World Meteorological Organization **CAeM-XIII/Doc. 3**

COMMISSION FOR AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGY Submitted by: President

Date: 19.IX.2006

THIRTEENTH SESSION Original Language: English

Geneva, Switzerland
23 November to 1 December 2006 Agenda Item: 3

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION

SUMMARY

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:

This report covers the activities of the Commission since the previous session in Montreal, Canada, in September 2002, as well as new developments in aeronautical meteorology. The issues raised in the report will be discussed under the relevant agenda items.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:

No specific action or decisions are required under this agenda item. The draft text, given in the Appendix for inclusion in the general summary of CAeM-XIII, acknowledges the overview report of the president, and in particular the action that he has taken in the intersessional period.

REFERENCES:

1. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions and Recommendations of the Twelfth Session of the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology* (WMO-No. 953)
2. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifty-eighth Session of the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1007)
3. Reports of Management Group Meetings 2004 (Hall, Austria) and 2006 (Boulder, USA)

CONTENT OF THE DOCUMENT:

Appendix for inclusion in the final report:

Draft text for inclusion in the general summary of CAeM-XIII

Appendix for information:

CAeM-XIII/Rep. 3: Progress/Activity Report

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY OF CAeM-XIII

3. REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION *(agenda item 3)*

3.1 The Commission noted with appreciation the report of the president of CAeM, Dr Neil Gordon, and expressed its gratitude for his work on behalf of the Commission during his last term.

3.2 The Commission also thanked the Management Group (MG) for its work since CAeM-XII. It recognized that even in the face of limited resources there had been significant progress on items under the Sixth Long-term Plan, particularly in the area of training support and the establishment of the www.caem.wmo.int Website.

3.3 However, the Commission also recognized that it was important to focus on the essential roles that the Commission must play, in line with the available resources in terms of expert participation and available funding. It therefore welcomed the draft Operating Plan for 2008-2011 which had been formulated by the MG, intended as the basis of the work of the Commission for the next intersessional period, as well as the proposals for a more streamlined structure. The Plan and structure were intended to provide a focus on where the Commission and the Secretariat can add value in terms of assisting WMO Members in their own production of aeronautical meteorological services, and on working with other groups as much as possible rather than duplicating activities.

3.4 The Commission expressed its sincere appreciation to all those experts who had contributed, particularly since such work was often in addition to full-time in-country commitments, and expressed its wish for their contributions to be given due recognition by the experts' institutions.

3.5 The Commission fully endorsed the Executive Council's request (*Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifty-eighth Session of the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1007) general summary, paragraph 3.4.3.1) for the Secretary-General to endeavour to provide increased resources to the Aeronautical Meteorology Programme, which currently represented about 1 percent of the WMO budget, while aeronautical meteorology brought in as much as 30% of the budgets of many NMHSs. It also agreed on the importance of highlighting and promoting the role of NMHSs to ensure they were properly recognized for their operation of the basic system on which aeronautical meteorological services throughout the globe depended;

3.6 The other issues raised in the report requiring actions and decisions were dealt with under the relevant agenda items.

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REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION

PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT

SUMMARY

Reference: CAeM-XIII/Doc. 3

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Appendix:

- Report by the president of CAeM

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF CAeM

1. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the overall activities and organization of the Commission since its twelfth session in Montreal, Canada, in September 2002. That session formed a Management Group, which has met formally twice: in Hall, Austria, in April 2004, and in Boulder, Colorado, USA, in April 2006.

2. PLANNING

The activities of the Commission since CAeM-XII have been fundamentally driven by the Aeronautical Meteorology Component of the Sixth Long-term Plan (6LTP). Full details of the elements of this are contained in CAeM-XIII/Doc. 9(1), along with the latest survey information to track progress, since our component included performance indicators.

