

Activities of JMA on Virtual Laboratory

This document reports on the status of the activities of JMA on Virtual Laboratory.

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1. Exchange of techniques and technical information to use METEOSAT data with SATAID

SATAID (Satellite Animation and Interactive Diagnoses) is a set of software to access and display digital satellite data developed by the Meteorological Satellite Center of JMA. Using SATAID, JMA has given a number of lectures and trainings on satellite data utilization on the occasions of seminars and workshops, and through these activities, SATAID is being spread among the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) for educational and training purposes, as one of the main training tools in the Virtual Laboratory (VL) activities.

However, since SATAID could handle data of particular meteorological satellites, the Chairman of CGMS Virtual Laboratory Focus Group (VLFG) requested JMA for technical assistance to improve SATAID so that METEOSAT data users can use METEOSAT data with SATAID. In response, JMA sent a SATAID expert in July 2004 to EUMETSAT in order to provide relevant techniques and to exchange related information.

The latest version of the software is available to all NMHSs on request to the Meteorological Satellite Center of JMA (calmstr@dpc.kishou.go.jp).

2. Support for a new Centre of Excellence in Oman

In the 57th session of the Executive Council of WMO, it was approved that Oman would participate in the VL as a Center of Excellence (CoE) in the framework, so that Oman would be able to meet the needs of the Arabic-speaking NMHSs in the WMO Regional Association (RA) II. The Omani National Meteorological Service offered to actively contribute to the Education and Training in Satellite Meteorology in cooperation with the Sultan Qaboos University. To support the Oman's activities, JMA provided the Omani National Meteorological Service with the SATAID software and training materials in April 2005.

3. Plan to support the Virtual Private Network pilot project

JMA conducts the Virtual Private Network (VPN) pilot project (VPN-PP) in cooperation with countries in Asia and northwestern Pacific region as one of the WMO pilot projects of the WMO Information System (WIS). SATAID is expected to be utilized in the project, since one of the main purposes of VPN-PP is to evaluate software's user versatility and convenience in developing countries, specifically for data accessibility via the Internet and operational usability. Please refer to JPN-WP-16 which reports on the VPN-PP in detail.