

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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

INTER-PROGRAMME EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE UTILIZATION AND
PRODUCTS

ITEM: 5.2.4

SECOND SESSION

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Status report of the RA-V Task Team on Satellite Utilization

(Submitted by Anthony Rea, written by Agnes Lane)

Summary and Purpose of Document

To provide an update on the activities of the RA-V Task Team on Satellite Utilization.

ACTION PROPOSED

The session is invited to note the information provided.

DISCUSSION

1. The WMO RA-V Task Team on Satellite Utilisation was restarted in mid-2015. There are 10 members from countries across the region, including Australia, Indonesia, Phillipines, Hawaii, and New Zealand, and the main space agencies are also represented (JMA, CMA, KMA and NOAA). The group has met via teleconference three times since July 2015, plus many of the members also met at a side meeting of AOMSUC-6, in Tokyo, November 2015.
 2. The Team has agreed to deliver on two activities in the short term. The first is RA-V satellite user requirements using the template recommended by WMO. Progress so far: a questionnaire has been developed and is almost ready for circulation to RA-V members. RA-II has expressed an interest in collaborating in this activity, and discussions between RA-II and RA-V are required.
 3. After discussion with the IPET-SUP Chair, it has been agreed to defer the RA-II/RA-V survey until the completion of the WMO global survey on satellite data utilisation. The RA-II/RA-V survey will be able to be adjusted to answer any outstanding questions.
 3. The second activity that the Task Team will focus on is collaboration on the RA-II/V WIGOS activity on disaster risk reduction and recovery. The aim of this collaboration is to strengthen the capabilities of Members to use geostationary satellite images and derived products in support of Disaster Risk Reduction, and to develop a protocol for the NMHSs in the project countries to request event-driven rapid-scan imagery for their respective national areas of interest. Work on this has not yet commenced.
 4. The Team has identified a need for improved communication across the Region, and as a result, the Melbourne VLab Centre of Excellence has run monthly online Regional Focus Group meetings since early 2014. These meetings are a forum for news and information exchange on topics such as data access and training, and are regularly attended by approximately 20 people from across RA-V.
 5. Issues relating to data exchange in RA-V include:
 - Internet reliability and speeds
 - Lack of training/skills/tools, particularly in creating tailored products such as RGBs, and in the use of multispectral data
 - Visualisation of data and products
 - Large volume of new data streams
 6. The most common natural hazards in the region are tropical cyclones, severe thunderstorms and rain, torrential rain and flash floods. Other hazards include volcanic eruptions, forest fires and dust.
 7. In summary, the Task Team's workplan for 2016 will be to:
 - a) review and finalise the compiled set of prioritised requirements for satellite observations (using the template recommended by ET-SUP)
 - b) collaboration on the RA-II/V WIGOS activity on disaster recovery
 - c) identify any barriers that impede the effective use of important data streams such as Himawari, and
 - d) develop a report with recommendations that address issues related to access and utilisation of satellite data in RA-V.
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