



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

ACTIVITY REPORT

Period: September 2012 to December 2013
Centre of Excellence: Oman

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?

- i. Successful conduction of Satellite application course, Dust course with McIDAS session with cooperation of SDS-WAS.
- ii. the start of conduction online lecturing.
- iii. the start of developing trainees.

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

- i. **The lack of trained trainers.**
- ii. **Financial issues to support courses.**
- iii. Technical problem in implementing our Vlab website including the Moodle, and archiving system for special cases.

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)?

- i. Most of the materials are supported by Sat. Operator.
- ii. Some of them by our trainers and individual researchers.

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

The centre has used the Moodle; however, there are some difficulty in upgrading it to the new version due to hardware and software problems.

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

The center started using Saba with cooperation of EUMETSAT consultant

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

They have started to get involved in the online course of the training of the trainers. Since our training budget is limited a trainer can get classroom training each other year.

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?

Hosting some of our training in mentioned centres can add great help to our CoE

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) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|
| Basic NWP Knowledge (Arabic) | Recorded presentation +PPT | Open | No |
| Introduction course in Meteorology | PPT | Open | NO |
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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?

Yes. Inviting some of experts from these Sat. operators and Agencies to participate in conducting courses in our centre as well as sending our staff to them, if possible, to get experience

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.

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 |
|---------------------|--|----------|------------|------|--------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 31 Dec. 4 Jan. 2012 | Intro. weather, climate and marine science | Muscat | | | Course | Eng./ Arabic | 9 | Oman |
| 9-21 FEB, 2013 | Sat. Application course | Muscat | | | Course | Eng. | 30 | Middle east and N. Africa |
| 12-16 Jan 2013 | Intro. weather, climate and marine science | Muscat | | | Course | Eng./ Arabic | 9 | Oman |
| 30Jun -04 July 2013 | Intro. weather, climate and marine science | Muscat | | | Course | Eng./ Arabic | 10 | Oman |
| 07-11 July 2013 | Intro. weather, climate and marine science | Muscat | | | Course | Eng./ Arabic | 10 | Oman |
| 08-12 Dec2013 | Dust course | Muscat | | | Course | Eng. | 34 | Middle east and N. Africa, Newzland |
| 15-16 Dec2013 | Dust course | Muscat | | | Course | Eng. | 15 | Middle east and N. Africa, |