

TROPICAL CYCLONE PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

(Submitted by WMO)

Summary and purpose of document

The purpose of this document is to advise CGMS Members of WMO's Tropical Cyclone Programme requirements

ACTION PROPOSED

CGMS to take action on the Committee's request for EUMETSAT to find a solution ensuring geostationary coverage of the Indian Ocean beyond 2005 in order to provide Members the necessary satellite data in support of their national mandates.

1. The RA I Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South-West Indian Ocean at its sixteenth session (Maputo, Mozambique, from 8 to 12 September 2003) thanked EUMETSAT for agreeing to maintain its coverage over the Indian Ocean at least until 2005. It however reiterated its concern about the absence of any permanent geostationary satellite coverage over the Indian Ocean and requested WMO to make representations with EUMETSAT to find a solution ensuring geostationary coverage of the Indian Ocean beyond 2005.
 2. The above Committee was informed that the Meteosat Second Generation Satellite (MSG) was successfully launched in August 2002. The African Meteorological Transition Project that will provide ground receiving equipment to all countries in Region I (Africa) was progressing well and the first system will be installed in Nairobi before the end of 2003. Members were requested to provide the project officer, when requested, with the necessary information to facilitate the smooth implementation of the project.
 3. The Panel on Tropical Cyclones for the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea at its thirty-first session (Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 1 to 6 March 2004) expressed its appreciation to the EUMETSAT for agreeing to keep Meteosat-5 in its present position until 2005 and again requested that it continue to do so beyond 2005.
 4. The Panel was informed that Oman successfully hosted the First EUMETSAT Satellite Applications Course For the Middle East (ESAC-ME-1) training course which was held in Muscat from 21 to 25 February 2004. It was organized by EUMETSAT and WMO. The course was attended by about thirty participants from thirteen countries from the Middle East the first-ever training session in the Middle East for the new Meteosat Second Generation (MSG-1) satellite. EUMETSAT is sponsoring the five-day session to inform users how to best exploit data from the MSG-1 satellite, which was declared operational in January 2004.
 5. Oman was very grateful to EUMETSAT for recognizing the training needs for the countries in western RA II under the foot print of EUMETSAT satellite. Therefore, after the successful launch of this training course, Oman hopes that EUMETSAT will continue to sponsor the above mentioned training on a periodical basis similar to what is being done in Africa, and also to invite more countries in the western RA II including the Panel Members of Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
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