

DATA ACCESS AND EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS
Regional coordination mechanisms and user perspectives:

RA I Dissemination Expert Group (RAIDEG)

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Summary and Purpose of Document

This document provides an overview of the current work of the WMO RAI Dissemination Expert Group (RAIDEG) which was established in 2010 to discuss and review data access requirements for the Region I. In particular, the Group focuses on updates to the EUMETCast-Africa Dissemination Baseline. Updates to this baseline are put forward for approval by the EUMETSAT Council and are subsequently implemented on EUMETCast. RAIDEG is the focal point for enhancements to reception station equipment provided through continental wide projects. Additionally, RAIDEG interface with those responsible for training services provided to the Region.

Current topics of key importance to the Group are:

- Ongoing maintenance of existing reception station equipment
- Levels of training material and support
- Communication with the NMHSs they are mandated to represent and other user communities within the region.

The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 11-12 June 2013 at WMO HQ.

ACTION PROPOSED

The seventh session is invited to:

- (a) Consider synergies between the various RA Requirements Groups and to discuss any emerging best practice/s.
- (b) Discuss the role such regional groups can play in identifying data access needs other than products and services, i.e. the need for improved product processing/visualization tools and links to training support activities; consider how ET-SUP can support regional groups in addressing these needs.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

The WMO RAI Dissemination Expert Group (RAIDEG) established in 2010, comprises of the following Members:

- Regional NMHS's representation:
 - Cameroon, Kenya (Chair), Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa
- Continental representation: ACMAD
- Regional training representation:
 - EAMAC, Niger – aviation
 - Kenya, South Africa & Morocco VLab 'Centres of Excellence'
- EUMETSAT Secretariat representative
- WMO Secretariat representative

RAIDEG aims to meet in person once per year and via virtual meeting arrangements outside of the standard meeting schedule.

The Terms of Reference of the RAIDEG have now recognized as a model for establishing regional requirements for other types of data within the WIGOS.

2. EUMETCast-Africa Baseline

The work of the RAIDEG is primarily focussed on the identification of regional data requirement needs, in particular, enhancements to the EUMETCast-Africa Dissemination Baseline. The EUMETCast-Africa Dissemination Baseline forms part of the wider EUMETCast Baseline document which is presented to EUMETSAT Delegations for approval twice per year.

During each meeting, RAIDEG review the contents of the Baseline and submit requests for modification.

Ongoing data requirements being considered:

- Ocean products e.g. Total Precipitable Water, sea surface wind, Significant Wave Height and ocean currents
- Data to support disaster monitoring
- Application area focussed products e.g. air pollution monitoring, agriculture & aviation
- Soil moisture products

RAIDEG has noted the following challenges associated with the exploitation of data and products:

- Further training in NWP data usage and access to NWP training material, e.g. user manuals
- User manuals and guides to support the use RETIM products
- Further training in the use of Meteosat products
- Need to explore ways to improve the impact of training in future, e.g. PRs ensure the right staff are trained & RTC/CoEs to develop sustainable training mechanisms

To address the issue relating to NWP data usage, WMO is inviting representatives from the European NWP centres to attend the next meeting in June 2013.

Other points are still open and related actions are ongoing.

3. Data Access Evolutions

RAIDEG is the focal group for enhancements to use the reception station hardware/software provided through continental wide projects such as PUMA, AMESD and MESA. In the scope of the current AMESD project, RAIDEG have set the priorities for the software enhancements due to be implemented in September 2013:

EUMETSAT has issued a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for a one-off upgrade to the PUMA 2010 software to cater for the product modification since the original baseline was established at the start of the AMESD project. Noting that not all product modifications can be included in this upgrade priority is given to the NWP and EUMETSAT products. Feedback from the 2nd Meeting of the WMO RA I Dissemination Expert Group meeting has been taken into consideration.

It is anticipated that experts from within the Group will also support the procurement evaluation process for the future PUMA 2015 reception stations anticipated in the MESA project.

RAIDEG has noted the following data access challenges:

- Need for adequate levels of training in the area of reception station display and system administration:
 - Minimum of 10 days initial training
 - Periodic refresher training courses
 - Easy accessible and usable training materials

4. Working arrangements of the group

One of the key challenges for the Members of RAIDEG is the communication with the Points of Contact from NMHSs within the various regions. To address this issue, the WMO RAI President is being invited to send a letter to all PRs within the Region requesting that points of contact are identified by each NMHS to support the activities of RAIDEG.

RAIDEG also faces the challenge of identifying requirements from other communities, e.g. in-situ data users, ocean community. To address this point, the WMO has invited representatives from its Technical Programmes, such as JCOMM, SWFDP, agriculture, aviation and climate, to attend the next RAIDEG meeting in June 2013 to facilitate a dialogue between relevant parties.