In line with the development of the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011 (formerly the Seventh Long-term Plan or the Seventh Strategic Plan) the Management Group has formulated a draft Operating Plan for 2008-2011, contained in CAeM-XIII/Doc. 9(2). This focuses on where the Commission and the Secretariat can add value in terms of assisting WMO Members in their own production of aeronautical meteorological services, and on working with other groups as much as possible rather than duplicating activities. The key tasks are seen as:

(a) Provide access to training;

(b) Facilitate good relationships and collaboration between Members and their customers and partners including civil aviation administrations and air navigation service providers;

(c) Assist Members in planning for future aeronautical meteorological service provision;

(d) Collaborate with ICAO on the design and assessment of a new terminal weather forecast;

(e) Ensure aeronautical meteorology interests are taken into account and capabilities made available in cross-cutting activities and other constituent bodies of WMO;

(f) Ensure that WMO Members' interests are represented in ICAO regional planning, study and operations groups;

(g) Survey Members' capabilities for aeronautical meteorological service provision.

3. STRUCTURE AND EXPERTISE

CAeM-XII decided on an evolution of our former structure of two working groups – an open PROMET and a small closed TREND - into having two Open Programme Area Groups (OPAGs) PROMET and TREND, with clearly defined terms of reference, which responded to the 6LTP.

Subsequently, through e-mail discussion involving the Management Group, we came up with a structure of four Expert Teams and one Rapporteur for each of the OPAGs. In a letter sent in January 2003 the Secretariat sought nominations from Member countries for those eight Teams and two Rapporteurs. This elicited a pleasing number of more than 150 nominations of experts to help in the work of the Commission.

However, the process of considering these applications and agreeing on Expert Team Chairs and having them set up their teams all took time. It was more than 18 months after CAeM-XII that one could say most of the Expert Teams were underway with their activities, and had established plans and milestones and quarterly reports. Encouragingly, once the structure was in place, there was remarkably little turnover in terms of chairs and co-chairs.

I have nothing but praise for the efforts of all those who were sincerely involved in implementing the elements of the new structure. However, we also learned many lessons about what could be improved. We believe we were too optimistic in what we thought we could achieve. There was limited funding for meetings of expert teams. But we also have limits in terms of the number of experts who can serve the Commission, and the time they are able to spend on Commission activities.

As can be seen under agenda item 10, the Management Group has therefore decided after careful consideration and discussion to propose to the Commission to adopt a streamlined structure, focussed on the essential roles that the Commission must play and being more in line with the available resources in terms of expert participation and available funding. We have also sought nominations of experts well in advance of this Commission session so that the process of getting groups underway should be much faster.

We also need to do better with our voluntary experts. In the letter seeking nominations we have sought a commitment up front from them, and from their institutions, that they will be able to put in the time needed when they are nominated for work for the Commission. But we also need to make sure that the valuable work they do is recognized by their institutions, rather than being seen as a diversion from their day job.

4. BUDGETS

I am grateful for the resources which are provided through WMO for the AeMP. In particular, it is pleasing that we have been able to hold a technical conference in association with CAeM-XIII – the first since TECTAM in 1990.

Nonetheless, I have for many years expressed my concern that the level of funding is insufficient, and did not reflect the importance of aeronautical meteorology for all Members of WMO, nor recognize the very real risks for Members and for the basic system if we do not adequately support them in delivering a high quality service and obtaining appropriate cost recovery.

The Executive Council, at its fifty-eighth session in Geneva this year, did recognize this in its report, where paragraph 3.4.3.1 states in part that:

"Concerning the importance of the Aeronautical Meteorology Programme, the Council:

(a) Requested the Secretary-General to endeavour to provide increased resources to the Aeronautical Meteorology Programme, which currently represented about 1 percent of the WMO budget, while aeronautical meteorology brought in as much as 30% of the budgets of many NMHSs;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General to highlight and promote the role of NMHSs to ensure they were properly recognized for their operation of the basic system on which aeronautical meteorological services throughout the globe depended; "

Nonetheless, ongoing promotion of the importance of AeMP will be required to ensure an appropriate level of funding will be provided by Cg-XV in May 2007, and beyond.

