



Our ref.: OBS/OSD/IMO/RQQI

GENEVA, 3 November 2011

Annexes 2 (available in English only)

Subject: Participation in the First WMO/CIMO Radar Quality Control and Quantitative Precipitation Estimation Intercomparison (RQQI)

Action required: To advise the WMO Secretariat of intended participation in RQQI, no later than **2 December 2011**

Dear Sir/Madam,

In recent years the use of weather radar data for numerous meteorological applications has greatly increased, and with this the data quality and standardization requirements have also risen. Weather radar data has begun to be assimilated into NWP models, regional hydrological applications require clean and consistent radar data, climate applications are calling for radar data to provide more widespread information on precipitation than rain gauge networks, and the use of radar data for the validation of space-based data sets has commenced. All this has led to more stringent data quality requirements for the quantitative use of weather radar data and its regional/global exchange.

The fifteenth session of the Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation (CIMO-XV, Helsinki, 2-8 September 2010) decided to intercompare weather radar algorithms, with a view to identifying the best quality control algorithms, and to quantify the quality of radar products such as Quantitative Precipitation Estimation (QPE). Support for this proposal was provided by the sixty-second session of the Executive Council (EC-LXII, Geneva, 8-18 June 2010).

Accordingly, an International Organizing Committee and Project Team have now been selected for the first WMO/CIMO Radar Quality Control and Quantitative Precipitation Estimation Intercomparison (RQQI). Detailed plans for the intercomparison have been developed, including the preparation of a Data Protocol Agreement, which all participants will be required to sign prior to their participation. RQQI is unlike any previous CIMO intercomparison project, in that it comprises an intercomparison of computer algorithms, rather than instrumentation *per se*, so it does not require participants to meet in order to carry out the intercomparison.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6602)
Mr Bruce Sumner, HMEI

cc: Members of the IOC-RQQI)
Invited Experts to the first session of IOC-RQQI)
Members of the Expert Team on Instrument Intercomparisons) (for information)
President of CIMO)

It is intended that RQOI be carried out between January and May 2012. Further details of what is proposed for RQOI are contained in the final report of the first session of the WMO/CIMO International Organizing Committee for Radar Quality Control and Quantitative Precipitation Intercomparisons (Exeter, United Kingdom, 14-15 April 2011), which can be accessed from the web page: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/IMOP/reports.html>. Updated detailed plans, schedules and other relevant documents will also soon be available on the CIMO Website at:

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

The IOC-RQOI now wishes to invite expressions of interest from WMO Members and members of the Association of Hydro-Meteorological Equipment Industry (HMEI) in participating in RQOI, either as a Test Data Provider or a Test Data Processor, or both. Respondents are invited to complete the questionnaire provided in Annex I and to sign the Data Protocol Agreement in Annex II and return the completed documentation to the WMO Secretariat no later than **15 December 2011**.

As outlined in the aforementioned meeting report and in the Data Protocol Agreement, successful respondents will be selected by the RQOI Project Team based on the perceived value to RQOI of their participation, and each respondent will be advised of the Project Team's decision in this regard before the commencement of the intercomparison period. Prospective participants must be prepared to complete their respective contributions to RQOI between January and May 2012, and will be expected to meet all costs of their participation, as WMO will not be in a position to provide financial assistance.

Finally, may I take the opportunity to express my appreciation for your contributions to the activities of the Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme.

Yours faithfully



(J. Lengoasa)
for the Secretary-General