

WMO SPACE PROGRAMME

(Submitted by WMO)

Summary and purpose of document

WMO-WP-06 informs CGMS Members of the status of activities related to the WMO Space Programme.

ACTION PROPOSED

CGMS Members to note the status in the development of the WMO Space Programme and comment as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

1. It is recalled that WMO Congress (Cg XIV) decided to establish the WMO Space Programme (WMO SP) as new cross-cutting activity starting on 1 January 2004, and that CGMS-XXXII in May 2004 was informed of its scope and Implementation Plan.
2. The scope of the WMO Space Programme can be summarized as follows:
 - (a) Acting as focal point for satellite matters within WMO and for interacting with external entities and programmes, including CGMS, CEOS, and GEOSS;
 - (b) Contributing to the development of an improved space-based Global Observing System:
 - Establish WMO requirements for space-based observations,
 - Cooperate with satellite operators to implement such requirements,
 - Support the development of an integrated Global Data Dissemination Service.
 - (c) Enhancing the use of satellite data throughout WMO Programmes and WMO Regions:
 - Promote and monitor the use of satellite data,
 - Support and coordinate training initiatives, namely through the VL,
 - Support cooperation for the development of tools facilitating the use.
3. Several important events have occurred since CGMS-XXXII:
 - In June 2004, the WMO Executive Council at its 56th session (EC-LVI) stressed the need for more staff resources and strongly urged WMO Members to support the Space Programme by providing funds and/or seconded professional officers. Positive responses were received and 2 experts are presently seconded for a duration of one year each;
 - In January 2005, the fifth session of the Consultative Meeting on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters (CM-5) reviewed the GCOS Implementation Plan and tasked the WMO Space Programme prepare a response working jointly with the Strategic Implementation Team of CEOS. It also discussed IGeoLab (See WMO-WP-22)
 - In February 2005, the WMO Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) decided to restructure the Open Programme Area Group on Integrated Observing Systems (OPAG-IOS) in 3 Expert Teams dedicated to Evolution of the Global Observing System (ET-EGOS), Satellite Systems (ET-SAT), and Satellite Utilization and Products (ET-SUP), respectively. These Expert Teams have been established and will hold their first round of meetings in October and December 2005;
 - In June 2005, the WMO Executive Council agreed to allocate funds for staff resources enabling WMO to open 2 professional posts within the WMO Space Programme Department. These posts have been advertized and are expected to be filled in early 2006.
4. The recently increased potential of the WMO Space Programme Office will allow it to play its expected important role. Progress on the various aspects of the WMO Space Programme is reflected in the working papers submitted to this 33rd CGMS meeting.