

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. *

South Africa ▼

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.

We have 5 full time trainers in the CoE and 1 training manager. We currently use 3 forecasters to help train on a part time basis, depending on the course schedules.

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.

Currently Lee-ann Simpson and Edwin Thema are receiving training on the PUMA 2015 workstations for the MESA project. Lee-ann, Edwin and Tennielle Jacobs have received MclDas training, and have assisted in training SADC forecasters during the MSG workshop in March 2015.

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

Publication of ASMET 8 in October 2015

Involvement in the WMO Cloud Atlas project

Submission of CM4SH phase II conceptual model on cold fronts in South Africa

Successful hosting of 6 week online and 1 week face to face MSG workshop from November-December 2015 (online) and 29 Feb - 4 March 2016 (face to face)

Monthly weather briefings hosted by Lee-ann and Edwin

5. What were the main difficulties of your CoE during this reporting period? *

The use of SABA Centra software can be unreliable form day-to-day.

Limited staff numbers put current staff under pressure during projects

Network and firewall limitations with the use of dropbox and google Drive at times

About Training

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

- Moodle
- Edmond
- ConnectEDU
- Learning Management System is not used
- Other:

7. Is any kind of Online Conferencing System used by your CoE to conduct 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) Conceptual model for cold fronts in South Africa, online conceptual model, open to use to anybody

2) ASMET 8: Introducing ASCAT data into Marine Meteorology Forecasting and Observation, Online learning resource (COMET), open to use to anybody

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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.

possible learning outcomes for operational satellite interpretation

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 *

the MESA project will require close collaboration

the cloud atlas, ASMET and CM4SH projects are all collaborative ventures

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? *

Guidance on course structures and content for uniformity of standards

continued online lecture/workshop/courses/briefings support

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.

Help with weather briefings, help with establishing online learning material, help with developing conceptual models, guest lecturing..

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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