

Expected Result: 9

ENHANCED CAPABILITIES OF NMHSs IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, TO FULFILL THEIR MANDATES

STRATEGIC THRUST IV: CAPACITY BUILDING

SUMMARY

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:

This document addresses the following issues:

1. Development requirements and opportunities for NMHSs of developing country Members, particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
2. Capacity development through strategic partnerships and cooperation and enhancing resource mobilization
3. Education and training, including matters associated with Regional Training Centres, Fellowships and budget priorities for the next financial period
4. WMO Country Profile Database implementation process

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

None

DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- (a) Reconfirm the status of the four WMO Regional Training Centres assessed in 2008–2009;
- (b) Consider changes to the EC Criteria for the recognition and reconfirmation of Regional Training Centres;
- (c) Approve the VCP(F) allocations for 2010;
- (d) Endorse the closure of the WMO Revolving Fund mechanism.

REFERENCES:

1. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress* (WMO–No. 1026)
2. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Sixty-first Session of the Executive Council* (WMO–No. 1042)
3. Final report of the twenty-fourth session of the EC Panel of Experts on Education and Training, Boulder, USA, 22 to 26 March 2010 (http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/etr/documents/FinalreportPAN_XXIV.pdf)
4. Final report of the Executive Council Panel of Experts on Education and Training Task Team on Distance and Online Learning (CIMH, Barbados, 23 – 27 November 2009)
5. Report of Informal Planning Meeting of Voluntary Cooperation Programme and Related Technical Cooperation Activities 7-8 May 2010 <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/vcp>)
6. EC-LXII/INF. 6

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Appendix for inclusion in the final report:

Draft text for inclusion in the general summary of EC-LXII

Appendix for information:

EC-LXII/Rep. 6(1): Progress/Activity Report

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY OF EC-LXII

6. CAPACITY BUILDING (*agenda item 6*)

Enhanced capabilities of NMHSs in developing countries, particularly least developed countries, to fulfill their mandates

6.1 The Council noted with appreciation the focus of the Development and Regional Activities Department on regional-scale projects through partnerships with major financing organizations, UN System Partners and WMO Members. It also noted the significant recommendations of the EC Panel of Experts on Education and Training.

Development Cooperation and Partnerships

6.2 The Council expressed appreciation at the continued significant and strategic work being undertaken in respect of regional programmes for capacity enhancement of NMHS in West and East Africa, South Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, Pacific and the Americas covering some forty (40) countries:

(http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/vcp/documents/Doc.4_2010_Major_Regional_Development_Projects.doc). This capacity enhancement is in cooperation with WMO Members (Republic of Korea, Spain, Finland, Italy, United States of America) and with key organizations such as the World Bank (WB), various Directorates of the European Commission, UN System Partners (in particular UNISDR, FAO, WFP, and UNDP), Rockefeller Foundation and Regional Economic Groupings in Africa.

6.3 The Council supported the approach taken regarding the projections for extrabudgetary resources for the next financial period to allow for staffing to be allocated to the project management of technical cooperation projects, as this area of support has declined significantly in recent years. The Council urged Members to consider allocation of extrabudgetary funds to these project management and regional initiatives as part of the new extrabudgetary funding approach.

6.4 Recognizing the positive impacts of projects on socio-economic benefits valuation of weather, climate and water services and in particular in LDCs, the Council invited development partners to support related initiatives and WMO to pursue its assistance as appropriate.

6.5 Noting that the Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs (LDC-IV) is scheduled to be held in 2011, the Council requested the NMHSs concerned to pay specific attention to the preparatory processes of the Conference both at national and regional levels and urged the Secretary-General to provide advice as appropriate. It reiterated the need for effective and coordinated WMO participation in the Conference and in pre-conference events for which WMO has been recognized as a sponsoring/contributing agency.

Infrastructure and Operational Facilities

6.6 The Council appreciated that in 2009, in addition to the above-mentioned regional development activities, additional support in the form of replacement, upgrading and extension of observing and communications infrastructure was provided through various funding mechanisms including the VCP Trust Fund, the VCP Coordinated Mechanism and on a bilateral basis. It noted that some 25 countries received support through the VCP(F) (including short-term fellowships) while 15 projects were supported under the VCP(ES) mechanism.

