

REPORT ON CGMS PARTICIPATION AT UNISPACE III

The Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, UNISPACE III, took place from 19-30 July 1999 in Vienna. CGMS participated in UNISPACE III in the framework of the Technical Forum with a CGMS Satellite Meteorology Workshop on 22 July 1999. This working paper reports on this workshop. CGMS Members are invited to take note of the recommendations made at this workshop.

REPORT ON CGMS PARTICIPATION AT UNISPACE III

1 INTRODUCTION

CGMS participated in UNISPACE III, the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in Vienna from 19-30 July 1999 with a satellite meteorology workshop on 22 July 1999 held in the framework of the Technical Forum. This working paper presents a report on the workshop. CGMS Members are invited to take note of the recommendations concluded at the workshop.

2 REPORT ON THE CGMS SATELLITE METEOROLOGY WORKSHOP

The satellite meteorology workshop took place on the afternoon of 22 July 1999. The theme of the workshop was “the role of CGMS in promoting wider usage of satellite meteorological data”.

It started with an introductory statement given by EUMETSAT, as the CGMS Secretariat drawing out the contribution of CGMS to the global objectives of UNISPACE III:

- to a better understanding of the Earth’s System through the provision of long term global meteorological and climatological observations.
- to improvement of human condition through the improvement of reliable weather forecasts and long-term climate prediction.
- to the development of further knowledge through the sharing of scientific knowledge (Cloud Motion Wind, ...).
- to the capacity building in the user community through the promotion of applications of meteorological satellites, information and training.
- to the promotion of international cooperation through CGMS contingency strategy, bilateral cooperations.

The introductory statement by the CGMS Secretariat was followed by a presentation on “the use of US satellite data for national and international natural disaster mitigation” by Dr. James Baker, NOAA, and a presentation by the WMO on “the role of CGMS, satellite meteorology from a global user perspective”.

After this all CGMS members, with the exception of India who at last minute was unable to attend the seminar, gave presentations on the use of their satellite data by specific user communities in their regions. On behalf of EUMETSAT Mr. E. Mukolwe, Director of Kenya Meteorological Department, reported on the use of Meteosat data in Africa giving a perspective on the potentialities offered by MSG for the continent. The workshop was chaired by the WMO. The agenda can be found in the annex. Around 70 people attended the workshop.

3 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following conclusions were drawn at the CGMS Satellite Meteorology Workshop:

It was noted with satisfaction that since its creation in 1972, the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) has provided a forum, in which the satellite operators have studied jointly with the WMO the technical and operational aspects of the global network, so as to ensure maximum efficiency and usefulness through proper coordination in the design of the satellites and in the procedures for data acquisition and dissemination. CGMS has therefore performed major accomplishments. These are listed below together with recommendations for the future:

1. CGMS has played a key role in terms of **coordination** of the satellite operators activities. The group has been very successful in coordinating the overall system in terms of orbital positions, contingency, dissemination schedules, data collection systems and frequency. Concerning this last item, CGMS noted that it is absolutely necessary to provide the required protection to passive sensor bands, and to limit the sharing of such bands with active services. *It was recommended that CGMS should strive to continue to meet user communities' requirements and provide even better coordination to maximise the efficiency of the system as a whole.*
2. CGMS has been very successful in establishing **standards** for the betterment of all users. The group has recently agreed upon standardisation of low rate dissemination services, LRPT and LRIT. *It was recommended that CGMS should strive to standardise all the dissemination services.*
3. CGMS has **improved the products** delivered to the user through a rigorous exchange of information concerning product development both at plenary meetings, as well as through co-sponsored workshops such as the Winds Workshop series, through International TOVS Working Group meetings and other conferences and workshops. CGMS brings top scientists together to discuss specific problems. The scientific interactions greatly enhance the value of CGMS products. *It therefore is recommended to continue exchanging information on product development between CGMS members.*
4. *It was recommended that CGMS should highlight the landmark contingency planning that has occurred between the various satellite operators.* The initiatives of EUMETSAT and NOAA/NESDIS have greatly contributed to the stability of the space-based observing systems by providing a reasonable level of assurance to the user communities that the satellite data, products and services will have continuity.
5. CGMS satellite operators have responded directly to the **user community's requirements** through the user community representative, the WMO. The direct interactions between user and provider are mutually beneficial and *it was recommended that they should continue in the future.*

ANNEX I

CGMS SATELLITE METEOROLOGY WORKSHOP
THE ROLE OF CGMS IN PROMOTING WIDER USAGE OF SATELLITE
METEOROLOGICAL DATA

Thursday, 22 July 1999
14:30-18.00 pm

Chairman: *Dr. D.E. Hinsman, Senior Scientific Officer, WMO*
Rapporteur: *Paul A. Counet, International Relations Officer, EUMETSAT*

- 14H30 INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS BY CGMS SECRETARIAT
(Dr. Tillmann Mohr, Director, EUMETSAT)
- 14H45 USE OF U.S. SATELLITE DATA FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NATURAL
DISASTER MITIGATION
*(Dr. Dr. D. James Baker, Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere
United States Department of Commerce/NOAA)*
- 15H15 THE ROLE OF CGMS, SATELLITE METEOROLOGY FROM A GLOBAL USER
PERSPECTIVE
(Dr. D.E. Hinsman, Senior Scientific Officer, WMO)
- 15H45 USE OF EUMETSAT SATELLITE DATA BY THE AFRICAN USER COMMUNITY
(Mr. Evans A. Mukolwe, Director of the Kenyan MET Department)
- 16H05 THE APPLICATION OF METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE DATA IN DISASTER
MONITORING IN CHINA
(Mr. Yang Jun, Mr. Xu Jianping, CMA)
- 16H25 COFFEE BREAK
- 16H45 USE OF GMS SATELLITE DATA IN THE ASIA PACIFIC AREA AND FUTURE PLAN
OF DISTRIBUTION OF MTSAT SATELLITE DATA
(Mr. Sato, Head of Meteorological Satellite Planning, JMA)
- 17H05 EXPANDED USE OF SATELLITE DATA IN COSTA RICA AND BARBADOS
*(Dr. James Purdom, Director, NESDIS Office of Research and
Applications)*
- 17H25 THE APPLICATION OF METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE DATA AND DERIVED
PRODUCTS IN THE RUSSIAN SERVICE OF HYDROMETEOROLOGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING
*(Mr. Valery N. Dyadyuchenko, Deputy Head of Roshydromet and Mr.
Vasily Asmous, Director of SRC Planeta)*
- 17H45 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS