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

EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE UTILIZATION AND PRODUCTS

ITEM: 6.2

SEVENTH SESSION

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 27-30 MAY 2013

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DATA ACCESS AND EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS
Regional coordination mechanisms and user perspectives

RA II WIGOS Project to Develop Support for NMHSs
in Satellite Data, Products and Training

(Submitted by JMA)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document outlines the background and mission of the RA II WIGOS Project to develop support for NMHSs in satellite data, products and training along with the accomplishments of the third and fourth phases.

Results of a 2011/2012 user survey to monitor the availability and use of satellite data and products in RA II are available:
http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/documents/RA-2-PP_Newsletter-Vol3-N2.pdf .

ACTION PROPOSED

The seventh session is invited to:

- (a) take note of the information provided in this report.
 - (b) encourage all RA II Members cooperate with the activities of the RA II WIGOS Project.
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RA II WIGOS Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training

1. Introduction

The 14th WMO Regional Association II (XIV-RA II) session held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 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 are 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 March 2013).

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 data by satellite operators themselves to users, *i.e.*, NMHSs in RA II, especially in least developed countries (LDCs) and other developing nations. It is necessary to create synergy between other ongoing projects such as the Virtual Laboratory (VL) and provide greater benefits while avoiding duplication of effort.

At the 15th session of Regional Association II (XV-RA II) held in Doha, Qatar in December 2012, it was decided that the RA II Pilot Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training should become the RA II WIGOS Project from 2013 in light of its importance in improving dialogue between satellite providers and users in the Region.

2. Third and Fourth-Phase Accomplishments

The accomplishments of the RA II Pilot Project's third phase (from September 2011 to August 2012) and fourth phase (from September 2012 to August 2013) are summarized below.

(1) The Second Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II Pilot Project

The meeting was held in Jeju Island, the Republic of Korea on 8 October 2012. Meeting attendees:

- approved the continuation and extension of past activities including the issuance of quarterly newsletters, enhancement of Pilot Project web pages, identification of requirements from RA II Members via questionnaire surveys, and alignment with Virtual Laboratory activities.
- agreed to be evolved into a WMO RA-II WIGOS project

(2) Issuance of newsletters to RA II Members

The newsletter is issued to share recent satellite-related information in areas such as imagery, data, products and training. Five newsletters have been issued to RA II Members in the third phase and fourth phase. The contents have included:

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

(3) RA II Pilot Project website

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

- 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
- Newsletter archives

(4) Identification of RA II Member requirements

An RA II Member survey was implemented in 2012 through the web-based RA II Pilot Project questionnaire system on satellite data utilization, and 20 out of 35 Members of RA II responded. The questionnaire results are documented in the Newsletter Vol. 3 No. 2 (April 2012): http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/documents/RA-2-PP_Newsletter-Vol3-N2.pdf

The RA II Pilot Project questionnaire will be distributed annually to clarify satellite users' needs, to monitor the availability and use of existing satellite data/products, and to identify any associated difficulties or limiting factors.

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

- Ongoing liaison with the WMO Secretariat and the VLab for information sharing is maintained in order to optimize assistance provided to NMHSs.
 - Sharing of training materials to avoid duplication of effort and facilitate training activities is expected.
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