

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RA II PILOT PROJECT TO DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR NMHSS IN SATELLITE DATA, PRODUCTS AND TRAINING (THIRD PHASE: SEPTEMBER 2011 – AUGUST 2012) AND THE FOURTH-PHASE ACTION PLAN (SEPTEMBER 2012 – AUGUST 2013)

This paper 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 third phase, and the Second Meeting of the Coordinating Group of this pilot project held on 8 October 2012 in Jeju Island of Republic of Korea

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 were Japan (co-coordinator), the Republic of Korea (co-coordinator), Bahrain, China, Hong Kong (China), India, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and, as an observer, EUMETSAT (as of 31 May, 2011).

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 LDCs and other developing nations. As there are also other ongoing activities such as the Virtual Laboratory (VLab), there is a need to create synergies and provide greater benefits with a lower level of exertion while avoiding duplication of effort.

3 THIRD-PHASE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The accomplishments of the RA II Pilot Project's third phase from September 2011 to August 2012 can be summarized as follows:

- (1) Issuance of newsletters to RA II Members
 - Vol. 3/No. 1, January 2012
 - Vol. 3/No. 2, May 2012
 - Vol. 3/No. 3, July 2012
 - Vol. 3/No. 4, August 2012

Content has included:

- Information on access to satellite imagery, data and products, including

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

(2) Enhancement 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>)

Content uploaded:

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

(3) Questionnaire

A web-based questionnaire (RA II questionnaire) was conducted to monitor the availability and use of existing satellite data and products and to identify any associated difficulties or limiting factors in RA II. The questionnaire is almost same as that of WMO Space Programme (WMO questionnaire; see <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/Questionnaire/Questionnaire.html>). The total number of responses received was 20, originating from 35 WMO Members in RA II. The summary of the questionnaire is follows.

- Two members responded that there was slight decrease in data access.
- Digital data disseminated via satellites and digital data obtained from the Internet were the most popular mechanism of data reception, and it was recognized that analogue data obtained from the internet was also the popular mechanism.
- There was a strong need for the data from Research and Development and other environmental satellites, especially TRMM. Data from NPP was also requested.
- A stronger product processing capability is needed.
- Satellite data users in RA II are highly interested in monitoring dust and ocean current. The latter parameter was reported that it is not available in the current situation.
- A large scale of training, the support of e-learning in satellite meteorology by WMO and the regular training were required.

4 2nd Coordination Group Meeting and Action Plan

The Second Meeting of the Coordinating Group of this pilot project was held on 8 October 2012 in Jeju of Korea with participants from Japan (co-coordinator), the Republic of Korea (co-coordinator), Bahrain, Hong Kong (China), India, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, WMO Space Programme and WMO Regional Office. The objects of the meeting is to review the past activities of this project, accessibility to and usage of satellite data and products in NMHSs and recent activities of WMO projects related to satellite in RA II, and then to determine actions and future plans.

In the discussion, the participants recognized that the usefulness of the newsletters, questionnaire and the project website, and agreed to continue these activities.

To meet the recommendation of the CBS-XV meeting to formulate procedure for documenting regional requirements for satellite data access and exchange for each region, the participants agreed for this project to collect and summarize the requirements in RA II.

Finally, recognizing that the fourth-phase is the final phase and foreseeing the future of this project, the members agreed to proceed this project to be involved in a WIGOS project, and to make an action for the 15th WMO Regional Association II (XV-RA II) session held in December 2012.

The follows are the fourth-phase action plan.

(1) Continuative Issuance of Quarterly newsletters for RA II Members

The contents will include:

- Access to satellite imagery, data and products including application products
- Training activities currently available or to be available in the future
- News on meteorological satellites
- News on new services
- Brief progress reports on the pilot project

- Introduction to the activities of other RAs and WMO VLab activities
- Feedback from NMHSs in the use of satellite data, products and training

(2) Enhancement of Pilot Project Web Pages on the WMO Space Programme (WMOSP) website hosted by WMOSP Web pages will include:

- Information on access to satellite imagery, data and products as well as training
- Newsletter archives
- RA II Pilot Project Questionnaire
- RA II Pilot Project portal site
- Meeting report

(3) Identification of requirements from RA II Members (by March 2013)

- Conducting of a survey on satellite data utilization by the web-based RA II Pilot Project questionnaire system 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
- Identification of requirements from RA II Members through the questionnaire system to response to the CBS-XV recommendation to formulate procedure for documenting regional requirements for satellite data access and exchange for each region.

(4) Alignment of pilot project activities with Virtual Lab to optimize assistance to NMHSs in RA II (by October 2012)

- Ongoing liaison with the WMO Secretariat and the VLab Secretariat (EUMETSAT) for information sharing in order to optimize assistance to NMHSs while avoiding duplication of effort
- Seek the way of implementation/promotion of High Profile Training Event (HPTE) in conjunction with RA II PP or Asia/Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference

(5) Enhancement of the RA II Pilot Project portal site with successful examples and experiences in the usage of products to be shared among users

(6) Planning of the 3rd Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II Pilot Project to be held in 2013-2014

(7) Continuation of this project by agreement of the 15th session of WMO Regional Association II (XV-RA II) by involvement into a WMO RA-II WIGOS project