

OPENING REMARKS

JMA/WMO Workshop on Quality Management in Surface, Climate and Upper-air Observations in RA II (Asia)

(Tokyo, Japan, 27-30 July 2010)

(Dr Miroslav Ondráš, WMO Observing Systems Division)

Mr Yuji Kano, Director-General, JMA Observations Dpt.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a privilege for me to address you on behalf of WMO on the occasion of the opening of the JMA/WMO Workshop on Quality Management in Surface, Climate and Upper-air Observations in Region II (Asia), held here in Tokyo, Japan, 27-30 July 2010.

I would like to express the WMO appreciation to Mr Kunio SAKURAI, Director-General of the Japan Meteorological Agency and the Permanent Representative of Japan with WMO for hosting this Workshop, as well as for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to all participants. It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings of the Secretary-General of WMO, Mr M. Jarraud, to JMA staff and to all participants and lecturers.

As you already know, fourteenth session of RA II (Asia) in Tashkent, 2008, acknowledged the importance of surface, climate and upper-air observations to the broader use for weather, climate and water applications and for decision-making by NMHSs, including those of developing and the Least Developed Countries. A number of advanced centres in the Region II are engaged in the quantity and quality monitoring of data, including quality assurance and identification of deficiencies in the observational data in the framework of various WMO programmes, thereby improving the quality of weather, climate, hydrological and water-related services including advisories, forecasts and warnings.

The Association's commitment to further improve the quality of observational data resulted in a proposal of a Pilot Project to Develop Quality Management Support for NMHSs of the Region in Surface, Climate and Upper-air Observations and adopted Resolution 5 (XIV-RA II) – "Pilot project to enhance the availability and quality management support for NMHSs in surface, climate and upper-air observations". It established a Pilot Project Coordination Group to steer this activity with Japan as the coordinator of this Group. The Association also requested the Secretary-General to assist Members in the implementation of this resolution. As a follow-up, this Workshop has been organized with a view of assessing the situation in Member countries, identifying the requirements, modalities and actions of this Pilot Project. An ultimate objective of this project is a provision of assistance to recipient Members in quality assurance of observational data.

I wish to recall that following the strategic decision made by the Fifteenth WMO Congress (Geneva, May 2007) to embark on enhancing the integration between the WMO observing systems, the Executive Council Working Group on the WMO Integrated Global Observing Systems (WIGOS) and the WMO Information System (WIS) steered and monitored the development of WIGOS concept in a way to achieve the broadest possible collaboration and cooperation.

WIGOS will provide the integration and interoperability of the different observing systems that WMO sponsors and co-sponsors and will lead to the establishment of a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable system of observing systems that addresses the requirements of all WMO Programmes. Four WIGOS basic documents, namely WIGOS Development and Implementation Plan (WDIP), Concept of Operation (CONOPS), WIGOS Development and Implementation Strategy (WDIS) and WIGOS Imperative have been produced and submitted to the WMO Executive Council in June 2010 for consideration. I also wish to inform you that WIGOS has become one

of the four high priorities in WMO and it is so reflected in the WMO Strategic Plan.

This Pilot Project will have a direct impact on the WIGOS implementation as it addresses its standardization components. Through WIGOS this Pilot project it will be contributing to the future Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), also one of the four WMO high priorities for the next financial period. The Global Framework for Climate Services was established at the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3), 31 August - 4 September 2009, with one of the major outcomes being the Conference declaration to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science based climate monitoring and prediction services. Availability of high quality climate data is crucial for the Global Framework for Climate Services and will be ensured by the implementation of the WMO Quality Management Framework. In doing this, reliable, timely and quality assured data streams with essential quality control and relevant metadata should be available for the purposes of GFCS.

There is no doubt that this Pilot Project will also contribute to the other two WMO's high priorities, namely Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Capacity Building and Aviation Meteorology.

I wish to assure you that WMO is committed to support this Pilot Project and all activities related to the improvements in quality of observations and products for the benefit of all WMO Members.

Finally, I wish to thank local organizing committee for excellent arrangements made so far and for having provided these excellent facilities and organizational support for this Workshop. I wish the participants every success in their work during the Workshop as well as an enjoyable stay in Tokyo.

Thank you for your attention.