

TROPICAL CYCLONE PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

(Submitted by WMO)

Summary and purpose of document

The purpose of this document is to advise CGMS Members of WMO's Tropical Cyclone Programme requirements.

DISCUSSION

1. The Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) for the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea at its thirty-third session (Dhaka, Bangladesh, 30 January to 4 February 2006) noted with appreciation that CGMS during its 33rd session (Tokyo, Japan, 1-4 November 2005), had taken actions in response to the requirements of the PTC forwarded to the group by the Tropical Cyclone Programme (TCP). The TCP expressed in particular three requirements: geostationary satellite coverage of the Indian Ocean, availability of TRMM data and ocean surface winds from scatterometer data.

2. The Panel noted with appreciation that EUMETSAT plans to relocate Meteosat-7 over the Indian Ocean, which would allow continued coverage until 2008. However, it recalled the need for long-term coverage of the Indian Ocean area whereupon it was pleased to learn that Russia intended to ensure long-term coverage of the Indian Ocean Region, with its Electro L-N1 and N2 satellites, currently scheduled for launch in 2007 and 2009, respectively.

3. The Panel noted the opening of the Centre of Excellence in Oman for Satellite Application Courses. The Centre was established with the kind cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and EUMETSAT. The Panel Members were requested to participate in the courses offered by the Centre.

4. The Regional Association V Tropical Cyclone Committee (RA V/TCC) for the South Pacific and South East Indian Ocean at its eleventh session (Adelaide, Australia, 4-8 May 2006) carried out a wide-ranging review of the Technical Plan and its Implementation Programme for 2006–2010. It rated “satellite interpretation” as one of the activities of highest priorities to be strengthened under “Training and Capacity Building”. It also put great emphasis on “access to LRIT satellite information” to be improved under “Communication and Computer”.