6.7 The Council noted that, despite progress made, many NMHSs of developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDS, do not yet have adequate infrastructure, operational facilities and

human resources necessary for providing adequate meteorological information, products and services in support of the socio-economic development of their respective countries, and requested the Secretary-General and development partners to assist the countries concerned to address these priority needs through the formulation and implementation of development projects and enhanced resource mobilization.

6.8 Considering the special and urgent needs of LDCs and SIDS in the preparation, review and/or updating of their NMHS's development and modernization plans, the Council requested the Secretary-General to place special emphasis on the preparation of LDCs and SIDS for their participation in the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

Human Capacity Development

6.9 The Council noted the report of the 24th session of the EC Panel of Experts on Education and Training (Boulder, USA, 22-26 March 2010). The Council commented that the number and quality of recommendations for this session of Council provided one measure of the excellent progress that the Panel was making in a wide range of areas across the Education and Training component of the capacity building domain.

6.10 The Council:

- (a) With respect to reconfirmation of WMO RTCs, decided
- (b) Approved the recommended changes to the EC Criteria for the recognition and reconfirmation of WMO Regional Training Centres (see Annex I to this paragraph) and the Processing Steps for Reconfirmation and Recognition of RTCs (see Annex II to this paragraph);
- (c) Requested the Secretary-General to advise the RTCs of the changes to the EC Criteria at his earliest opportunity and for the Panel to use the new criteria as the basis for their discussions and reviews from this point forward;
- (d) Thanked Indonesia, Peru, Qatar and South Africa for their interest in hosting new RTCs;
- (e) Approved the Panel recommendation for the Qatar Aeronautical College in Doha, Qatar to be approved as a WMO RTC provided the final site visit demonstrated that the EC Criteria were fully met;
- (f) Requested the Panel and the Secretary-General to continue the processing of the nominations for RTCs in Indonesia, Peru and South Africa and, if the processing is complete and recommended, seek the approval of Sixteenth Congress for their recognition;
- (g) Supported the recommendation that future members of the Panel should continue be actively involved in education and training matters in meteorology and/or hydrology;
- (h) Agreed to consider the question of balancing the cost of the Panel versus the need to continue the effectiveness of the Panel through strong regional, language and discipline representation. The Council further agreed that any cost savings should remain within the ETR Programme;
- (i) In light of the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology decision to form a Task Team on Competency Assessment Toolkit, acknowledged the decision by the Panel to finish

the Task Team on Aviation Forecaster Qualifications and, thanked the members of the Task Team for their excellent work in progressing this difficult issue;

- (j) Endorsed the Panel decision to extend the Task Team on Distance and Online Education into the next financial period for the purpose of enhancing distance and online learning;
- (k) Agreed to the Panel recommendation to review and update the WMO Fellowship Manual;
- (l) Requested the Secretary-General to remind Permanent Representatives through the circular letter regarding fellowships, that fellowship nominations did not necessarily have to be members of NMHSs. The Council agreed with the Panel that in some cases it would be to the advantage of the NMHS to educate and train prospective staff members prior to them joining the NMHS;
- (m) Supported the Panel recommendation that if the ETR regular budget for the next financial period is set without sufficient supplementary allocation, the funds provided to the Education and Training Programme should not be used for PR familiarization visits but for education and training activities only;
- (n) Acknowledged the role that the GLOBE Programme can play in promoting meteorology, climate and water in the area of School and Popular Education and, in light of the GFCS, requested the Secretary-General to write to all Members encouraging them to liaise with their GLOBE country coordinators to support the GLOBE Student Climate Research Campaign; and
- (o) Agreed to the Panel request to seek additional means for increasing the budget for the Education and Training Programme for the next financial period.

6.11 The Council expressed its support for the proposal made by the Panel for WMO to collaborate with Members and institutions to offer Fellowships in high priority areas such as Climate Change and Adaptation, Food and Water Security and Disaster Risk Reduction in addition to the continuing Capacity Building efforts. The Council requested the Secretary-General to report progress on this issue to Sixteenth Congress and encouraged Members to consider co-funding or supporting these activities that were directly linked to the high priority areas for the next financial period.