5. TRAINING AND PUBLICATIONS

Support for Members to assist them in enhancing their service delivery and customer satisfaction is our highest priority, and training is an important component of this. Despite the persistent lack of adequate funding for training, we have managed to continue to conduct training events, thanks to the cooperation and support of Members and other Organizations, and to the availability of funds from the "cash surplus" from the previous financial period. Full details of events conducted and publications issued are included under agenda item 5.

I am particularly pleased with the progress made by the Expert Team on Education and Training, including the establishment of a dedicated Web site with online training materials at http://www.caem.wmo.int .

6. TREND OPAG

Full details on all activities under the TREND OPAG are covered under agenda item 4.1.

During the intersessional period, I designated a co-chair for the ET on Improvements to Forecasts and Warnings when the existing Chair advised that he had insufficient time available to devote to his duties. Since Herbert Puempel's appointment in April 2006 as Chief, Aeronautical Meteorology, Sharon Lau has assumed sole co-chairship of the TREND OPAG.

7. PROMET OPAG

For full details, please refer to agenda item 4.2

Following the retirement of the Chair of the ET on Customer Focus, I designated one of its members as acting Chair.

8. AMDAR

Excellent progress on AMDAR continues to be made. A good indicator is to take a look at the ECMWF data coverage maps (see http://tinyurl.com/konyx), which show that as of August 2006 we now have something like 230,000 automated aircraft reports per day. Comparable numbers were around 10,000 in 1990, 50,000 in 1998, and 100,000 in 2001.

In accordance with directions of Congress and the Executive Council, a migration of responsibility for the AMDAR Programme from the AeMP to the World Weather Watch is underway. For that reason, the draft Operating Plan for 2008-2011 does not refer to AMDAR activities. This issue will be address under agenda item 4.2.6.

9. LINKAGES WITH OTHER WMO ACTIVITIES

There is a definite trend within WMO, fostered by the Secretary-General, for crosscutting activities and programmes which draw on or draw together many other parts of WMO. As well as the recognition that a crosscutting approach is often required, this can also bring efficiencies when a number of parts of the Organization work together rather than separately. Two examples of particular relevance to CAeM are Quality Management, and observations. Such matters are often discussed at the annual Meetings of Presidents of Technical Commissions.

I have since CAeM-XII appointed the following focal points on cross-cutting matters, as well as becoming involved myself in THORPEX:

- Gender Issues (Sharon Lau from the MG);

- WMO Information System (David Murphy, Chair of ET/Operational Services; subsequently replaced by H.G. Wai);
- Metadata issues (David Murphy, Chair of ET/Operational Services);
- Integrated Observing System Rolling Requirements Review (Herbert Pümpel, co-Chair of TREND OPAG; subsequently replaced by C.M. Shun);
- Quality Management (Bryan Boase, Chair of ET/Quality Management);
- International Polar Year (Carr McLeod, vice-president; although subsequently Jeff Stickland as the AMDAR Technical Coordinator (now retired) was more heavily involved);
- Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (Carr McLeod, vice-president).

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the many people who have contributed to the work of the Commission over the last four years. The Management Group – in particular the vice-president and the co-chairs of the OPAGs – have been of great support and assistance to me. The Expert Teams, and their chairs in particular, have valiantly grappled with the tasks allotted them

I am grateful for the dedicated work by the WMO Secretariat; in particular the recently retired Chief and Scientific Officer in the WMO Secretariat – Tata Diallo and Saad Benarafa – while also welcoming and appreciating the fresh approaches of Herbert Puempel as the new Chief of Aeronautical Meteorology.

There are also many countries and organizations who have supported the activities of the Commission, and there has been excellent cooperation with organizations including ICAO, IATA and ASECNA.

Finally, I must also record, with sorrow, the passing in November 2005 of the former president of the Commission, Charlie Sprinkle. Charlie was a great friend and mentor to me, and a friend and colleague of many others.

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