

VLab Report of Activities

The Questions in this form should be answered based on the VLab activities of your Centre of Excellence for the period from January to December 2015.

About the Centre of Excellence

1. Please select your Centre of Excellence (CoE) from the list below. *

Australia 

2. What is the profile of the people supporting training activities in the CoE? *

Please select all options that are relevant.

- Training Manager
- Full time trainer
- Part time trainer
- Researcher
- Forecaster
- Administrative staff
- University lecturers
- Other:

Please use the space below to provide any additional comments regarding Question 2

Comments could include number of staff, proportion of support received from different institutions supporting the CoE or anything else regarding the support to plan and offer training in the CoE.

Training Manager and Manager of the Australian VLab Centre of Excellence is Mr. Roger Deslandes. Full time trainer and Australian VLab Centre of Excellence Point of Contact is Mr. Bodo Zeschke. In addition we have also been fortunate to have the support of Mr. Joe Courtney BMTC Tropical Cyclone Competency Trainer. Joe has presented a number of remote sessions pertaining to Tropical Cyclone Meteorology during our VLab Regional Focus Group sessions. BMKG Indonesia staff have also been very active in presenting at

3. Is training (on the subject of training and education) offered to trainers supporting the activities of the CoE? *

Yes

No

Please comment on the answer above *

If training is offered, please comment on the sort of training provided and frequency. If training is not offered, please comment if there is a need for this sort of training in the CoE and if so, what are the difficulties to provide it.

Training staff, particularly those conducting (competency) assessments complete a nationally accredited certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment . Professional Development days are held twice each year for BMTC staff and these largely focus on pedagogical themes covering topics such as brain & cognitive theories, learning theories, and training approaches. Individual training for developing training resources in relevant software (e.g. Dreamweaver, Webinar, Moodle) is provided as required. Staff are supported to attend relevant education-oriented conferences (e.g. that of the Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education, CALMet) or Moodle symposiums. From time to time particular staff members participate in relevant distance learning courses and conferences to improve their subject knowledge.

4. What were the major achievements of the CoE during this reporting period? *

- The National Himawari-8 Training Campaign was launched by the VLab Manager, Mr. Roger Deslandes on the 23rd January 2015. The Campaign was designed to assist Australian Bureau of Meteorology, WMO Region V and other stakeholders in preparing for the effective use of Himawari-8 data prior to its availability using existing satellite resources with ongoing liaison and training once the data became available. The Campaign included regular online tutorial sessions in the effective use of Himawari-8 data, a dedicated resource web page (<http://www.virtuallab.bom.gov.au/training/hw-8-training/>) accessible to all stakeholders. A Moodle resource for assessment of Australian Bureau of Meteorology staff was also developed and implemented. Regular communication pertaining to the implementation of the Himawari-8 satellite data was

conducted with Bureau Satellite Champions.

- The CoE hosted Science Week 2015 from 27 to 30 July 2015. Science Week consisted of online sessions pertaining to the latest developments in meteorological science with respect to operational forecasting. There was a strong focus on training RAV stakeholders in the effective use of the new generation of satellite data, specifically Himawari-8.
 - Twelve monthly RAV Regional Focus Group meetings were conducted during this period with significant RAV and RAI stakeholder involvement. Presenters from BOM Australia and BMKG Indonesia contributed material to these sessions.
 - Closer collaboration with the Principal Sponsoring Satellite Operator the Japan Meteorological Agency was attained through the attendance of the Australian VLab Centre of Excellence Point of Contact, Bodo Zeschke at AOMSUC-6 in Tokyo during November 2015. Mr Zeschke presented and coordinated two training sessions pertaining to the effective use of Himawari-8 data during the AOMSUC-6 Training Event. A review of the Australian VLab Centre of Excellence National Himawari-8 Training Campaign was presented by Mr.Zeschke at this Conference. The information obtained during this Conference was disseminated to VLab stakeholders during the following Regional Focus Group meetings.
 - Closer collaboration with the Korean VLab Centre of Excellence was achieved through the attendance of Mr. Zeschke at the 1st KMA International Meteorological Satellite Conference in Seoul during November 2015. Aside from presenting a summary of the preparation for Himawari-8 by RAV users from an Australian VLab CoE perspective at conference, discussions were held with the KMA VLab CoE contact Dr.Park regarding future training collaboration.
 - Bodo Zeschke, Australian VLab Centre of Excellence Point of Contact, has been attending and supporting BMKG Indonesia "Online Group Discussion" (OGD) meetings and the South Africa Weather Service (SAWS) Weather Briefings on occasions during this period.
 - Ongoing further developments in implementing the Enabling Skills document.
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5. What were the main difficulties of your CoE during this reporting period? *

Shortage of human resources / geographical location:

A staff member (Bodo Zeschke) has been assigned to the satellite portfolio. However there is a need to build capability so that more trainers can contribute to VLab activities. Due to our geographical location "down under" it is often difficult to attend remote lecture / course sessions conducted by European agencies (EUMETSAT) or agencies

from the Americas because of the time differences. This highlights the need for the creation of online resources that can be used asynchronously.

