

**ASSESSMENT of the VIRTUAL TRAINING LABORATORY
NESDIS/CIRA Report**

(Submitted by A. Mostek)

To inform CGMS Members on the status of activities of U.S. NESDIS and Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) within the CGMS Virtual Laboratory for Training in Satellite Meteorology.

ACTION PROPOSED

- (1) CGMS Members to note the report and make comments, as appropriate;
- (2) Participate in the WMO Satellite training program scheduled for Barbados from December 2-13, 2003;
- (3) Prepare for the second session of the CGMS VL Focus Group to be held in Barbados from December 15-16.

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1.0 DISCUSSION

1.1 Background

A. CGMS-XXX

- i. CGMS-XXX noted that a number of important activities and milestones that were established by the VL focus group were being addressed and met.
- ii. CGMS-XXX was pleased to be informed of the successful application of the Virtual Laboratory for Satellite Data Utilization for the Asia Pacific Satellite Application Training Seminar (APSATS) workshop that was co-sponsored by WMO, Japan Meteorological Agency and the Bureau of Meteorology.
- iii. CGMS-XXX requested that the VL focus group convene before CGMS-XXXI and report back on activities and status with regard to the implementation plan.

Second session of the CGMS Virtual Laboratory Focus Group - December 2003

- B. The CGMS-XXX had requested that the VL Focus Group convene before CGMS-XXXI and report back on activities and status with regard to the implementation plan. Schedule and funding constraints required the VL focus group meeting to be postponed until December 2003, which coincides with the WMO Satellite training program scheduled for Barbados from December 2-13, 2003. Thus the second session will take place in Barbados during the week immediately following the WMO training event. As instructed by CGMS, the second session of the Focus Group will conduct an initial assessment of the VL, report back to CGMS-XXXII on activities and status with regard to the implementation plan, especially the following items: the resource library, its role, how it is structured, how it is "peer reviewed," and other pertinent matters; VISITview, its role the Virtual Laboratory construct, etc.; expectations for the RMTCs that are participating in the Virtual Laboratory especially in the area of a review of the questionnaire to help focus their training, and as an input to WMO; coordination of training activities that could lead to a schedule of "classes" for each year; Virtual Laboratory participant roles and responsibilities; archiving of training class presentations as a future training resource; development of a web-based training resource available to WMO and others, how it is managed, and what is the corresponding role of the "centre of excellence". The third session should occur in five years and conduct a comprehensive review of the VL.

2.0 NESDIS & CIRA Activities within the VL since CGMS XXX

- All satellite operators, including NESDIS, have a server online and connected to the VL

- VL servers are online and connected to the NESDIS (CIRA), EUMETSAT, NSMC and JMA
- Resource libraries are available online for the VL at NESDIS (CIRA) that includes links to EUMETSAT, JMA, NSMC and WMO.
- VISITview software and training are available via the VL web site at CIRA to all participants
 - Courses on MSG were organized at the centres of excellence at EAMAC in Niamey, with help of EUMETSAT, and the RMTC in Nairobi. During that period, VISITview was successfully used with participation between those centres of excellence and the centre of excellence at AuBOM.
 - Over 20 satellite meteorology teletraining sessions are available from the CIRA VL site (Figure 1) at <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/WMOVL/> via the link to the VISIT program page at <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/visithome.asp>.
 - VISITview software continues to be updated via the Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) program sponsored by NOAA. The VISITview homepage is at <http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/visitview/>. Some recent VISITview enhancements include the ability to import an entire PowerPoint presentation, adding prerecorded instructor audio and annotations, quiz function, and more.
 - The collaboration site for real-time satellite weather briefings (located at <http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/visit/satcollab.html>) is being maintained and updated. This site was used for the first round-the-world satellite briefing at AuBOM for RMTC WMO Workshop in May 2002. The plan is to do another round-the-world satellite weather briefing at the WMO workshop in Barbados, December 2003.
- The following information can be accessed within the VL:

The resources listed below are available from various VL servers:

Satellite Imagery	Satellite Products	Tutorials
Training Tools	Software	Digital Satellite Imagery
Live Training Events	Online Courses and Quiz's	Search

Centers of Excellence resource sites and sponsors' resource libraries are available from:

Centers of Excellence at five WMO Regional Meteorological Training Centers at San Jose, Costa Rica , Bridgetown, Barbados , Niamey, Niger , Nairobi, Kenya, and Nanjing, China and Australian Bureau of Meteorology Training Center (ABOMTC)
Resource libraries at NESDIS (CIRA/VL) , EUMETSAT, JMA, NSMC and WMO

Supporting Science Groups have links into the VL, and each science group has agreed to support the needs of the VL

International TOVS Working Group (ITWG)
International Winds Working Group (IWWG)
International Precipitation Working Group (IPWG)

The Virtual Lab continues to receive strong support from its Sponsors:

USA ([NOAA/NESDIS](#)) | Europe ([EUMETSAT](#)) | China ([NSMC](#)) | Japan ([JMA](#))

Welcome to the Virtual Laboratory for Satellite Training and Data Utilization

The Virtual Laboratory for Satellite Training and Data Utilization (VL) has been established to maximize the exploitation of satellite data across the globe. It is a collaborative effort joining the major operational satellite operators across the globe with WMO “centers of excellence” in satellite meteorology. Those “centers of excellence” serve as the satellite-focused training resource for WMO Members. [Click here to access a more detailed description of the VL](#). To access VL resources or different components of the VL click on the appropriate item below.

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Virtual Lab Resources available from this site ([CIRA](#))

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Centers of Excellence resource sites and sponsors' resource libraries

Centers of Excellence at five WMO Regional Meteorological Training Centers at [San Jose, Costa Rica](#), [Bridgetown, Barbados](#), [Niamey, Niger](#), [Nairobi, Kenya](#), and [Nanjing, China](#) and [Australian Bureau of Meteorology Training Center \(ABOMTC\)](#)

Resource libraries at [CIRA](#), [EUMETSAT](#), [JMA](#), [NSMC](#) and [WMO](#)

Supporting Science Groups

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Figure 1. Homepage for Virtual laboratory for Satellite Training and Data Utilization at CIRA.