

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RA II PILOT PROJECT TO DEVELOP SUPPORT
FOR NMHSS IN SATELLITE DATA, PRODUCTS AND TRAINING
(SECOND PHASE: SEPTEMBER 2010 – AUGUST 2011)
AND THE THIRD-PHASE ACTION PLAN (SEPTEMBER 2011 – AUGUST 2012)**

This document outlines the background and mission of the Pilot Project to develop support for NMHSSs in satellite data, products and training along with the accomplishments of the second phase, and also details the action plan for the third phase.

1 BACKGROUND

The 14th WMO Regional Association II (XIV-RA II) session held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (from 5 to 11 December, 2008) adopted a resolution to establish a Pilot Project for the development of support for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the areas of satellite data, products and training. After the session, the WMO Secretariat invited WMO Members to join the Pilot Project Coordinating Group, whose members were Japan (co-coordinator), the Republic of Korea (co-coordinator), Bahrain, China, Hong Kong (China), India, Kyrgyzstan, the Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and, as an observer, EUMETSAT (as of 31 May, 2011).

2 MISSION

The project was established as a kind of self-help effort for NMHSs in RA II to improve the flow of satellite-related information. The major focus of the initiative is to facilitate the timely provision of satellite-related information by satellite operators themselves to users, i.e., NMHSs in RA II, especially in developing countries including LDCs. As there are also other ongoing activities such as the Virtual Laboratory (VL), we understand the need to create synergies and provide greater benefits with a lower level of exertion while avoiding duplication of effort.

3 SECOND-PHASE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The accomplishments of the RA II Pilot Project's second phase from September 2010 to August 2011 can be summarized as follows:

(1) The 1st Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II Pilot Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 21 – 23 February, 2011. Meeting participants:

- agreed to clarify satellite users' needs and determine the status of utilization through the RA II Pilot Project questionnaire system;
- agreed to share information on access to satellite imagery, data, products and training information through the RA II Pilot Project portal site; and
- shared an understanding that cultivating human resources is essential in promoting the utilization of satellite products.

(2) Issuance of newsletters to RA II Members

Vol. 2/No. 1, December 2010

Vol. 2/No. 2, May 2011

Vol. 2/No. 3, June 2011

Vol. 2/No. 4, August 2011

Content has included:

- Information on access to satellite imagery, data and products, including application products
- News on meteorological satellites
- News on new services
- Brief progress reports on the Pilot Project
- Introduction to the activities of other RAs and WMO VL activities

(3) Enhancement of RA II Pilot Project web pages on the WMO Space Programme (WMOSP) website hosted by WMOSP

(<http://www.wmo.ch/pages/prog/sat/RAII-PilotProject.html>)

Content uploaded:

- Report on the Coordinating Group of the RA II Pilot Project meeting
- Information on access to satellite imagery, data/products and training
- RA II Pilot Project questionnaire relating to the availability and use of satellite data and products

4 THIRD-PHASE ACTION PLAN

(1) Ongoing issuance of quarterly newsletters to RA II Members

Content will include:

- Access to satellite imagery, data and products, including application products
- Training activities currently available or expected to be available in the future
- News on current status and future meteorological satellites
- News on new services of satellite imagery, data and their format, products etc
- Research work on satellite imagery, products and their applications to various areas
- Brief progress reports on the Pilot Project

- Introduction to the activities of other RAs and WMO VL activities
- (2) Enhancement of Pilot Project web pages on the WMO Space Programme (WMOSP) website hosted by WMOSP
- Web pages will include:
- Information on access to satellite imagery, data/products and training
 - Newsletter archives
 - RA II Pilot Project questionnaires
 - Meeting reports
- (3) Enhancement of RA II Member and Coordinating Group Member mailing lists (by April 2012)
- More effective collection and sharing of opinions on newsletters, requirements, etc. from RA II Members
- (4) Identification of RA II Member requirements (by April 2012)
- Implementation of an RA II Member survey through the web-based RA II Pilot Project questionnaire system on satellite data utilization
 - Sharing of questionnaire results through the website
 - Identification of RA II Member requirements through the questionnaire system
- (5) Alignment of Pilot Project activities and Virtual Laboratory activities to optimize assistance to NMHSS in RA II (by August 2011)
- Ongoing liaison with the WMO Secretariat and the VL Secretariat (EUMETSAT) in order to optimize assistance to NMHSSs
 - Sharing training materials to avoid duplication of effort and facilitating training activities
- (6) Planning of the 2nd Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II Pilot Project to be held in 2012
- KMA will host the 2nd Meeting of CG of RA II PP in the 4th quarter of 2012
 - RA-II PP training workshop/users meeting as joint meeting
- (7) Creation of the fourth-phase working plan (by August 2012)