in the work program. In doing this, the group should ensure that it provides a voice for users of satellite data in international forums, and with satellite operators.

12. The user survey will continue to be an important mechanism for understanding the uptake of satellite data by members, and also to better understand requirements. Whilst progress has been made in terms of increasing response rates to the survey, a key challenge for ET-SUP members will be encouraging greater uptake in our own Regions.

13. SCOPE-NWC has the potential, as an initiative, to address the availability of satellite data, and also to promote harmonisation of products, which in itself will assist in the uptake of products. A challenge in making this concept a reality will be capturing the interest of the satellite operators and users to build both a core of products and a user community.

14. I look forward to working with you on these topics, and a range of other matters, over this the seventh session of ET-SUP, and over the subsequent months and years. I also look to hearing from each of you, with your unique skills and experience, on new ways we can address the goals of the team.
