

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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

EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE UTILIZATION AND PRODUCTS

ITEM: 5

EIGHTH SESSION

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 14-17 APRIL 2014

Original: ENGLISH

Regional mechanisms for satellite data access and exchange

(Submitted by Anthony Rea, Bureau of Meteorology, Australia)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document provides a summary of relevant data exchange activities in Region V since the last ET-SUP Meeting.

ACTION PROPOSED

The eighth session is invited to note the information provided in this report.

DISCUSSION

Introduction

1. This document provides a summary of relevant data exchange activities in Region V since the last ET-SUP Meeting.

TT-SUR workshops, 8th and 10th October 2013

2. The WMO RA-V Task Team on Satellite User Requirements (TT-SUR) held two workshops during the 4th Asia Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users Conference (AOMSUC), on the 8th and 10th October 2013. The purpose of the workshops was to determine the requirements and priorities for access and exchange of satellite data and products by users in RA V, to identify practical solutions to addressing these requirements, and to identify points of contact to continue the dialogue with WMO members in the area.
3. Discussions revealed that the products of most value to the participants, particularly in tropical cyclone and severe storm events, are geostationary visible, infrared and water vapour imagery. Given the large proportion of ocean areas in the Region, scatterometer products were also considered important, however some participants did not know where to access these products.
4. Participants indicated that the products that would assist them to do their work better if they had access were high resolution products, and hotspot and flood products for planning and response in natural disaster situations.
5. The group also discussed preparedness for Himawari-8. Due to the large volume of the data expected from Himawari-8, most of the RA-V member countries would receive the 5 channel low resolution data which JMA will disseminate via a c-band service. JMA agreed to provide full details of the C-band dissemination service when they become available, and offered to provide a technical focal point to facilitate an ongoing dialogue between JMA and data users in the Region. The Bureau offered to make available a set of step-by-step guidelines to assist NMHS' plan for access to Himawari-8 data.
6. Regarding the issue of improved information exchange in the Region, the group agreed that the monthly Regional Focus Group meetings to be hosted by the Australian VLab Centre of Excellence (CoE) will be an ideal mechanism for connecting with other members in the Region. The CoE also offered to provide links to satellite data and products on their web page to assist RA-V members find important data sets.

Australian VLab Centre of Excellence web page

7. This web page, at <http://www.virtuallab.bom.gov.au/> has been dedicated to RA-V Forecasters and other relevant stakeholders. The web page provides access to relevant satellite data, including links to real time satellite data, case studies, Regional Focus Group recordings etc.

Regional Focus Group Webinars

8. Since October 2013 the Australian VLab Centre of Excellence has been conducting our monthly Regional Focus Group meetings. Bodo Zeschke, the Point of Contact of the Centre of Excellence has been coordinating these sessions. The Webinars are conducted using the Webinar Online Conferencing Software, with the visualisation within the Windows environment.

9. Topics discussed during these sessions include:
 - Latest updates regarding satellite meteorology relevant for RAV (including updates on Forecaster use of MTSAT-1R rapid scan imagery).
 - Weather and Forecast Discussion
 - Recent weather of interest (presentations by RAV members – Indonesia, New Zealand)
 - Investigating particular meteorological events in greater detail.
10. Attendance has been pleasing with generally between 20-40 remote participants per session. BMKG Indonesia, in particular, have been enthusiastic contributors.
11. Future plans include:
 - Increased participation by RAV members in RFG presentations;
 - The continued training of Bureau and WMO Region V stakeholders in the effective use of 10 minute satellite data and multichannel (Red-Green-Blue) products in preparation for Himawari 8/9 (see notes pertaining to the EUMETSAT Forecast Simulator in the “Data Formats and Visualisation” section below).

Relevant Training Courses and Workshops

Science Week (22-26 July 2013)

12. The Melbourne VLab Centre of Excellence hosted its Advanced Forecaster Course “Science Week” from the 22nd to the 26th July 2013. This included:
 - 19 online presentations consisting of topics relating to the latest developments in meteorological science with respect to operational forecasting, presented using Webinar.
 - Bureau of Meteorology and International specialists presented many of the sessions including details of the planned Himawari 8/9 satellite, also developments in Numerical Weather Prediction models and other weather forecasting related topics.
 - Between 17 and 29 attendees participated in the presentations. There was strong participation from Australia and Indonesia, also from China and New Zealand. Other countries represented within the audience included the Solomon Islands, South Africa, Argentina and Oman.

AOMSUC Training Workshop (7-8 October 2013)

13. The Training Workshop on Preparation for Advanced Meteorological Imagers was hosted by the Australian VLab Centre of Excellence of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology on 7 and 8 October 2013 at the Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre. The Training Workshop was directed principally towards WMO Region V and Region II Operational Forecasters. Topics covered in the Workshop included:
 - Background to Himawari 8/9
 - Future development of other satellites relevant to RAV and RAI
 - Introduction to Rapid Scan Satellite imagery
 - Introduction to RGB and Derived Products.
 - Workshop on satellite user requirements in WMO Region V (see TT-SUR Workshop topic).
14. Many classroom sessions included remote communication to an external audience using the Webinar web conferencing software. Bodo Zeschke, the Australian VLab Centre of Excellence point of contact coordinated the sessions and designed and supervised most of the practical sessions. There were 15 RAV classroom attendees and between 10 and 25 remote attendees per Webinar session. This included a strong representation from the Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG), the Philippine Atmospheric and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and the Hong Kong Observatory. Other countries represented within the remote audience included New

Zealand, the United States, Australia and Egypt.

Regional ATOVS Retransmission Service (RARS)

15. Status of stations within RA V, provided by Denis Margetic (BoM):

Station	Status
Melbourne	Ok
Perth	Ok
Davis	data degraded due to issues with antenna – a fix may not be possible until antenna is replaced during next (SH) summer
Casey	data delivery slow as system has design flaws – a fix will be attempted next (SH) summer
Darwin	data noisy due to RFI - replacement system should be in place in the second half of this year
Alice Springs	work currently in progress to establish this as a RARS site
Townsville	work currently in progress to ensure reliable delivery of data
Maupia	Ok
Singapore	Ok