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Prepared by JMA and KMA
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**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 along with the accomplishments of the fourth phase.

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. FOURTH-PHASE ACCOMPLISHMENTS (September 2012 – August 2013)

The accomplishments of the RA II WIGOS Project's fourth phase (from September 2012 to August 2013) are summarized below.

(1) Second Meeting of the RA II Pilot Project Coordinating Group

The meeting was held on Jeju Island in the Republic of Korea on 8 October, 2012. Meeting attendees:

- approved the continuation and extension of past activities, including the issuance of quarterly newsletters, enhancement of Pilot Project web pages, identification of requirements from RA II Members via questionnaire surveys, and alignment with Virtual Laboratory activities.
- agreed on the initiative's evolution into the WMO RA-II WIGOS project

For more information, refer to the working paper for the previous meeting, CGMS-40 JMA-WP-04/KMA-WP-04.

(2) 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 in April and June 2013, contained brief reports on relevant meetings, a meteorological product progress report and information on current operational satellite of COMS and preparations for the new Himawari-8/9 satellite series.

- Vol. 4/No. 1, April 2013
- Vol. 4/No. 2, June 2013

(3) RA II Pilot Project website

The RA II Pilot Project website hosted by the WMO Space Programme (WMOSP) was set up in the first phase (http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/ra2pilot/project-intro_en.php), and the following content has been uploaded:

- Report on the meeting of the RA II Pilot Project Coordinating Group
- Information on access to satellite imagery, data/products and training
- RA II Pilot Project questionnaire (http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/documents/RA-2-PP_Newsletter-Vol3-N2.pdf) relating to the availability and use of satellite data and products
- Newsletter archives

The website will be updated to report on the progress of the project, which is now part of the WIGOS initiative.

(4) Alignment of Pilot Project activities and Virtual Laboratory (VLab) activities to optimize assistance provided to NMHSs in RA II

- Ongoing liaison with the WMO Secretariat and the VLab Secretariat (EUMETSAT) for information sharing is maintained in order to optimize assistance provided to NMHSs.
- Implementation of the first High Profile Training Event (HPTE) in conjunction with RA II WIGOS Project and 3rd Asia/Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference.