CGMS-XXVIII
WMO WP-20
Prepared by WMO
Agenda item: H.5

INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE DATA UTILIZATION AND TRAINING WORKING GROUP

(*Submitted by the WMO*)

Summary and purpose of document

This document presents a recommendation for the establishment of an International Satellite Data Utilization and Training Working Group under the aegis of CGMS and cosponsored by WMO.

ACTION PROPOSED:

CGMS may wish to comment on the recommendation to establish an International Satellite Data Utilization and Training Working Group under the aegis of CGMS and cosponsored by WMO.

Appendix: Recommended Initial Structure for the CGMS International Satellite Data Utilization and Training Working Group

DISCUSSION

The third session of the CBS OPAG IOS on Satellite Systems Utilization and Products met in Lannion, France, 3-7 July 2000. As part of the discussion concerning a Virtual Laboratory (VL) for Training in Satellite Meteorology (See WMO WP-6), it noted the importance of the coordination and overseeing needed for the VL and suggested the chairman of OPAG request that CGMS in partnership with WMO form an "International Satellite Data Utilization and Training Working Group". A major function of the working group would be to help foster the VL to realize the challenges set forth by the WMO Executive Council Panel on Education and Training. The Appendix contains a recommended initial structure for consideration by CGMS.

RECOMMENDED INITIAL STRUCTURE
FOR THE
CGMS INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE DATA UTILIZATION AND TRAINING WORKING GROUP

The Expert Team recommends the initial structure of the CGMS working group be:

- Co-chaired by one satellite operator and one representative from the "centres of excellence";
- Served by the WMO Satellite Activities Office as the Secretariat;
- Membership should include:

  - representatives of appropriate science teams;
  - remaining satellite operators and RSSTCs;
  - other interested parties as appropriate.

Assuming that CGMS would form such a working group, the following actions should be included in the guidelines for the Strategy to Improve Satellite System Utilization:

- Consolidate documentation of the range of skills/competencies for operational meteorologists and specialists;
- Examine what online (Web-based learning), Computer Aided Learning (CDs) and hardcopy learning materials are currently available for use in the Virtual Laboratory. This activity will include contacting groups such as ASMET, COMET, CIRA, EuroMET, BMTC and CIMSS who have complimentary projects under way and relevant science groups (such as the EUMETSAT SAFs, the TOVS Working Group, the WINDS Working Group and the proposed quantitative precipitation working group);
- Negotiate with the copyright holders of the training material rights to either link to their material and/or to acquire the rights to use their material at the designated centres of satellite training expertise (this includes the centres making the material available to on and offsite users);
- Working with groups such as ASMET, COMET or EuroMET, design and test possible user interfaces, educational approaches for delivering the material, and examine methods for online tracking of student participation;
- On a trial basis, evaluate the proposed Virtual Laboratory material in conjunction with one of the WMO satellite training workshops for more user feedback;
- Incorporate user feedback into the educational approach and review the content of the Virtual Laboratory;
- Move to a wider implementation of the material; and
- Undertake periodic review of the Virtual Laboratory sites in conjunction with reviews of the skills and competencies of the operational meteorologists and specialists.

One important task that CGMS could perform would be the preparation of sample data sets for the various data streams now being provided or planned for in the near future. The data sets would be used within the VL concept.

Each "centre of excellence" should have or develop plans for direct access to real-time satellite data from both LEO and GEO satellite systems. Additionally, each "centre of excellence" should receive regional information from the biennial questionnaires.