ANNEX 6

In The Name Of God

DARE ACTIVITIES IN REGION II

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Introduction

In my brief report which is consisting of two parts, first I would like to raise some major problems which RA II countries are facing in the implementation of DARE project. Some other countries in RA II although they are fully aware of DARE project and enjoy infrastructure expertise, their economical restrictions do not permit them to digitize the data in a smooth manner. You are quite aware that implementation of such projects in national level demands allocation of significant amount of budget, so we should not only explore technical methods but also find feasible funding mechanism to achieve our objectives.

DARE Project in RA II

1. Regional Association II (Asia) is composed of 34 Members. All countries have either a National Meteorological Service or a National Hydro-meteorological Service. These services vary in duties, size and status of advancement, geography and state of development. Therefore, they are highly differentiated in capabilities and vulnerabilities. There is wide gap between the developed Services with very advanced facilities and the less developed Services with limited budgets, shortage of observation instruments, spare parts, consumables, lack of calibration, data collection, processing and communication facilities, and lack of qualified staff and old technology.

In view of this, given the gap in development levels of countries in RA II, all scientific and technical programs such as DARE will need to be planned and implemented in such a way as to help bridge the gap between NMHSs of developed and developing countries as well as enable the Member countries to fully participate and benefit from the WMO Programs in an equitable manner.

Furthermore, in the planning and implementation process, it is believed that we had better to recognize particular regional need and capabilities.

For example, countries that enjoy modern hard and software facilities may offer their assistance to sub-regional groupings.

In the meantime, RMTCs are other options that may enhance effectiveness of the implementation of DARE project through offering respective training courses.

These arrangements are instrumental in building capacities and ensuring the success of DARE project.

On the other hand WMO as a strong Secretariat brings all partners closer to each other and facilitates performance of desired projects. This also can be managed through establishment of a Trust Fund for this purpose.

However, most important feasible objectives may be formulated as follows:

a) To develop appropriate databases, resources and expertise to produce appropriate advice for application sectors
b) To upgrade and modernize data management and data archival of meteorological services through acquisition of new technologies and to have adequate trained and qualified staff.

2. Some political and socio-economic events in Region II have left harmful consequences to data management and archival in this Region.

Such problems are currently experienced in Central Asian countries and most especially Afghanistan. In case of Central Asian countries inconsistency of data and different archival standards make the situation more critical.

DARE Project in I.R. Of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO)

In the second part of my report I am briefly reviewing data rescue operations in the I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO).

In follow up to decisions made by WMO Congress, EC and the Commission for Climatology, IRIMO has implemented a project on data rescue to save available data and make them applicable to development projects needed by end-users in the country.
In this project different types of data have been digitized as follows:

1. Digitization of rainfall graphs recorded by instruments in stations

These kinds of graphs have been classified in weekly-monthly and longer time span categories. As there was a possibility to apply scanners for weekly-monthly graphs, necessary software was programmed to digitize the data and to archive them.

For periods longer than one month, graphs have been reviewed manually and saved in computerized archiving formats later on.

2. Digitization of weather forecast charts

In this project aiming at saving and providing user- friendly access to forecast weather charts, scanners have been applied to accomplish this task. For the time being all charts are transformed into digitized formats and the operation is in progress.

3. Digitization of agro-meteorological data

Digitization of agro-meteorological data collected from respective stations all over the country is one of the most important objectives of this project, because IRIMO has always stressed use of 10-day, monthly and seasonal agro-meteorological bulletins.

Publication of such bulletins entailed some problems that made it rather impossible for the public to apply the data in bulletins.

Therefore, IRIMO decided to save such data in computerized archives to provide a good basis for statistical analyses and develop state of the art software models.

4. Digitization of upper air data

In this project all upper air observing data of standard levels have been transferred to 205 recording forms. The data have passed quality control operations and saved in computers at a later stage.

It should be noted that a questionnaire has been provided which will be sent soon to all RAII countries to collect updated information on current status of data management and prepare a separate report on the activities of countries in RAII.