

ACTIVITIES OF VIRTUAL LABORATORY GROUP IN JMA

This document describes the activities of the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) concerning Virtual Resource Library (VRL) and the Asia Pacific Satellite Application Training Seminar (APSATS) 2002 workshop.

The web page for the VRL was established in June 2001. SATAID based materials are available from the VRL.

APSATS 2002 workshop was a milestone experiment to use Virtual Laboratory (VL) in classes. The success of the experiment proved the usefulness of the activities on VL over the globe.

No action is required on this subject.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The first session of the CGMS Virtual Laboratory Focus Group held at the EUMETSAT Headquarters in Darmstadt, Germany, from 16 to 18 May 2001 drafted a proposed structure and developed the goals and the implementation plan for the CGMS Virtual Laboratory in response to the action 28.14 at the previous CGMS meeting.

The discussion was reported to CGMS 29 and the structure, goals and implementation plans of VL was approved. JMA reported its activities for the establishment of JMA's Virtual Resource Library (VRL).

This document describes the successive activities in JMA about its VRL and the use of various VL resources at Asia Pacific Satellite Application Training Seminar (APSATS) 2002 workshop. APSATS 2002 was a workshop meeting that held in June 2002 in Melbourne Australia. Present available VLs were efficiently used in this two weeks of the seminar.

2 ESTABLISHMENT OF JMA'S VIRTUAL RESOURCE LIBRARY

The VRL in JMA has started its service in the Internet in the middle of May 2002 just before APSATS 2002 meeting. At the moment, JMA's VRL is specialized to serve SATAID programs and their information, and training materials based on SATAID. The URL of the VRL is <http://mscweb.kishou.go.jp/VRL/>. It requires user ID and password. The information to access it will be provided at CGMS-XXX meeting.

JMA is working on adding another important resource in VL of near real-time data. JMA is discussing about a collaboration to materialize a data server that serves near real-time satellite imagery with Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), which is JMA's counterpart of the partnership of a satellite operator and a "Center of Excellence" in VL structure. The discussion is progressing and present outline of the server is to provide satellite data in SATAID format for arbitrary regions a user requires.

JMA is also working on making SATAID compatible with RAMSDIS imagery format that is approved to be the standard imagery format in VL. JMA expresses gratitude to EUMETSAT and NOAA for providing information of their imagery data and also ask for further help in case.

3 VIRTUAL LABORATORY AND APSATS 2002

APSATS 2002 was held in Australian Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre (BMTC) in Melbourne Australia from 20 May to 31 May 2002. This was a training event of the utilization of satellite imagery cosponsored by BoM, JMA and WMO. The event was featured by using available VL resources.

BoM and JMA prepared satellite imagery and NWP data for more than ten case studies for the workshop using SATAID. Some workshops were carried out by the case studies newly prepared and pre-existing materials in JMA. Most of all preparation was done with SATAID programs that are available in JMA's VRL.

Some lectures were conducted by VISITView system, which is a VL resource available in the VRL in Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA). With VISITView the participants received remote distance lecture by the lecturers in the US.

The participants appreciated both lectures and workshops using VL resources, especially it looked VISITView lecture was very efficient to Asian participants. They tend to hesitate to ask questions or raise their opinion to lecturers. Chatting facility of VISITView releases their anxiety about asking questions and the lectures were enhanced by many questions raised by the participants.

With careful preparation and management by BoM, APSATS 2002 showed the usefulness of VL in a training of the use of satellite imagery.

