

WMO GLOBAL EDUCATION AND SCIENCE NETWORK (GESN)

**ESTABLISHING A GLOBAL EDUCATION AND SCIENCE NETWORK
THAT ENGAGES SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

Summary and purpose of document

A proposal for expanding WMO training activities to engage secondary schools through the Regional Meteorological Training Centres was presented at CGMS XXXI. A focus group was asked to consider the proposal; this is an early response from that group.

ACTION PROPOSED

None

DISCUSSION

1. Action 31.16 charged CGMS Members to form a focus group to further examine further the Global Education and Science Network Focus Group, which should to meet before CGMS-XXXII and present a way forward at CGMS-XXXII.

Response from EUMETSAT

2. EUMETSAT could provide the following support:

- (1) Provision of EUMETSAT satellite data on the Web for training and education purposes. This could be realized through establishing a suitable FTP server which could provide MTP and MSG data via an McIDAS ADDE server. The datasets could be historic data and even for properly registered and licensed users some near real-time data;
- (2) EUMETSAT could investigate the possibility to assist in the organization of regional training workshops at the RMTCs in Niamey (EAMAC) and Nairobi (IMTR) to enable teachers to be trained in the field of remote sensing of the earth;
- (3) Alternatively to 2. above EUMETSAT could sponsor two students to attend the yearly WMO student meeting in Geneva;
- (4) Additionally suitable training material on the EUMETSAT satellite data applications will be made available via the Virtual Laboratory of WMO.

Response from NSMC

3. NSMC welcomes the concept of a GESN. The RMTc in China is well suited to connect with the secondary schools in China and to test some of the remote training materials in a virtual classroom (similar to the Virtual Lab developed within WMO).

4. NSMC would provide:

- (1) a venue for testing the GESN in China;
- (2) some instructors and translators as necessary;
- (3) organize a workshop with RMTc leaders and secondary school representatives engaged on GESN team;
- (4) start a regional GESN web site;
- (5) participate in an international classroom in Geneva for one week (sending a few students from selected schools).

Response from NOAA

5. NOAA believes the GESN is a very good idea. Mr Percy Thomas, NWS training lead and representative to WMO training and education council, sees this as valuable initiative. Ms Marlene Kaplan, NOAA education lead, is working on such an activity within US. NESDIS endorses this GESN concept and is prepared to discuss ways of contributing. As a start NOAA would:

- (1) contribute training tools and materials (including access to remote sensing data) useful in the Virtual Laboratory;
- (2) demonstrate long distance classroom instruction;
- (3) start a dialogue between RMTC leaders and secondary school representatives on how to form a GESN team;
- (4) start a regional GESN web site;
- (5) participate in an international classroom in Geneva for one.