6.12 The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's advice on the actions being taken to assist Members, particularly in developing and least developed countries, with the issue of competencies for aeronautical meteorological personnel and noted the importance of the work being undertaken by the CAeM Task Team on Competency Assessment Toolkit. Recognizing the limited funds available under the regular budget, and that these activities should be funded through cost recovery, the Council thanked those Members who had already offered support for these training efforts and called upon more Members to assist wherever possible.

6.13 The Council recognized that the developing countries, especially SIDS and the LDCs, continue to be in urgent need of capacity building in forecasting and warning of tropical cyclone and associated storm surge. In this respect, the Council noted that the joint training activities by the Tropical Cyclone Programme (TCP) and the Public Weather Services (PWS) Programme such as the RA IV Workshop on Hurricane Forecasting and Warnings and Public Weather Services, the Southern Hemisphere Training Course on Tropical Cyclones and Workshop on Public Weather Services, and the RA I Training Course on Tropical Cyclones and Public Weather Services have an increasing role to meet this requirement through their integrated approach to the improvement

of service delivery. It also underlined the practical effectiveness of the attachment training at TC RSMCs and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) for the forecasting of tropical cyclones and storm surges, respectively. In view of the maximum use of these opportunities by developing countries, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to support these training activities and to flexibly implement them by involving participants across the regions.

6.14 The Council noted with appreciation the initiatives of two developing countries in Africa (Lesotho which is an LDC and Swaziland) to pursue the development of their NMHS staff through establishing trust funds with WMO to be used for capacity development activities. The Council strongly supported this approach, endorsed the Secretary-General's decision to reduce the overhead cost in these situations and encouraged more LDCs and SIDS to consider this option for capacity development.

6.15 The Council stressed that in addition to enhancing technical capabilities of NMHSs of LDCs and SIDS, support was also required to strengthen their abilities in advocacy and in the promotion of their products and services to users, including government officials, decision-makers and funding agencies. Noting that this would contribute towards enhancing their visibility and access to funding both from internal and external sources, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue giving priority to skill development activities for senior and middle-level managers of these NMHSs in the areas of management, strategic planning, product development and communication as well as in project development and resource mobilization, including through e-learning.

Voluntary Cooperation Programme

6.16 Recalling Resolution 24 (Cg-XV) for continuation of the Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP), and considering the report of the Ad Hoc Informal Planning Meeting (IPM) on the VCP and related Technical Cooperation Programmes 2010 held in Bali, Indonesia from 7 to 8 May 2010 (immediately after the fifteenth session of RA V), (<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/vcp>) the Council welcomed the continuing operation of the Voluntary Cooperation Programme and its various mechanisms, the VCP(F), VCP Coordinated modalities and the Informal Planning Meeting of the VCP and Related Technical Cooperation. In 2009, eight Members made cash contributions to the VCP Fund (VCP(F)), amounting to approximately USD 269,715 while USD 1,243,668 and equivalent support was provided to VCP Coordinated Projects through WMO and some USD 8.8M equivalent through bilateral arrangements for a total investment of almost USD 10M.

6.17 The Council expressed its appreciation to VCP donors for the valuable efforts in supporting the VCP. Recognizing that the VCP mechanism clearly remains an important instrument to assist countries, the Council encouraged Members to further contribute to and participate more actively in the Programme. The Council also noted that the VCP will be further enhanced in terms of delivery and support to Members through additional support staff - a Junior Professional Officer courtesy of the Government of Finland.

6.18 The Council endorsed the priority areas for VCP(F) and the nominal allocations 2010 (see Annex to this paragraph) and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that utilization of VCP is aligned with regional needs and priorities as stated in Regional Strategic Plans.

6.19 The Council noting the discussions at IPM regarding the WMO Revolving Fund Mechanism and noting also that this mechanism has not been called upon by Members for many years, endorsed the decision of the Secretary General to discontinue this mechanism and transfer any remaining funds to the VCP Fund.

