



## WORLD WEATHER WATCH

Instruments and  
Methods of Observation ProgrammeCommission for Instruments and  
Methods of Observation*CIMO Newsletter*<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/IMOP/newsletters.html>

## FEBRUARY 2008

*The CIMO Newsletter* is intended as a complementary means of keeping informed CIMO Members and affiliates and getting them involved in the work of the Commission by reporting on its activities and other related organizational matters, meetings, publications, etc. Comments from the readers are welcome.

In order to keep the list of CIMO Members in WMO Publication No. 5 up-to-date, we urge WMO Member countries to inform the Secretariat promptly of changes concerning the designation of their representatives to CIMO. Thank you.

**Highlights****Fifth Session of the CIMO Management Group**

The Fifth Session of the CIMO Management Group (CIMO MG-5) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, 28-30 January 2008. The Group focused on the composition of the Expert Teams, priority tasks related to their Terms of Reference (TOR) and CIMO-related activities for the intersessional period.

Special attention was paid to the problems encountered in the work of individual Expert Teams, their work plans and deliverables. The Management Group discussed the Expert Teams' Membership, changes to be made, and agreed on the actions that need to be taken relating to the planning, coordination and management of the work of the Commission, its OPAGs, Expert Teams and Rapporteurs.

The Management Group also focused on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) and its CIMO Pilot Project (CIMO-WIGOS-PP). The Meeting considered the impact WIGOS would have on CIMO-related activities, and prepared several proposals for the ad-hoc CIMO Working Group on the CIMO WIGOS Pilot Project that held its First Session in Geneva, Switzerland, 31 January - 1 February 2008. The Final Report of the Fifth Session of the CIMO Management Group is available at the following web address: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/reports.html>.

**WIGOS CIMO-Pilot Project, First Session**

The First Session of the ad-hoc CIMO Working Group on the CIMO WIGOS Pilot Project (CIMO-WIGOS-PP) considered the expected involvement, role and responsibilities of CIMO in WIGOS. To address these issues, it will be necessary to enhance communication and collaboration with other technical commissions and relevant WMO partner organizations that co-sponsor, own and/or operate some of the observing systems.

The Meeting agreed that the aim of the CIMO Pilot Project (CIMO-PP) was to show what would need to be done in the long-term to achieve the expected levels of integration and the benefits that WIGOS would achieve.

It was reiterated that the role of CIMO would not be limited only to the development and maintenance of observation standards and the traceability of measurements to international

standards, but also would include matters related to instrument intercomparisons and testing, development of new instruments and systems, interoperability and compatibility of instruments and observing systems, and capacity-building activities.

The Meeting discussed the cross-cutting and underpinning role and responsibilities of CIMO within the WIGOS-WIS framework. It examined the existing Terms of Reference (TOR) of the technical commissions in addressing CIMO's role in the WIGOS-WIS framework and developed the first proposal of the CIMO-PP on WIGOS "Elaboration of the underpinning/crosscutting role and responsibilities of the Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme and CIMO in the context of WIGOS", determining how CIMO could best contribute to and support the development of WIGOS. This role and responsibilities underpin all observations within WIGOS, and will be carried out in close consultation with relevant WMO partner organizations that co-sponsor, own and/or operate some of the observing systems.

The Final Report of the Session is available at the following web address:  
<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/reports.html>.

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## **OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUPS**

### **GUAN Upper-Air Training Workshop for RA I**

The WMO/GCOS Training Workshop on GUAN Upper-Air Observations for RA I (Africa) was hosted by the National Meteorological Service of Namibia in Windhoek, 8 - 12 October 2007. Representatives from all 18 GUAN stations in Africa participated in the event. The workshop was funded by the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) through the GCOS Secretariat. The training was aimed at improving the knowledge and skills of the operational personnel at these GUAN stations. The workshop included both theoretical and practical lessons and was conducted in both English and French. The theory was conducted in a conference centre at a nearby hotel and the practical lessons at the upper-air station located at the Meteorological Service Headquarters, which is also the location of the Windhoek GUAN station. At the conference centre, all lectures were simultaneously translated and when the workshop moved to the upper-air facility, the translators also participated in order to insure that everyone understood all activities.

The theory covered topics such as basic introduction to radiosonde soundings and all preparatory activities prior to the launching of radiosondes. Further, the proper and safe handling of hydrogen and correct balloon inflation procedures was covered. For many of the participants, this appeared to be the first time they had ever received instruction concerning hydrogen and its inherent dangers. The practical work dealt with all activities during and after the radiosonde launch. A number of multiple radiosonde flights were launched during the demonstrations.

The workshop also addressed the operational problems experienced in RA I through country reports presented by the participants. Many common problems were identified by the participants, including the common theme of insufficient training for both hydrogen producing equipment and upper-air equipment, the high cost of radiosondes, poor quality of electrical power at their stations, the high-cost and difficulty maintaining equipment and several operational problems such as signal drop outs. Further, several recommendations were made by the participants.

