

## **CGMS WEB PAGES**

In response to CGMS Action 33.10

The paper proposes a way forward for the establishment of a dedicated CGMS web site to enhance the external visibility of CGMS, to establish information channels for CGMS Members and to improve the display and update facility for the CGMS Consolidated Report.

The proposal includes an outline description of the expected content provided by WMO as a starting point for discussions. It should be noted, however, that the pages are intended to serve the needs of the whole CGMS membership and that all Members are therefore encouraged to guide the development process via feedback, comments and suggestions on prototype pages that will be periodically presented for review during the intersessional period.

The development of the web pages is proposed to be based on a collaborative effort between WMO and the CGMS Secretariat.

## CGMS WEB PAGES

### 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

At CGMS-33 the CGMS Secretariat presented a proposal for the creation of dedicated CGMS Internet web pages. The basis of the proposal was to enhance the external visibility of CGMS, to establish information channels for CGMS Members and to improve the display and update facility for the CGMS Consolidated Report.

The discussions resulted in the following action:

*Action 33.10 CGMS Members are requested to provide comments and inputs on the proposal for a new CGMS Internet site to the Secretariat by the end of 2005. Based on this input, the CGMS Secretariat to discuss with WMO a way forward.*

At CGMS-34 that action was closed citing responses that had been received from JMA, NOAA and WMO. However, no substantive discussions between the CGMS Secretariat and WMO had actually taken place at that time and so that aspect of the action remained outstanding.

During 2007 some brief exchanges of ideas took place between the CGMS Secretariat and WMO but progress was limited by the availability of resources. In May 2007 WMO refurbished its web sites and the existing CGMS pages had to be relocated; on this occasion, the most obsolete content was removed but the remaining content was migrated with virtually no change, although some in-depth review and update would be justified. In recent weeks the discussion with CGMS Secretariat has resumed and this paper proposes the basis of a way forward.

### 2 PROPOSAL

#### 2.1 Proposed basic approach

For some time CGMS information has been provided through web pages on the WMO web site and also the CGMS Secretariat (EUMETSAT) web site. The proposed approach for a new CGMS web site is based on a single dedicated URL and an underlying web page structure (i.e. a single logical entity) whose content may be distributed across two (or more) physical web servers, for example, those at EUMETSAT and WMO. A common 'look & feel' for web pages will be adopted regardless of their physical location and hence this will allow a division of responsibility for web page maintenance while retaining a unified external appearance. In addition the CGMS pages will contain many links to other sites for information that is of interest to CGMS Members as well as other activities and initiatives in which CGMS Members are involved or play a coordinating role.

Most pages will be publicly accessible in an unrestricted way but there will be a restricted area with access being controlled by username and password for CGMS Members only.

Prototype pages have been created and will be developed in the coming weeks before being presented to CGMS Members for review. Indeed it is via CGMS Member reviews of proposed / prototype web pages that the final layout, structure and content will be eventually defined. The CGMS web site will initially be accessible via the URL <http://cgms.wmo.int> which has already been set up specifically for this purpose. The question of acquiring and registering a dedicated Internet domain for CGMS web pages (such as <http://www.cgms.int>) remains under consideration but is a more costly and onerous approach.

## **2.2 Proposed content**

The CGMS web pages will be organized in a hierarchical structure based on the following proposed top level topics:

- CGMS introduction, background and achievements;
- CGMS documents;
- Status of current and planned satellites (GEO, LEO and R&D);
- Information on training activities with particular attention to the CGMS Virtual Laboratory;
- CGMS Science Working Groups;
- CGMS Members section (restricted access area);
- Miscellaneous information.

An initial breakdown on what will be included under each of these topics is described in a little more detail below but will be expanded and presented for review by CGMS Members over the coming weeks.

### **2.2.1 CGMS introduction and background**

This section shall include the following:

- CGMS Objectives and Charter;
- CGMS Members – current CGMS membership will be described along with the roles of the various Members and links to their respective web sites;
- History – how the CGMS was founded, its major milestones; this would be a brief summary since more details would be in the Consolidated Report;
- CGMS past achievements.

### **2.2.2 CGMS documents**

This section shall enable (read only) access to the following:

- Reports from past CGMS meetings;
- The CGMS Consolidated Report (see also below);
- CGMS Technical Guides (e.g. data transmission standards, etc.);
- The CGMS Directory of Applications;
- Links to other relevant document repositories.

### 2.2.3 Status of current and planned satellites (GEO, LEO and R&D)

This section shall include the following:

- Satellite launch dates;
- Orbital characteristics;
- Instrument payload
- Communication payload (e.g. support to direct user reception);
- Operational status.

### 2.2.4 Information on training activities in satellite meteorology

This section shall provide information on training activities and in particular it will describe and link to the various entities involved in the CGMS Virtual Laboratory initiative.

### 2.2.5 CGMS science Working Groups

This section shall include description and links to the following groups:

- International (A)TOVS Working Group (ITWG);
- International Wind Working Group (IWWG);
- International Precipitation Working Group (IPWG).

### 2.2.6 CGMS Members section (restricted access area)

This section, access to which shall be subject of user authentication, will include the following:

- FTP server access for uploading and downloading documents for upcoming meetings;
- CGMS action status tracking and update facility;
- It will be possible to establish a Members online forum if this would serve a useful purpose;
- Online registration for future meetings;
- Facility to review content of CGMS email list servers and submit requests for updates;
- “Mail to” facility to submit email to selected CGMS Members as defined in email list servers.

### 2.2.7 Miscellaneous information

Other information accessible via the web pages shall include the following:

- IDCS – description, latest status, IDCS Users Guide and latest information regarding interference;
- Links to other external pages of interest covering relevant projects, activities, organizations and other material;
- Facility to generate email to provide **feedback** on web pages or to contact CGMS with **enquiries**. Such emails will be received by the EUMETSAT

User Service Helpdesk who will either provide a direct response or will forward them to an appropriate recipient. All emails handled thus will be tracked to ensure they do not go unanswered.

### **2.3 CGMS Consolidated Report**

At CGMS-34 Members considered the future of the CGMS Consolidated Report and agreed that there should be a "... new consolidated report prepared in 4-5 years time and that the regular final reports of [CGMS] meetings and their tables and annexes would continue to be posted on the [EUMETSAT] web site as is the present practice".

The proposal made to CGMS-33 in EUM-WP-12 regarding enhanced access to the current (2003) Consolidated Report in which an online version of the report will be accessible using a frame-of-reference of either *topic* or *Member* will be implemented. Furthermore, information will be presented in a tabular form to describe the most up-to-date status of elements such as satellite launch dates, payload, orbital characteristics, available satellite products and dissemination systems, etc. Mechanisms will be put in place for Members to submit corrections or updates so that the information will provide a snapshot of the current status and will feed in to summary reports such as the next edition of the CGMS Consolidated Report.

### **3 CONCLUSION**

CGMS Members are invited to note and comment on the proposed approach to the establishment of a dedicated CGMS web site and on the initial suggestion for information content. Members are further invited to note that the proposed development of such a web site would be a collaborative effort between WMO and the CGMS Secretariat.

In order to ensure that the proposed development meets Members' needs and expectations, it is furthermore suggested that CGMS Members nominate points of contacts who would actively engage in the coming weeks in reviews of the layout, structure and content of the web pages and submit input and suggestions during the next intersessional period.