Resource Mobilization

6.20 The Council welcomed the continuing progress being made by the Resource Mobilization Office (RMO) in the main focus areas outlined in the Resource Mobilization Strategy agreed to by EC-LX and in particular the VCP Programme and further development of existing and creation of new Strategic Partnerships (see paragraph 6.2 above) for financing development projects. The Council noted that the additional staffing of the RMO with the secondment from the Met Office should further strengthen the RMO and allow increasing focus on the above, on Public-Private Sector partnerships and other agreed priority areas including UN System Country Programmes; assisting NMHSs to find financing opportunities at the National Level especially through Capacity Building; demonstration of Socio-Economic Benefits of NMHSs Products and Services; and, advocacy and marketing of WMO and NMHSs. The Council agreed that these approaches were key in the context of securing the projected extrabudgetary funds in the next financing period approach and encouraged Members to provide support for the RMO to improve assistance to WMO Members.

WMO Country Profile Data Base

6.21 The Council reviewed the progress towards the development of an integrated Country Profile Data Base (CDB) requested by Cg-XV and EC-LX and expressed its appreciation for the progress to date, including the purchase of needed survey and collaboration software. The Council also expressed its appreciation to the Government of Spain for the secondment from the Agencia Estatal de Meteorología (AEMET), who worked on the CDB among other duties.

6.22 Recognizing the potential for such a capability to improve coordination, as well as the efficiencies for surveys and knowledge management across programmes and regions, while noting the delays in the implementation of the first phase due to changes in hardware and parallel delays in WMO Publication 5 database software development, and the need to complete the review requested by EC-LXI, the Council agreed with the importance of continuing the development of the CDB with the involvement of the EC Working Group on Capacity Building, and the assistance of those Members willing to do so.

Annex I to paragraph 6.10 of the general summary

EC Criteria for the recognition and reconfirmation of Regional Training Centres¹

I. RECOGNITION

To be designated as a WMO Regional Training Centre (WMO-RTC), institutions which undertake training in meteorology, hydrology and related sciences shall satisfy the following criteria:

A Centre *is* established only to meet the expressed requirements of two or more of the Members that cannot be met by existing facilities;

A Centre *is* designed to meet the requirements of the Region, as expressed in a decision of the regional association as recorded in a resolution or statement in the general summary of the Abridged Report or, during an intersessional period, upon the request of the president of the regional association, after consulting all its members;

The Centre is located within the particular Region concerned and its location decided by the Executive Council, in the light of the views of the regional association, or its president after consulting its Members, the advice of the technical commission concerned *and the EC Panel of Experts on Education and Training*, and the comments of the Secretary-General;

The following conditions *shall apply* to each Centre:

The Centre *is* open to students from all countries in the Region and, upon request, to interested countries in other Regions;

The education level of the various courses of instruction carried out at the Centre *is* consistent with the guidance material issued by WMO;

The Centre has processes in place to identify training needs of the region and to evaluate the training provided;

The Centre *has* adequate buildings and training facilities, and *has* the necessary equipment and facilities for an efficient and effective use and exchange of training *resources* and modules based on modern technology;

The Centre *has* competent instructors in terms of their technical ability and training skills;

The Centre *has* adequate arrangements for administration, governance, planning and self-assessment;

(e) The establishment and maintenance of the Centre *is* largely the responsibility of the host *organization*. The WMO shall have the right to monitor the work of the Centre.

The designation of an RTC will last for a specified period as described in the signed agreement in Part III of this document. This specified period shall not exceed eight years,

¹ New text is in italics to assist identification of the recommended changes. The text in the reconfirmation section is essentially the same as that in the recognition section. Following approval the italics and highlight colour will be removed.

II. RECONFIRMATION

Every RTC must be reconfirmed at least once in every eight year interval. To be reconfirmed as a WMO Regional Training Centre (WMO-RTC), institutions which undertake training in meteorology, hydrology and related sciences shall satisfy the following criteria:

The RTC must re-apply using the RTC Self-Assessment Form.

A Centre shall meet the expressed requirements of two or more of the Members. The number of international students will be considered in assessing this criterion.