The host country provided the necessary infrastructure for the successful outcome of the workshop, complemented by additional lectures, ground upper-air systems, radiosondes and other consumables for the practical training from the United Kingdom Meteorological Office, the InterMet Systems (South Africa and United States of America), Sagim (France), Proton Energy Systems (United States of America), Modem (France) and Vaisala Oyj (Finland).

Experts from the United Kingdom Meteorological Office prepared master training lecture notes for the workshop. The United Kingdom Meteorological Office also provided three lecturers for the workshop. Most of the lecture notes were translated into French before the workshop began, and the remaining few documents were translated during the workshop. The UK experts were further

complemented by lectures from the representatives of the HMEI. The GCOS Representative illustrated the various performance reports that Members can use to assess the performance of their stations. Representatives from the host country complemented the lecturing team, especially in conducting most of the practical training. A copy of all of the lecture notes and presentations was provided to the participants on CD to assist them in the follow-up training at national level.

### **WMO Field Intercomparison of Rainfall Intensity Instruments, Vigna di Valle, Italy**

The Field Intercomparison phase of the WMO Intercomparison of Rainfall Intensity Gauges in Vigna di Valle (Italy) officially started on 1 October 2007, and will last for approximately 12 months. This major milestone successfully concluded the phase of site preparation and installation of 30 Rainfall Intensity gauges. The entire set of rain gauges comprises 26 different models using a large variety of functioning principles: 12 tipping bucket rain gauges, 7 weighing gauges, 3 optical gauges, 1 acoustic gauge, 1 pressure gauge, 1 level gauge and 1 Micro Doppler radar.

Prior to this date, the Fifth (reduced) Session of the Joint Meeting of the Expert Team on Surface-Based Instrument Intercomparisons and Calibration Methods (ET) and International Organizing Committee on Surface-Based Instrument Intercomparisons (IOC) was held in the Meteorological Service Centre of Meteorological Experimentation (ReSMA), Vigna di Valle, Italy, 17 - 21 September 2007. The joint ET/IOC meeting inspected and fully approved the intercomparison site, the data acquisition and data archiving. The Meeting also agreed on data processing procedures and discussed the analysis methodology proposed by the Data Analysis Expert and data Quality Control procedures. Unfortunately, the former Data Analysis Expert had to resign her task due to other responsibilities, but the Expert Team was fortunate to find a new expert to fill this position.

Meanwhile, many QA/QC actions, such as regular field calibrations and visual checks, have been implemented and will be further improved by automatic procedures during the next period. In spring 2008, participants will be invited to a meeting in Vigna di Valle, Italy, to reconfirm the correct technical operation of their instruments.

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### **TECO-2008 and METEOREX-2008**

As already announced, the WMO Technical Conference on Meteorological and Environmental Instruments and Methods of Observation (TECO-2008) and the associated Exhibition of Meteorological Instruments, Equipment and Services (METEOREX-2008), will be held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 27 - 29 November 2008. In May 2008, the second announcement with invitation to authors of accepted papers and posters, Provisional Programme, Local Arrangements, Registration Form, and Layout Format for Papers will be distributed. All information will be also available on the WWW CIMO/IMOP webpage: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/CIMO/cimo-teco-meteorex.html>.

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### **Other Events**

***Web Portal on Development, Maintenance and Operation of Instruments, Observing Methods and AWS*** was updated in February 2008. Visitors are encouraged to provide their comments, proposals and other interesting links suitable for the Portal.

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### Schedule of Meetings

DATES IN 2008	PLACE	EVENT
2-6 June	Geneva	<b>Joint</b> CIMO Expert Team on Upper-Air Systems Intercomparisons <i>and</i> International Organizing Committee (IOC) on Upper-Air Systems Intercomparisons, Third Session
22-26 September	Hamburg or Geneva	CIMO-OPAG SURFACE Expert Team on Surface Technology and Measurement Techniques (Second Session)

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### Meetings and Reports on the Web

For upcoming meetings: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/IMOP/meetings.html>

For the final reports: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/IMOP/reports.html>

### Contact us

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### Newsletter Note

**The CIMO Newsletter** is issued at least twice yearly and distributed by e-mail to all CIMO Members and affiliates, including the Hydro-Meteorological Equipment Industry Association (HMEI), the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and other international organizations, provided that the e-mail addresses are known to the WMO Secretariat.

**The contents** of this Newsletter may be forwarded to other persons interested in contributing to the work of CIMO, or interested in receiving information on its related activities.

**Information** on the implementation of the Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme (IMO) as well as on the work of the Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation (CIMO), is regularly posted on the WMO website:

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/IMOP/IMOP-home.html>