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Agenda Item: I.3
Discussed in Plenary

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RA II WIGOS PROJECT TO DEVELOP SUPPORT
FOR NMHSs IN SATELLITE DATA, PRODUCTS AND TRAINING**

This paper outlines the background and mission of the WIGOS Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training, and also details recent related accomplishments.

1 BACKGROUND

At the 14th WMO Regional Association II (XIV-RA II) session held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in December 2008, a resolution was adopted 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 are 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.

At the 15th session of Regional Association II (XV-RA II) held in Doha, Qatar in December 2012, it was decided that the RA II Pilot Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training should become the RA II WIGOS Project from 2013 in light of its importance in improving dialogue between satellite providers and users in the region.

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 data by satellite operators themselves to users (i.e., NMHSs in RA II), especially in least developed countries (LDCs) and other developing nations. It is necessary to create synergies with the Virtual Laboratory (VL) and other ongoing projects in order to maximize benefit from the project and avoid duplication of effort.

3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (May 2014 – April 2015)

The recent accomplishments of the RA II WIGOS Project (from May 2014 to April 2015) are summarized below.

(1) Issuance of newsletters to RA II Members

Quarterly newsletters have been issued to share recent satellite-related information on topics such as imagery data, products and training. The newsletters listed below, which were issued to RA II Members, contained brief reports on relevant meetings, product progress reports, news on the successful launch of the Himawari-8, its first images and the starts of HimawariCast/HimawariCloud, and information on preparation on KMA's Geo-KOMPSAT-2A.

- Vol. 5/No. 2, August 2014
- Vol. 5/No. 3, October 2014
- Vol. 5/No. 4, December 2014

- Vol. 6/No. 1, March 2014

All past issues are available on the JMA website (it has just been moved) at http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/jma-eng/satellite/ra2wigosproject/ra2wigosproject-intro_en_jma.html

(2) 5th Asia/Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference and VLab training event

The fifth AOMSUC was held in Shanghai, China from 19-21 November 2014. The conference was hosted and sponsored by CMA and was co-sponsored by JMA, KMA, AuBOM and WMO. The conference was preceded by a two day training event at CMA training facilities and brought together participants from Region II and V.

4 FUTURE PLANS

(1) Support activities to prepare satellite data users for the new generation of geostationary meteorological satellites

The new-generation geostationary meteorological satellites, including Himawari-8, FY-4A and GEO-KOMPSAT-2A, are scheduled to begin operation in the period of 2015 to 2020. The RA II WIGOS Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training will support preparations by NMHSs in RA II, especially in LDCs and other developing nations, for the new satellites. This will involve user training and guidance on upgrading processing software/hardware, information and tools.

The issuance of quarterly newsletters will be continued.

(2) 6th Asia/Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference and training event

JMA will host the sixth AOMSUC in Japan in 9-13 November 2015 (<http://www.jma-net.go.jp/msc/en/aomsuc6/>). There will be a two day training event is also planned at the time of the meeting. It will be planned to focus the utilization of new satellite data, especially on RGB composite product lead by JMA, KMA, BoM and possibly CMA. It is suggested to continue such a cooperative training event in conjunction with AOMSUC-7 (KMA will host the AMS-AOMSUC-7 joint conference in 2016) and follow-ons.

(3) 3rd Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II WIGOS Project

The third meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II WIGOS Project will be held in 2015 on the occasion of the sixth AOMSUC in Japan