

REPORT ON EUMETSAT TRAINING ACTIVITIES

This document reports on training activities carried out by EUMETSAT over the last year and provides an outline plan of training activities for the coming year.

CGMS Members are invited to take note.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document briefly describes training activities carried out over the last twelve months and presents an outline plan of activities for the coming year.

2 RECENT TRAINING ACTIVITIES

2.1 Satellite Systems

The third course in a series of MSG/EPS training courses, to prepare French-speaking African NMS for changes arising with the new EUMETSAT satellite systems, was held in Niamey, Niger in February 2000. Like its predecessors, it proved to be a very popular and successful event with participation from over 20 African countries.

A training course, hosted jointly by the Portuguese Meteorological Institute and CRIA, an associated Research Agency, in the use of satellite data to support various remote-sensing activities, took place on the island of Sao Tome (very close to the Meteosat sub-satellite point) in March 2000. This course was the first of several targeted at Portuguese-speaking nations (especially those in Africa).

Also in March 2000 was the latest in the series of satellite data application training courses benefiting, in particular, the Nordic countries. The course was hosted by the Finnish Meteorological Institute in Helsinki and was supported by EUMETSAT and the Nordic Council. These are annual events and prove to be extremely popular with forecasters.

EUMETSAT actively supported its Eastern European User Forum, held in Budapest, Hungary, in April 2000. Much interest was shown in our training activities and several requests for training courses were received. It is expected that the current three EUMETSAT Cooperating States (Poland, Hungary and Slovakia) will each host a training event over the next year, with Hungary in December 2000.

In May 2000, an MSG/EPS training course was held in Austria for the benefit of many European NMS. In June 2000, the German Weather Service hosted an MSG/EPS training course, which was designed primarily for experts and forecasters from German-speaking European countries.

2.2 Computer Aided Learning

The development of Computer Aided Learning (CAL) material by a consortium of European NMSs continued during the period with the latest volume of material, comprising a manual of conceptual models and a set of case studies to be used in training courses (SATREP3), nearing completion. EUMETSAT Member and Cooperating States have expressed great interest in this type of material and it is expected that there will be further similar activities in the future.

EUMETSAT is also about to initiate the production of a set of CAL modules, which will be used to provide training in the use and application of data and products from the MSG satellites. An MSG CAL Workshop, hosted by the German Weather Service, comprising interested Member and Cooperating States and CAL experts from Europe and Africa, was held in August 2000 to further develop the concept and to provide a route map for development of the CAL material.

The first ASMETS project, to develop CAL suitable for use by NMS in Africa, is now drawing to a close. The four African experts have already started the production of the next CAL module, which will demonstrate the advantage of combining satellite imagery with numerical model output. Distribution of this ASMETS module is expected mid-2001.

In the next year, workshops will be held by the African CAL experts in the RMTCs Nairobi and Niamey to discuss the use of existing Web-based CAL material produced by other Institutes and Universities and to assess its suitability for inclusion in training courses (part of the Virtual Laboratory concept).

3 FUTURE TRAINING ACTIVITIES

In the coming months MSG/EPSC and/or satellite data applications courses are scheduled to take place in Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Kenya, Niger and Portugal. Additionally, it is expected that EUMETSAT will participate in a training course hosted by China, in Nanjing, in December 2000, where a first trial of the concept for a global virtual training laboratory will take place, with participation of several interested parties and CGMS partners.

At the 4th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa to be held in Kampala from 25 – 29 September 2000, training will be a major issue for discussion with the African users. Much emphasis will be placed on training in preparation for the future satellite systems, in particular, the application of the new satellite data in the African region, as well as in the installation, use and maintenance of new technology reception stations (including training projects foreseen within the framework of the EU sponsored PUMA project). It is hoped that major recommendations and an action plan for new training projects within the African continent, will originate from these discussions.

A very full schedule of training activities will continue in 2001, with training activities already foreseen in Niger, France, Kenya, Turkey, Greece, Lithuania, Germany, Poland, Spain and Slovakia. Three training workshops based on the output of the EUMETSAT Satellite Applications Facilities (SAF) are also foreseen in this period (Climate, Ozone and GRAS).

4 CONCLUSION

CGMS Members are invited to take note.