

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RA II PILOT PROJECT TO DEVELOP SUPPORT
FOR NMHSS IN SATELLITE DATA, PRODUCTS AND TRAINING
(FIRST PHASE: SEPTEMBER 2009 – AUGUST 2010)
AND THE SECOND-PHASE ACTION PLAN (SEPTEMBER 2010 – AUGUST 2011)**

This document outlines the background and mission of the Pilot Project to develop support for NMHSSs in satellite data, products and training along with the accomplishments of the first phase and the action plan for the second phase.

Action/Recommendation proposed:

CGMS Satellite Operators are encouraged to note the usefulness of RA II Pilot Project web pages on the WMO Space Programme (WMOSP) website providing information related meteorological satellites for NMHSSs users, and to support the Project providing the information of satellite data and products answering to the questionnaire, which will be sent from the project co-coordinators.

1 Background

The 14th WMO Regional Association II (XIV-RA II) session held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (from 5 to 11 December, 2008) adopted a resolution 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 (as of 30 September, 2009) were Japan (co-coordinator), the Republic of Korea (co-coordinator), Bahrain, China, Hong Kong (China), India, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and, as an observer, EUMETSAT.

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-related information by satellite operators themselves to users, i.e., NMHSs in RA II, especially in developing countries including LDCs. As there are also other ongoing activities such as the Virtual Laboratory (VL), we understand the need to create synergies and provide greater benefits with a lower level of exertion while avoiding duplication of effort.

3. Accomplishments of the first phase

The accomplishments of the RA II Pilot Project's first phase from September 2009 to August 2010 can be summarized as follows:

(1) Issuance of newsletters for RA II Members

Vol. 1/No. 1, September 2009

Vol. 1/No. 2, April 2010

Vol. 1/No. 3, May 2010

Vol. 1/No. 4, July 2010

Vol. 1/No. 5, August 2010

Content has included:

- Information on access to satellite imagery, data and products including application products
- Outlines of currently available and planned training activities

- News on meteorological satellites
- News on new services
- Brief progress reports on the Pilot Project
- Introduction to the activities of other RAs and WMO VL activities

(2) Establishment of RA II Pilot Project web pages on the WMO Space Programme (WMOSP) website hosted by WMOSP

(<http://www.wmo.ch/pages/prog/sat/RAII-PilotProject.html>)

As initial content, the page includes:

- Introduction to the RA II Pilot Project
- Newsletter archives

The following content will also be added:

- Information on access to satellite imagery, data/products and training
- An RA II Pilot Project questionnaire relating to the availability and use of satellite data and products

(3) Creation of a mailing list for RA II Members and another one for Coordinating Group members

- Collection of opinions on the newsletter, requirements, etc. from RA II Members

For Pilot Project Coordinating Group members:

Homepage: http://groups.google.com/group/ra2pp_sat_cg

Email address: ra2pp_sat_cg@googlegroups.com

For RA II Members:

Homepage: http://groups.google.com/group/ra2pp_sat

Email address: ra2pp_sat@googlegroups.com

- Consistent updating of the mailing list for RAI PP

(4) Alignment of Pilot Project activities with Virtual Lab activities to optimize assistance to NMHSs in RA II

- Ongoing liaison with the WMO Secretariat and the VL Secretariat (EUMETSAT) for information sharing in order to optimize assistance to NMHSs while avoiding duplication of effort

(5) Identification of requirements from RA II Members

- Development of a web-based RA II Pilot Project questionnaire system on satellite data utilization among RA II members

- Implementation of the above system on the RA II Pilot Project web pages with a computerized answer sheet
- Sharing of questionnaire results through the web pages
- Preliminary evaluation from Pilot Project Coordinating Group members by the end of September

4. Action plan for the second phase

(1) Issuance of quarterly newsletters for RA II Members (from September 2009)

Content will include:

- Access to satellite imagery, data and products including application products
- Outlines of currently available and planned training activities
- News on meteorological satellites
- News on new services
- Brief progress reports on the pilot project
- Introduction to the activities of other RAs and WMO VL activities

(2) Enhancement of Pilot Project web pages on the WMO Space Programme (WMOSP) website (hosted by WMOSP) (by the end of 2010)

Web pages will include:

- Information on access to satellite imagery, data and products as well as training
- Newsletter archives
- RA II Pilot Project questionnaire

The RA-II Pilot Project needs information to access to imagery data and products of satellites operated by the CGMS members to enrich the web pages. The project plans to send to the members a questionnaire asking the URLs of their web pages providing the information of their satellite imagery data and products, and requests to return it to the project co-ordinators.

Action/Recommendation proposed:

CGMS Satellite Operators are encouraged to note the usefulness of RA II Pilot Project web pages on the WMO Space Programme (WMOSP) website

providing information related meteorological satellites for NMHSs users, and to support the Project providing the information of satellite data and products answering to the questionnaire, which will be sent from the project co-coordinators.

(3) Enhancement of mailing list for RA II Members and another one for Coordinating Group members (by the end of 2010)

- Collection of opinions on the newsletter, requirements, etc. from RA II Members

(4) Identification of requirements from RA II Members

- Implementation of a web-based RA II Pilot Project questionnaire system on satellite data utilization among RA II members on the RA II Pilot Project web pages with a computerized answer sheet
- Sharing of questionnaire results through the web pages
- Preliminary evaluation from Pilot Project Coordinating Group members by the end of September
- Identification of requirements through the above activities and by preparing a survey of RA II Members in order to organize assistance to recipient Members (by August 2011)

(5) Alignment of Pilot Project activities with Virtual Lab activities to optimize assistance to NMHSs in RA II (by August 2011)

- Ongoing liaison with the WMO Secretariat and the VL Secretariat (EUMETSAT) for information sharing in order to optimize assistance to NMHSs while avoiding duplication of effort
- Endorsement of Training Workshop/Users Meeting activities in RA II

(6) Creation of a third-phase working plan (by August 2011)

- Identification of possible imagery, data and products
- Identification of possible training activities