Funding

Training in the Bureau of Meteorology operates within a strict budget. Satellite activities compete with other training priorities for funds. BMTC has invested in 1 full-time equivalent trainer whose major portfolio responsibility is that relating to satellite meteorology.

Internet issues

Occasionally there are issues related to the transmission of the Regional Focus Group sessions due to limited Internet bandwidth of stakeholders in the southwest Pacific / southeast Asian region. To mitigate this recordings of the sessions have been posted on our VLab web page. These recordings have been subdivided into subtopics and presented in a variety of formats for easier downloading and stakeholder use. Unfortunately the Fiji Meteorological Service staff still cannot view our VLab web page. However we are exploring avenues to solve this issue.

Other limitations

Competing priorities eg. Internal Bureau Forecaster Competency Training may restrict the time available for training staff to provide training in satellite meteorology. As a consequence an APSATS style Workshop may still be some years in the future though shorter training courses such as the annual Science Week have been conducted in the interim.

About Training

6. Is any kind of Learning Management System used by your CoE to conduce training activities? *

- Moodle
- Edmond
- ConnectFDI I

- Learning Management System is not used
- Other:

7. Is any kind of Online Conferencing System used by your CoE to conduce training activities? *

- Saba Centra
- Blackboard Collaborate
- GoTo (Webinar, Meeting)
- Cisco Webex
- Online Conferencing System is not used
- Other:

8. Please list any training resource you have developed over this reporting period *

For each Training Resource please include: 1) Title of Training Resource, 2) Type of resource (e.g. text book, video, Moodle course, PowerPoint slides, recorded lecture, etc) and 3) Availability of resource (can be shared, institutional use only).

1) Science Week 2015 VLab web page
2) Recorded presentations, PowerPoint presentations, pdf files
3) On Australian VLab Centre of Excellence web page
<http://www.virtuallab.bom.gov.au/events/science-week-2015/>

1) Regional Focus Group meeting recordings
2) Recorded presentations / some PowerPoint presentations.
3) On Australian VLab Centre of Excellence web page
<http://www.virtuallab.bom.gov.au/archive/regional-focus-group-recordings/>

1) National Himawari-8 Training Campaign resources (VLab web page)
2) Recorded tutorial presentations, PowerPoint presentations, pdf files.
3) On Australian VLab Centre of Excellence "National Himawari-8 Training Campaign" web page <http://www.virtuallab.bom.gov.au/training/hw-8-training/>

1) National Himawari-8 Training Campaign Moodle resources

2)PowerPoint presentations, pdf files, Moodle assessment resource

3)BOM institutional use only.

9. What sort of training resources would you be interested in borrowing from other CoEs or training programmes, to adapt and reuse in your CoE? *

If the CoE is not interested in adapting and reusing training resources, please indicate reasons.

Himawari-8 RGB products on the Eport

More COMET modules pertaining to Himawari-8. Existing modules have already been linked to our National Himawari-8 Training Campaign web page.

About VLab collaboration

10. Is the CoE working closely together with the CoE's sponsoring Satellite Operator/Agency in VLab training activities? *

Yes

No

Please comment on the answer above and, if applicable, suggest ways to improve collaboration *

VLab activities over the past year by the Australian VLab CoE has included continuing collaboration with the Sponsoring Satellite Operator JMA. For example, JMA staff have attended our Regional Focus Group meetings on a regular basis. JMA staff have once again added their valuable contribution to our Science Week 2015 with two presentations. One presentation gave the latest update regarding the Himawari-8 satellite and the other introduced the JMA VLab Support Site on RGB composite imagery. The collaboration with JMA staff during AOMSUC-6 has already been mentioned in my answer to Question 4. Valuable information and resources regarding the tuning of the

EUMETSAT RGB product recipes to Himawari-8 data was forwarded to Mr. Zeschke by JMA representatives. Mr. Zeschke in turn disseminated this information to RAV VLab stakeholders during subsequent Regional Focus Group meetings. During this visit Mr. Zeschke had the opportunity to discuss preferred avenues of communication and collaboration between the Sponsoring Satellite Operator and the Australian VLab Centre of Excellence with K.Bessho and other JMA staff.

