

3rd Meeting of the Coordination Group of the RA II WIGOS Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products, and Training

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Opening Remarks

I cordially welcome all participants to this third meeting of the Group and express my appreciation to JMA for hosting the meeting in Tokyo and to both JMA and KMA, co-coordinators of the Project, for organizing this meeting. I apologize for not being able to participate in person but trust that Dr Anthony Rea, BOM and Chair of the WMO CBS Inter-Programme Expert Team on Satellite Utilization and Products, will represent WMO at this meeting.

I should express my special thanks to JMA for hosting the 6th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users Conference and the associated training events that were held earlier this week, with great success, as I understand. Many of you participated in these events, which are by themselves an effective means to provide support to NMHSs in the Region in the use of satellite data and products – the main objective for this Group. Collocating meetings is an efficient way of fostering the dialogue among satellite data users, and with satellite operators, such as from Japan, Korea, China, the Russian Federation, and India. WMO trusts that participants attended all meetings and had fruitful discussions during this week.

The Project and its Coordination Group are very important to identify and document the requirements of satellite data users in the Region, and to present these to the satellite operators in a consistent, traceable form. This is particularly important given the new capabilities available from the next generation of meteorological satellites, of which Himawari-8 is the first successful example in geostationary orbit. The Group is key to identify issues that users may have in incorporating the new data streams into their operations, and related training needs that should be addressed by the regional VLab Centres of Excellence (hosted by KMA and CMA). Issues regarding satellite data access and exchange, in technical terms, should also be subject of the Group's discussion. Dr Rea will present the WMO tools available to advance this work, and suggestions for the 2015-2016 work plan of the Project.

The meeting should briefly recall actions defined at its last session in 2012, discuss lessons learned, and critically review its work plan. Successful activities, such as support to the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project in RA II, should be continued and enhanced. The Group should take into account the perspectives of users present, and then discuss a realistic, focused two-year work plan. The next meeting of the Group should be held in conjunction with AOMSUC-7 in the Republic of Korea next year, and two teleconferences should be held in the inter-sessional period to monitor progress.

The Group's activities are in line with a WMO EC Resolution to establish standing Region-based satellite user mechanisms in all Regions, and Congress Resolution 37 (Cg-17) on preparing for the new generation of satellites.

I wish you a fruitful debate and a very successful meeting.