The following conditions shall apply to each Centre:

- The Centre is open to students from all countries in the Region and, upon request, to interested countries in other Regions;*
- The education level of the various courses of instruction carried out at the Centre is consistent with the guidance material issued by WMO;*
- The Centre has processes in place to identify training needs of the Region and to evaluate the training provided;*
- The Centre has adequate buildings and training facilities, and has the necessary equipment and facilities for an efficient and effective use and exchange of training resources and modules based on modern technology;*
- The Centre has competent instructors in terms of their technical ability and training skills;*
- The Centre has adequate arrangements for administration, governance, planning and self-assessment;*
- The sustainability of the Centre will largely be the responsibility of the host country or organization. The WMO has the right to monitor the work of the Centre.*

III. WRITTEN AGREEMENT

The obligations of WMO and the host country *shall* be the subject of a signed Agreement to abide by certain principles between WMO and the host country, and this *will* cover the following matters:

The purpose and functions of the Centre;

The number and entrance qualifications of students;

The right of WMO to examine syllabi and other relevant material to ensure that the level of education and training is consistent with the guidance material issued by WMO (e.g. publication WMO-No. 258 and its supplements);

The administrative arrangements of the Centre;

WMO obligations - financial or otherwise;

Obligations of the host organization;

Obligations of the Centre;

Withdrawal of the designation of the Centre;

Expiration or Termination of the Agreement.

Annex II to paragraph 6.10 of the general summary

Processing steps for Reconfirmation of RTCs

The normal procedures for the recognition or reconfirmation are therefore as follows:

A Member wishing to offer its national training facilities as a WMO RTC submits its proposal for consideration and recommendation by the regional association or by the president of the regional association on behalf of the regional association concerned.

A representative of the WMO Secretary-General will survey the training facilities and programmes and assess their compliance with the criteria for the recognition of WMO RTCs. This may include a site visit to the proposed RTC.

The recommendation of the regional association, or its president, and the report of the Secretariat mission are considered by the EC Panel of Experts on Education and Training or, by its Chairman on behalf of the Panel.

The Panel's recommendation is considered by the Executive Council.

After endorsement by the Executive Council, the establishment of the centre is subject to an agreement which is drawn up between WMO and the host country. Contents of this agreement are specified in Section III of the EC Criteria for the recognition or reconfirmation of Regional Training Centres.

Expected Result 9

ENHANCED CAPABILITIES OF NMHSS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, TO FULFILL THEIR MANDATES

Strategic Thrust IV: Capacity Building

PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT

SUMMARY

Reference: EC-LXI/Doc. 6(1)

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

This document contains the progress reports on issues concerning:

1. Development requirements and opportunities for NMHSS of developing country Members, particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
2. Capacity Development through strategic partnerships and cooperation and enhancing resource mobilization
3. Voluntary Cooperation Programme
4. Education and Training
5. EC Working Group on Capacity Building
6. WMO Country Profile Database implementation process.

Appendix:

- Progress/Activity Report

PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT

ENHANCED CAPABILITIES OF NMHSS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY LDCs, TO FULFILL THEIR MANDATES

1. Introduction

1.1 The Development and Regional Activities Department (DRA) has continued with its focused approach on tackling the development needs of NMHSSs through regional scale projects and initiatives through strong collaborative partnerships with major financing organizations, UN system partners and WMO Members.

2. Resource Mobilization and Strategic Partnerships and Major Development Projects

2.1 The optimal situation in terms of extrabudgetary support to NMHSSs and the Secretariat is for programmatic rather than project funding and preferably in respect of regional development programmes as it is impossible to service developing countries needs comprehensively on a one-to-one basis. Whilst this is the ultimate aim, the current situation is a mix of project and programmatic support with the trend still being towards project support but some strong regional programmes are underway.

2.2 The issue of project management capacity within the WMO in general and the DRA in particular is emerging as a significant factor that will need to be addressed as further development projects are started. Current human resources are inadequate to support the develop assistance programmes underway or in the pipeline as highlighted in INF. 6.

3. Infrastructure and Operational Facilities

3.1 Expert services, advisory services and equipment were provided to some developing countries through various programme activities and cooperation mechanisms, aiming at strengthening their observing networks, their telecommunication systems and their institutional framework (see summary of the reports by presidents of RAs under EC agenda item 2.4 among others).

