

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION
COORDINATION GROUP FOR METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES

VIRTUAL LABORATORY MANAGEMENT GROUP

SIXTH SESSION

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ITEM: 9 – RA-II Pilot Project

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RA II PILOT PROJECT TO DEVELOP SUPPORT
FOR NMHSS IN SATELLITE DATA, PRODUCTS AND TRAINING
(SECOND and THIRD PHASE: SEPTEMBER 2010 – AUGUST 2012)
AND THE FOURTH-PHASE ACTION PLAN (SEPTEMBER 2012 – AUGUST 2013)**

(Submitted by JMA and KMA)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document outlines the background and mission of the Pilot Project to develop support for NMHSSs in satellite data, products and training along with the accomplishments of the second and third phase, and also details the action plan for the fourth phase.

DISCUSSION

Introduction

1. Background

The 14th WMO Regional Association II (XIV-RA II) session held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (from 5 to 11 December, 2008) adopted a resolution to establish a Pilot Project for the development of support for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the areas of satellite data, products and training. After the session, the WMO Secretariat invited WMO Members to join the Pilot Project Coordinating Group, whose members were Japan (co-coordinator), the Republic of Korea (co-coordinator), Bahrain, China, Hong Kong (China), India, Kyrgyzstan, the Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and, as an observer, EUMETSAT (as of 31 May, 2011).

2. Mission

The project was established as a kind of self-help effort for NMHSs in RA II to improve the flow of satellite-related information. The major focus of the initiative is to facilitate the timely provision of satellite-related information by satellite operators themselves to users, i.e., NMHSs in RA II, especially in developing countries including LDCs. As there are also other ongoing activities such as the Virtual Laboratory (VLab), we understand the need to create synergies and provide greater benefits with a lower level of exertion while avoiding duplication of effort.

Key Issues

1. Second to Third Phase Accomplishment

The accomplishments of the RA II Pilot Project's second to third phase from September 2010 to August 2012 can be summarized as follows:

(1) The 1st Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II Pilot Project to Develop Support for NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training

- The Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 21 – 23 February, 2011. Meeting participants:
- agreed to clarify satellite users' needs and determine the status of utilization through the RA II Pilot Project questionnaire system;
 - agreed to share information on access to satellite imagery, data, products and training information through the RA II Pilot Project portal site; and
 - shared an understanding that cultivating human resources is essential in promoting the utilization of satellite products.

(2) Issuance of newsletters to RA II Members

- Vol. 2/No. 1, December 2010
- Vol. 2/No. 2, May 2011
- Vol. 2/No. 3, June 2011
- Vol. 2/No. 4, August 2011
- Vol. 3/No. 1, January 2012
- Vol. 3/No. 2, May 2012
- Vol. 3/No. 3, July 2012

Content has included:

- Information on access to satellite imagery, data and products, including application products
- News on meteorological satellites
- News on new services
- Brief progress reports on the Pilot Project
- Introduction to the activities of other RAs and WMO VLab activities

(3) Enhancement of RA II Pilot Project web pages on the WMO Space Programme (WMOSP) website hosted by WMOSP

(<http://www.wmo.ch/pages/prog/sat/RAII-PilotProject.html>)

Content uploaded:

- Report on the Coordinating Group of the RA II Pilot Project meeting
- Information on access to satellite imagery, data/products and training
- Conducted RA II Pilot Project questionnaire relating to the availability and use of satellite data and products

2 FOURTH-PHASE ACTION PLAN

(1) Continuative issuance of quarterly newsletters to RA II Members

The content will include:

- Access to satellite imagery, data and products including application products
- Training activities currently available or expected to be available in the future
- News on current status and future meteorological satellites
- News on new services of satellite imagery, data and their format, products etc
- Brief progress reports on the Pilot Project
- Introduction to the activities of other RAs and WMO VLab activities
- Feedback from NMHSs in the use of satellite data, products and training

(2) Enhancement of Pilot Project web pages on the WMO Space Programme (WMOSP) website hosted by WMOSP

Web pages will include:

- Information on access to satellite imagery, data/products and training
- Newsletter archives
- RA II Pilot Project questionnaires
- RA II portal site
- Meeting reports

(3) Identification of RA II Member requirements (by April 2013)

- Implementation of an RA II Member survey through the web-based RA II Pilot Project questionnaire system on satellite data utilization
- Sharing of questionnaire results through the website
- Identification of RA II Member requirements through the questionnaire system

(4) Alignment of Pilot Project activities and VLab activities to optimize assistance to NMHSs in RA II (by August 2013)

- Ongoing liaison with the WMO Secretariat and the VLab Secretariat (EUMETSAT) in order to optimize assistance to NMHSs
- Endorsement of Training Workshop/Users Meeting activities in RA II
- RA II PP High Profile Training Event (HPTE)

(5) Enhancement of the RA II Pilot Project portal site with showing the successful example and experience in the usage of products for sharing in users

- precipitation products
- dust products (new)

(6) Planning of the 3rd Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the RA II Pilot Project to be held in 2013

(7) Discussion for the continuation of RA II PP by agreement of the 15th session of WMO Regional Association II (XV-RA II)