The recipe of our Bureau Himawari-8 Public Data Viewer (at <http://satview.bom.gov.au/>) was forwarded to JMA staff. Staff were very impressed by this visualisation of their data after seeing this presented in a case study during a Regional Focus Group meeting.

11. What sort of support would you like to receive from other CoEs, Supporting Satellite Operators/Agencies, WMO Space Programme, VLab Co-chairs and TSO? *

Centres of Excellence to work collaboratively to support outcomes related to other WMO initiatives, for example, the Global Campus, Disaster Risk Reduction (SWFDP) and in addition Impact Based Decision Support Services (IBDSS).

12. What sort of support could you offer to other CoEs, Supporting Satellite Operators/Agencies and WMO Space Programme? *

This could be any kind of support. For example: collaborate in RFG sessions organised by other CoEs, organise joint training events in a particular subject, or any other support/collaboration you think the CoE could offer.

Support to the Supporting Satellite Operator in providing feedback on the implementation of Himawari-8 data and data products over the Eastern Hemisphere by Forecasters, Satellite Champions and other stakeholders.

Collaborate in Regional Focus Group sessions organised by other CoE's, especially within the Eastern Hemisphere. These could also include the SAWS Weather Briefings, the BMKG Indonesia Online Group Discussions (OGD).

Presenting training sessions at Conference Training Events, for example Mr. Zeschke's contribution to the AOMSUC-6 Training Event during November 2015.

Training Events organised in 2015

Please prepare a table containing all training events organised by the CoE during this reporting period. If you have submitted your events to the VLab Online Calendar, all you need to do is to download your report (CSV/Excel spreadsheet) directly from there. 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, please add them to the spreadsheet downloaded from the Online Calendar.

In the case the CoE has not submitted the training events to the Online Calendar, please prepare a table or spreadsheet (Excel or word) containing the data as indicated in the figure below.

The table/spreadsheet containing the training events organised by the CoE in 2015 should be sent to the VLab TSO by email at luveeck@gmail.com

Example of Table of Events

Date	Title of Event	Location	WMO Region	Host	Type (online, classroom, blended, RFG)	Language	Number of trainees	Country of origin of trainees

*

- By selecting this option I confirm that a table/spreadsheet containing the information about training events organised by this CoE (as requested above) will be sent by email to the VLab TSO by the 30th of April 2016 (at the latest).

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Google Forms

Australian VLab Centre of Excellence Table of Events, January to December 2015

Date	Title of Event	Location	WMO Region	Host	Type	Language	Number of attendees	Country of origin of attendees
01/16/2015	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	15	Australia, Indonesia, Japan, China, Hawaii
02/03/2015	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	18	Australia, Indonesia, China, Hawaii
03/03/2015	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	25	Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Hawaii, Philippines, Vanuatu
04/07/2015	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	17	Australia, Indonesia, South Korea Hawaii, Vanuatu
05/05/2015	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online / BMTC	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	47	Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Philippines, Vanuatu, Singapore
06/02/2015	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online/ BMTC	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	32	Australia, Indonesia, Vanuatu, Singapore
07/07/2015	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online / BMTC	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	36	Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, China, Hawaii, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Singapore

07/27/2015 to 07/30/2015	Australian VLab CoE Science Week 2015	Melbourne	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	Event week	English	6-30 attendees per session	Australia, Japan, China, South Korea, Indonesia, New Zealand, United States, South Africa, Solomon Islands.
08/13/2014	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	14	Australia, Indonesia, China, Korea, Japan, Hawaii
09/01/2014	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online /BMTC	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	32	Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, Hawaii, Vanuatu, Singapore
10/06/2014	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	13	Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, Solomon Islands, Barbados, France
11/26/2014	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	27	Australia, Indonesia, China, South Korea, Japan, Hawaii, Philippines Singapore, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Myanmar,
12/15/2014	Australian Regional Focus Group - 02:00 UTC	Online	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	15	Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, China, South Korea, Japan, Hawaii, Philippines,
28/01/2015 to 24/06/2015 (16 sessions)	National Himawari-8 Training Campaign Tutorial Sessions	Online	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	RFG discussion	English	3-16 attendees per session	Australia, Indonesia, South Korea China, United States, New Zealand, Japan, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Brazil, Singapore
February /March 2015	Basic Satellite Meteorology	Classroom	V South-West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	Classroom Course	English	26	Australia, Singapore, Vanuatu
July/ August 2015	Advanced Satellite Meteorology	Classroom	V South- West Pacific / II Asia	BMTC	Classroom Course	English	26	Australia, Singapore, Vanuatu