4. Human Capacity Development

4.1 The 24th session of the EC Panel of Experts on Education and Training (Panel) was held in Boulder, USA, from 22 to 26 March 2010. Members are referred to the report of this session available (in English only) at http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/etr/documents/FinalreportPAN_XXIV.pdf for a full discussion of the items to be discussed by Council, and referred to below.

Governance and Coordination

4.2 The Panel reviewed the education and training component of the draft Strategic Plan for 2012 to 2015 and recommended the EC Working Group on Strategic and Operational Planning consider changes to the wording of the Key Outcome 6.3 and replacement of the two performance indicators by three new ones. The Panel also reviewed their Terms of Reference and made recommendations for EC-LXII to update these. In view of the possible budget situation for the 2012 to 2015 period the Panel noted that EC-LXIII may consider changes to the membership of the Panel. The Panel made some suggestions for the Council to take into account in their deliberations.

Regional Training Centres

4.3 During the 2008–2009 period six Regional Training Centres (RTCs) were externally assessed and the Secretariat formally and informally advised of requests for an additional four new RTCs. Following a detailed examination and discussion of each of the external assessment reports, and the attendant documentation, the Panel recommended the immediate reconfirmation of the RTCs of Argentina, Barbados, Costa Rica, and Kenya. For the RTCs in Egypt and Madagascar, the Panel has recommended a delay in reconfirming their RTC status. For Egypt this is to provide the RTC with time to implement the arrangements with the University of Cairo that will better enable them to demonstrate the level of their course work and assessment procedures for international students. For Madagascar it will provide time for the RTC to improve their planning and coordination, liaison between the various components of the RTC and with WMO, and further develop the skills of their teaching staff and resources. The Panel noted and applauded the coordination that the RTC in Egypt is undertaking with the RTC in Nanjing and the development of links with the University of Cairo. The Panel anticipates that as these actions are implemented they will overcome the concerns about the assessment process for international students evident in the external assessment report. Similarly, the Panel noted and appreciated the willingness of the RTC in Madagascar to implement all of the recommendations in the external assessment report. Noting the direction of EC-LVIII which requested that the EC Criteria be strictly applied when assessing new RTCs or reconfirming existing RTCs, the Panel was obliged to recommend a delay in reconfirming the RTC status in these two cases. The Panel requested the Executive Council to ask the Secretary-General to assist these two RTCs within the limits of available resources

4.4 The Panel noted the four pending proposals for the creation of new WMO Regional Training Centres in Qatar, Peru, South Africa, and Indonesia. Since the application of Qatar is complete, the Panel recommends that the EC approve the Qatar application pending a site visit by a representative of the Secretary-General. The Panel noted that this is the last Panel and EC session before the Sixteenth WMO Congress in May 2011 and requested EC to allow these proposals to be presented to Congress for its consideration if they have completed all the formal steps prior to May 2011.

Education and training opportunities

4.5 INF. 6(b) lists the training opportunities provided to Members during 2009 and the first quarter of 2010 by WMO and its Members. The list is based on information known to the Secretariat as of early March 2010 but may not reflect the full extent of the education and training opportunities offered to Members as not all activities are reported to the Secretariat. Members are thanked for their assistance in providing these opportunities and are encouraged to report them to the Education and Training Office for planning and statistical purposes.

4.6 One hundred and fifteen (115) WMO Fellows were in study during 2009, the majority of them (63) undertaking long-term study. Fifty-four (54) new fellowships were awarded, of whom seventeen (17) began long-term study including eight (8) who commenced studies in China under bilateral funding arrangements between WMO and the Government of the Peoples Republic of China and five (5) who commenced study in the Russian Federation. Nineteen four month fellowships were provided by the USA for Fellows in Africa and Central and South America. The Governments of Austria, Australia, China, Egypt, the United Kingdom and the United States were amongst Members who contributed to the WMO Fellowship Programme through direct funding of fellowships or the waiving or reduction of tuition fees. As usual the Regular Budget (RB) or a combination of Regular Budget and the Voluntary Contribution Programme (RB/VCP) funded the majority of the Fellowships. Members are encouraged to continue their support for the WMO Fellowships Programme.

