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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, and also details recent related accomplishments.

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 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (September 2013 – April 2014)

The recent accomplishments of the RA II WIGOS Project (from September 2013 to April 2014) are summarized below.

(1) 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, contained brief reports on relevant meetings, product progress reports, news on the successful launch of the KOMPSAT-5 satellite and information on preparations for JMA's Himawari-8/9 satellite series and KMA's Geo-KOMPSAT-2A.

- Vol. 4/No. 3, November 2013
- Vol. 4/No. 4, December 2013
- Vol. 5/No. 1, March 2014

All past issues are available on the WMO website at
https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/ra2pilotproject-intro_en.php

(2) 4th Asia/Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference

The fourth Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC) was held in Melbourne, Australia from 9 to 11 October 2013. The event was hosted and sponsored by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (AuBOM) and co-sponsored by the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the Korean Meteorological Administration (KMA) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The conference was preceded by a two-day training event using AuBOM's dedicated facilities, and brought together participants from Region II and Region V.

4 FUTURE PLANS

(1) Support activities to prepare satellite data users for the new generation of geostationary meteorological satellites

The new-generation geostationary meteorological satellites, including Himawari-8, FY-4A and GEO-KOMPSAT-2A, are scheduled to begin operation in the period of 2015 to 2010. The RA II WIGOS Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training will support preparations by NMHSs in RA II, especially in LDCs and other developing nations, for the new satellites. This will involve user training and guidance on upgrading processing software/hardware, information and tools. The issuance of quarterly newsletters will be continued.

(2) 5th Asia/Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference

CMA will host the fifth AOMSUC in Shanghai in October 2014. Further details on the conference will be provided in due course.

If a training event is scheduled to take place at the time of the meeting, as with AOMSUC-3 and AOMSUC-4, staff of the RA II WIGOS Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training will collaborate with CMA on its organization.

(3) 3rd Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II WIGOS Project

The third meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II WIGOS Project will be held in 2015 on the occasion of the sixth AOMSUC in Japan. A training event using new satellite data will also be planned by JMA for the same period.