



CGMS-36, NOAA-WP-08
Prepared by T. Mostek
Agenda Item: G.2
Discussed in Plenary

NOAA Support for the CGMS Virtual Laboratory Focus Group

Summary and Purpose of Document

This is the report jointly presented by NOAA (including NESDIS and NWS) and the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA) to the fourth meeting of the Virtual Laboratory Management Group in Langen, Germany.

Action Proposed

The VLMG fourth meeting is invited to take note.

NOAA Support for the CGMS Virtual Laboratory Focus Group

1. Virtual Laboratory Activities of 2007/2008

B. Connell worked with WMO Virtual Laboratory (VL) members and the Argentina and Brazilian "RMTCOE" in preparing syllabus for September 2008 training event (Note we refer to Regional Meteorological Training Centers of Excellence ("RMTCOE") because CIRA is within the College of Engineering (CoE) and the acronyms get too confusing)

T. Mostek, M. Davison, B. Connell, in coordination with the "RMTCOE" in Costa Rica and Barbados, held monthly virtual Focus Group sessions. The sessions are very popular and continue to draw participants from many Central and South American and Caribbean Countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

CIRA has assisted with the Barbados briefing sessions held for the Caribbean countries. They were held weekly during the tropical 2007 season and less frequently throughout the "dry" months.

A web page at CIRA has been created to showcase the cooperative activities of WMO's "Regional Meteorological Training Centers of Excellence"

<http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/training/rmtc/>

- o In particular, note the section on the focus group:
<http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/training/rmtc/focusgroup.asp>
- o We have a new VISITview RAMSDIS Online page! We finally merged two systems into one so that we can look at higher resolution imagery over many regions. The new server is faster server
<http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visitview/focus/viewgroup.html>
- o Continue to support RAMSDIS Online to provide GOES imagery for international use. This web page has also been updated and moved to a new and faster server.
<http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/ramsdgis/online/rmtc.asp>
- o We established a Yahoo email group (WMOSatMetOMM) (fall 2007). It has helped tremendously with communications.

E. Quiros from IMN/UCR in Costa Rica visited CIRA on 16 and 19 May 2008. We discussed coordinated training activities including installation of VISITview server and future training opportunities, as well as research directed at satellite climatologies.

K. Caesar from CIMH in Barbados visited CIRA on 19 August 2008. We reviewed developments for the WMO Virtual Laboratory Focus Group briefings as well as collaborations on regional satellite climatologies.

J. Purdom, T. Mostek and B. Connell participated in the VLMG meeting in Boulder in June 2007

J. Purdom passed the VL chair position to V. Gaertner and Luiz Machado

T. Mostek was appointed chair of Focus Group subcommittee

2. Planned Activities for 2008/2009

Participate in the Argentina training event 22 September – 3 October.
Prepare for next virtual training event
Continue with Monthly Focus Group briefings (English and Spanish)
using VISITview and CIRA server
Other training activities?

3. Liaison with Satellite operators and other Centres of Excellence

Continued support and liaison with Costa Rica, Barbados, Argentina, and
Brazil
“RMTCOEs”
Mostek/Davison/Connell leading routine activities of Caribbean Focus Group

4. Issues

The participation of former students of the RTC has been part of the success of the Latin American Focus Group. The University of Costa Rica has appointed Berny Fallas and Evelyn Quirós to support the CoE. Berny takes care of the international weather discussions, writes the reports and guides newcomers to feel comfortable during the sessions. Evelyn provides training online in forecast applications of satellite and NWP products, and fosters the online weather discussions at the NMS. Gustavo and Juan Pablo provide support whenever is necessary. Everyone has the permission in their institutions to cooperate with the CoE.

5. Summary

Image display software
Digital or image data?
Data servers
Still countries with limited Internet

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