



# WMO SECRETARIAT

## MISSION REPORT

<p><b>Mission Title &amp; Place:</b> RA II / RA VI Regional Training Seminar on DPFS and PWS in Support of Natural Disaster Reduction. DWD Training Centre, Langen, Germany</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> 18-29 September 2006</p> <p><b>Purpose of the DPFS training:</b> To update and widen knowledge of NMHSs' staff responsible for operational forecasting and development to ensure the optimal use of the products of EPS, with focus on severe weather forecasting.</p>	<p><b>To:</b> DSG</p> <p><b>Through:</b> D/WWW</p> <p><b>From:</b> C/DPFS</p> <p><b>Signature:</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> 10 October 2006</p>
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### SUMMARY

*(Please provide a brief summary of the key objectives, activities, outcomes and recommendations arising from the mission.)*

The DPFS portion of the Training Seminar took place 18 – 22 September 2006. Eighteen participants were present, including 9 who benefited from the English-Russian simultaneous interpretation that was arranged for the event. The Seminar targeted operational forecasters of NMHSs of developing countries, and focused on the use of numerical weather prediction products, especially EPS-based products, for severe weather forecasting.

Lecturers, the subject experts, included Mr Anders Persson (Sweden), Mr Paul Davies (UK), Mr Wilfried Jacobs (Germany, part-time), and Mr Wing Mo Leung (Hong Kong, China, part-time), and myself.

In addition to lectures on specific topics, the training programme (please see attached) included daily current weather discussions (Tuesday – Friday), daily interactive and exercise sessions on how to access and use NWP/EPS products from various Web sites of the NWP centres, and presentations made by some of the participants on the prescribed topic "Hazardous weather forecasting at NMHSs".

The participants completed a questionnaire at the end of the week; the results assisted in evaluating the quality and usefulness of this training. The responses were very favourable and indicated the majority of lectures and sessions as "very useful" and most aspects of the workshop as either "excellent" or "very good".

At the completion of the two weeks of training, all participants received a compilation of all the presentations as well as other related references on a CD that was prepared by the DWD Training School.

Approved for distribution: .....

#### After approval - internal distribution of copies to:

SG	DSG	ASG	D/REM	D/CER	D/SPLA	D/WWW	D/APP	D/HWR	D/AREP	D/WCP	D/WCRP	D/GCOS	D/ETR	D/LSP	D/CPD	D/RAF	D/RAM	D/RAP	S/IPCC	D/SAT	D/VGP	H/RACO	D/WCM	D/RCD	C/DPM		
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## Additional Information

1. The 18 participants were from the NMHSs of the following countries: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Iraq, I.R. of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Lithuania, Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Republic of Uzbekistan.
2. In general, the participants were “politely” enthusiastic about the training, however were generally quiet (hesitant) when directly asked questions. Many of the participants were not familiar with any of the EPS-based products, and were both interested in the basic concepts and the practical use of the products that are presently generated operationally at major WMO centres (e.g. ECMWF, NCEP, Met Office). In some of the case studies that were examined, it was noted that some of the participants had worked the actual operational shifts during these events; they presented additional contextual information and additional “realism” about the events and their work during the events.
3. It would seem that most of the participants have Internet access at their home offices, and many of them do access routinely various Web sites of either WMO Centres or “.com” sites for a variety of routinely available image products. During the week, we compiled a list of Web site addresses that they have collectively used for their future reference.
4. The newly installed training facilities of the DWD Training Centre, with networked (LAN) desktop PCs for at each trainee desk and centrally controlled at the instructor’s workstation (a “Ninjo” forecast system), functioned marvellously during the delivery of the training programme. The low cost of reasonable accommodation at the Meteorological Training and Conference Centre (“Bildungs- und Tagungszentrum, BTZ”) in Langen represented a cost advantage for the organization and delivery of the Seminar. The local staff of the DWD were very responsive and helpful in the support they provided throughout the planning and the delivery of the course.
5. The following points arose in the course of the week:
  - Operational forecasters face “Information overload” and don’t have the time to examine all available products (e.g. available on the Internet). They need practical approaches, especially in relation to severe weather forecasting, where forecasters’ experience and ability to use probabilistic information could be put to maximum use. Training and guidance materials would be helpful.
  - The training seminar brought indirect benefits for participants from neighbouring NMCs – they had the opportunity to meet each other, and to discuss operational issues and forecasting problems of common interest, including how each forecasted specific severe weather events.
  - RSMCs with Geographical Specialization could be further implemented to assist NMHSs. In addition to the provision of deterministic NWP and EPS-based products, what additional support could RSMCs provide to NMHSs that lie within the RSMC’s area of coverage, in particular during episodes of potential severe weather?
6. The summary of the results of the post-seminar participants’ survey is attached.