5. Resource Mobilization

5.1 EC-LX (June 2008) supported the Mission Statement and Resource Mobilization Strategy for 2008-2011 presented by RMO and in particular the focus on supporting the NMHSs to enhance the level of in-country and external support and funding to activities aimed at comprehensive development of their services, with particular emphasis on, the LDCs and SIDS, post conflict countries.

Voluntary Cooperation Programme

5.2 VCP activities focused on:

- (a) Review of outstanding VCP requests and discussions with Scientific Programmes and Regional Offices concerned in order to support valid projects using the VCP(F);
- (b) Response to VCP Members' requests for assistance using the VCP(F), the Emergency Fund or through the VCP Coordinated Programme;
- (c) Strengthening the working relationship with Scientific Departments and Regional Offices;
- (d) Strengthening the working relationship with VCP IPM.

5.3 In 2009, 6 donor Members offered equipment and expert services within the framework of the VCP Equipment and Services Programme (VCP-ES), including for outstanding requests carried over from previous years. In total 17 new project requests were posted to the web in 2009 while a total of 16 projects were supported.

5.4 Project requests were aimed at strengthening surface observing stations, strengthening communications systems, and improving meteorological applications. As usual there were many requests for strengthening of upper-air observing stations, an item generally beyond the spending limits of VCP(F) but not often supported by VCP(ES) either, due to high costs associated and sustainability issues.

5.5 In 2009, eight Members made cash contributions to the VCP Fund (VCP(F)), amounting to approximately USD 269,715 while USD 1,243,668 and equivalent support was provided to VCP Coordinated Projects through WMO and some USD 6,541,159 equivalent through bilateral arrangements. (Additionally USD 4.25M was channelled through DRA to major regional development programmes in DRA).

6. Assistance to LDCs and SIDS

6.1 Activities continued to be carried out to promote the WMO Programme for the LDCs amongst Members and development partners with a view to enhancing support and technical assistance to NMHSs of LDCs and SIDS. Efforts were also made to raise awareness of the Members concerned on the commitments and related targets of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010; on the preparations for the Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs (LDC-IV) to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2011; and of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular during sub-regional and regional events.

6.2 Assistance was provided to Comoros, Liberia, Vanuatu and Kiribati in the preparation of development and modernization plans of their respective NMHSs through expert services and the organization of national consultation workshops. A similar exercise is planned for Guinea Bissau, Rwanda and Madagascar.

6.3 A number of pilot projects on socio-economic benefits evaluation are under development or being implemented, aiming at promoting awareness on the beneficial use of weather-, climate- and water-related information, products and services in various socio-economic sectors. They include the following:

- (a) Hydro-electric power generation (Zambia);
- (b) Livestock development (Uganda);
- (c) Agriculture and rural development (Tanzania);
- (d) Livestock development (Sudan);
- (e) Ports and marine services (Mozambique).

6.4 A brochure on the role of WMO and NMHSs in the achievement of the MDGs is being published and relevant training will be conducted for NMHSs concerned.

6.5 WMO participated in the Africa regional preparatory meeting on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC IV) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in March 2010.

6.6 Many pre-conference events will be organized from the end of 2009 to March 2011 and WMO has been recognized as a sponsoring/contributing agency for the following themes:

- (a) Climate Change, Climate Variability and Extremes, Land Degradation and Biodiversity Loss: Challenges and Opportunities;
- (b) Enhancing Food Security through Agricultural Development and Access to Food and Nutrition.

7. WMO Country Profile Database

7.1 In 2009-2010, the Secretariat Country Profile Data Base (CDB) Task Team discussed and agreed on the Business Case and Project Plan for CDB development. After review of various options, two software packages, 'Checkbox' and 'Novel Teaming', were purchased to provide the necessary survey and collaboration tools, respectively. WMO Publication No. 5 - "Composition of WMO database" was identified as the definitive source of geopolitical information, on which the CDB would build. A major Publication No. 5 update encountered technical delays in late 2009 and is currently under review. In parallel, Checkbox and Teaming software was installed on a new server in March 2010.

7.2 A user survey was also developed to further assist in CDB design and will be sent to Members later this year. Phase I preparation has focused on requirements and development of a demonstration capability. Deployment of Phase I is planned for late 2010.
