



WMO-CGMS Virtual Laboratory
for Education and Training in Satellite Meteorology

ACTIVITY REPORT

Period: September 2012 to December 2013
Casablanca 'Centre of Excellence (Morocco)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (CoE) AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF VLAB TRAINING ACTIVITIES

1) What were the major achievements of your CoE during this reporting period?

The Directorate of National Meteorology was commissioned to host a Center of Excellence (CoE) in Remote Sensing within Virtual Labs (VLab) network late December 2012. Since then a number of activities were undertaken by the CoE including online survey, face to face training, online training and a Regional Focus Group Discussion. Following is a summary of this activities for which articles are presented in VLab Newsletter.

1. January-February 2013: online survey

An online survey beside a panel of 80 potential users (57 answers) from the countries under the target region of Casablanca's CoE was undertaken and used to develop 2013 action plan. The objectives of the survey were to identify priority training needs of the region, to deduce methodological approach of Casablanca CoE and to identify barriers against online training.

2. 20-24 May 2013 : CB workshop

A capacity building workshop in advanced use of remote sensing in Marine meteorology and Nowcasting was organised with the support of Eumetsat for the benefit of 24 participants representing 10 countries of the region.

During this event a practical module on the use of online training tools (SABA, Moodle) was provided as a preparation for the next online training events.

N.B: the workshop thematic has risen as priority training needs of the region from the 2013 online survey.

3. 20 June 2013: first RFG:

This Regional Focus Group was dedicated to discuss the result of the online survey and the evaluation of the May Workshop. Feed back from 16 participants to this RFG validate the online survey results and was used to insert new actions in the 2013 action plan.

4. 11-15 November 2013: aviation week:

The first week event of this CoE was dedicated to a priority training need for the region that rise from the online survey. More than 70 participants to this week, representing 9 countries, benefited from the 9 sessions covering different aspect of Aviation meteorology (organizational and regulatory, operational aspect and development and modelling). The vent was a real success regarding the positive post evaluation of the training and the indicator of its attractively deduced from the participant frequency attendance to the sessions (> 3).

5. One training day training day on the theme :

One day training was organised on the training need thematic, Numerical weather prediction and modelling of fog was organised to the benefit of 29 participants representing 6 countries.

2) What were the main difficulties of your CoE during this reporting period?

During this exercise the main difficulty was related to human resources mobilization in for training activities because trainers have other functions. Some minor technical problems related to the speed of the Internet connection was also experienced during the beginning of the event week.

3) Who provides support in the production of your training materials (e.g. produced by own trainers, support from Satellite Operators, IT staff, University researchers and lecturers, etc)?

These activities were mainly carried out by the DMN engineers (research and operational) who have prepared training materials. Some experts from other CoE (Barbados, Australia, and Niamey) have also to some training activities.

Technical support is provided by **L.Veeck** from VLab M.Kuna from EUMETSAT and by DMN engineers.

4) Is any kind of Learning Management System (e.g. Moodle, Blackboard, etc) used by your CoE to conduce training activities?

For this first exercise no Learning Management system are used. But a practical session on the use of online learning tools was provided during Casablanca's Workshop organised in May 2013.

5) Is any kind of Online Conferencing System (e.g. Saba Centra, Blackboard Collaborate, GoToWebinar, etc) used by your CoE to conduce training activities?

SABA system was mainly used for the online training and for RFG discussion.

6) What kind of training is provided to the trainers of your CoE and at what frequency?

The Casablanca's CoE positioning focus on advanced remote sensing applications in order to ovoid redundancy with Niamey's Center.

So the training activities focused on the use of advanced use of remote sensing data in the areas of activities prioritized by the participants in the online survey and during RFG.

We provide blended training laying mainly on one face to face workshop and one event week per year. The RFG organised one/3 months are used to complete this training.

7) Can you suggest ways for the VLab (including CoEs, Supporting Satellite Agencies, Partner Programmes, WMO Space Programme, VLab Co-chairs and TSO) to provide better support to your CoE?

- To Continue and consolidate support for training activities by EUMETSAT experts
- Actively Acting for more synergies between the CoE covering the same area,
- Organization of a workshop for Focal Points CoE dedicated to training management tools online training, development of training strategy, etc.

8) Please use the table below to list any training materials you may have developed over this reporting period:

Title of training material	Type of resource (e.g. text book, video, recorded presentation, Moodle course, webcast, PowerPoint slides)	Availability of resource (e.g. open educational resource ¹ , institutional use only)	Submitted to ESRC (Yes/No)
All presentations used for the CoE training activities	Power point	open educational resource	yes

9) Is your CoE working closely together with the CoE's sponsoring Satellite Operator/Agency in VLab training activities? Can you suggest ways to improve this collaboration?

EUMETSAT support actively the CoE financially and technically.

Since Niamey CoE is also sponsored by EUMETSAT and have the same target region as Casablanca CoE, more synergies will help to have better impact of the training action of the both Centre.

Casablanca 'Coe positioning was elaborated to ovoid redundancy with Niamey, so good synergies is possible and go far behind just training exchange to action plan elaboration. We welcome such action and ready to work for.

¹ Please also indicate if the Creative Commons License was applied to the resource.

10) Please use this space for additional remarks you may wish to make relating to the delivery of training by your CoE.

A set of performance indicators to measure objectives progress especially impact is about to be developed and tested using data from 2014's online survey (ongoing). The results of this survey will be presented during the next meeting of VLMG.

11) The next page presents a table containing all training events entered by this CoE in the VLab Online Calendar of Events during this reporting period. Please complete the table with information about the number of trainees and Country of origin of trainees that attended the events. If the CoE had conducted other training events considered as part of their VLab activities, that for some reason were not submitted to the Online Calendar of Events, please add them to the table.

Date	Title	Location	WMO region	Host	Type	Language	Number of trainees	Country of origin of trainees
2013/11/11 - 2013/11/15	Aviation Week 2013	Online	I Africa	DMN	Event week	French	72	Algeria- Brazil- Canada- Cape Verde- Mauritania- Morocco-Niger-Phillipine- Senegal
2013/12/09 - 2013/12/09	Prévision Numérique et chaîne ALADIN-MAROC basée sur l'assimilation 3D-VAR - 10:30 UTC	Online	I Africa	DMN	RFG discussion	French	29	Algeria- Cape Verde- Morocco- Niger- Senegal- Togo
2013/12/09 - 2013/12/09	Modélisation des nuages bas et des basses visibilités - 14:00 UTC	Online	I Africa	DMN	RFG discussion	French	27	Algeria- Cape Verde- Morocco- Niger- Senegal- Togo
2013/06/20 - 2013/06/20	RFG1 - VLab CoE Casablanca	Online	I Africa	DMN	RFG discussion	French	16	Algeria- Cape Verde- Morocco- Niger- Senegal- Togo
2013/05/20 - 2013/05/24	Atelier de renforcement de capacité en météorologie satellitaire Programme provisoire de l'atelier Casablanca du	Casablanca	I Africa	DMN	Face to face training	French	24	Mauritania- Mali- Niger-Tunisia- Algeria-Morocco- Burkina Fasso-Beni (absent)- Togo (absent)- Guinea - Ivory Coast-