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

ACTIVITY REPORT

Period: September 2011 to August 2012

Centre of Excellence: **NIGER**

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

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

The laboratory has organized the third RFG WA workshop on volcanic ash on March 02 – 06, 2012. During this workshop, at least 12 participants coming from 06 different countries learned about the setup and the running of Moodle and Centra softwares, aiming to putting online some courses and making distant presentations.

The laboratory has requested and obtained during July 2012 financial support for setting up of internet high speed connection from EUMETSAT. This support has allowed the laboratory to realize a series of online presentations on the topic :<< The Volcanic ash>> in civil aviation. This event was organized on July 16-17, 2012 and was followed by an online discussion dedicated to actions to be realized in the future. Another event was also organized on September 17-19, 2012 on the important floods that occurred in West Africa causing many threats to people.

The Laboratory now has possibilities to achieve several types of activities if the quality of the internet link is maintained. This will need the financial support from EUMETSAT for the period 2012 -2014.

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

During the period September 2011 - June -2012 the main difficulty we encountered was the internet connection which was very low, and also the consequences of the lack of human resources involved in training activities. In July 2012 the Internet problem has been solved thanks to EUMETSAT support and we were able to run two-week events.

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.)?

EUMETSAT is our main support provider.

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

We use Moodle in our training activities (trough EUMETSAT site). We plan to implement Moodle on our Website.

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

During our online conferences we use Saba Centra thanks to EUMESAT.

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

- *Distant learning courses one or two the year*
- *Classroom courses* one or two the year

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?

- *Maintaining the high speed internet connection*
- *Supporting periodic workshops*
- *Training the trainers*

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	Availability of resource	Submitted to ESRC

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?

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

The EAMAC Virtual Laboratory planned activities for the period 2012 - 2014 are:

- *The continuation of RFG WA workshops for a training of distant learning techniques;*
- *The achievement of online events to strengthen the online presence by involving participants from several countries, forums and online discussions;*
- *The installation of Moodle software on EAMAC Moodle online page and uploading courses made by EAMAC instructors.*

Please complete the table in the next page with information about the training events organised by your CoE, as part of VLab activities, during this reporting period.
Alternatively, you may export the information you have entered in the Online Calendar of Events to Excel and just add the post-event information needed (i.e. number of participants and Country of origin of participants). You can then copy and paste your own table to the last page of this report.

Date	Tit	Location	WMO	Host	Type	Language	Number of trainees	Country of origin of trainees
02/03/2012	Volcanic Ash	NIGER	AR1	EAMAC	RFG	French	12	NIGER, RCA, MALI, BURKINA FASO, IVORY COAST, BENIN, SENEGAL, TOGO, MAURITANIA
16/07/2012	Volcanic Ash	NIGER, online	AR1	EAMAC	Event Week	French	6	NIGER, MALI, MORROCO, IVORY COAST
17/09/2012	Flooding over West Africa	NIGER, online	AR1	EAMAC	Event Week	French	4	NIGER, MALI, MORROCO, IVORY COAST