

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Implementation of activities of the Association
2. Future activities of RA V

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

None

DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:

To approve the draft text in the Appendix for inclusion in the general summary of XV-RA V.

REFERENCES:

1. *Abridged Final Report of the Fourteenth Session of Regional Association V (South-West Pacific)* (WMO-No. 1005)
2. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress* (WMO-No. 1026)
3. XV-RA V/INF. 3 – List of Regional Events in RA V (May 2006 – April 2010)

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Appendix for inclusion in the final report:

Draft text for inclusion in the general summary of XV-RA V

Appendix for information:

XV-RA V/Rep. 3: Progress/Activity Report

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY OF XV-RA V

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

3.1 The Association noted with appreciation the report of the president of RA V which provided an overall review and assessment of the major activities of the Association since its fourteenth session and expressed satisfaction at the effective manner in which the activities of the Association were being undertaken. The president also highlighted the issues that the Association would have to address, such as the development of the Strategic Plan for the Enhancement of NMHSs in RA V; the future working mechanism of the Association; and other priority activities, including the implementation of Quality Management System (QMS) and the designation of a Regional Climate Centre(s) (RCC(s)) in the Region [*activities and discussions will be dealt with under the relevant items*].

3.2 The Association commended its president, Mr Arona Ngari (Cook Islands), for the dedication, enthusiasm and initiative with which he has conducted the affairs of the Association, thus contributing to the further development of weather, climate and water services in the Region. The Association also commended the vice-president, Dr Sri Woro Budiati Harijono (Indonesia), for her valuable contribution to the work of the Region. It also expressed its appreciation to the chairpersons and members of the working groups and rapporteurs, who had effectively collaborated in carrying out the activities of the Association.

3.3 The Association extended its appreciation to Members who hosted various regional events during the intersessional period and encouraged them to continue to provide the necessary support to the activities of the Association. [*A list of regional events in RA V (May 2006-April 2010) is given in XV-RA V/INF. 3.*]

3.4 The Association recognized that, after the tsunami in April 2007 which affected Solomon Islands and another tsunami in September 2009 which affected American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga, the setting up of effective and sustainable tsunami warning systems became an important task for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the Region. In some of these countries, NMHSs were designated authorities for issuing tsunami warnings. The Association noted that NMHSs had demonstrated the improved collaboration and coordination with national disaster risk reduction agencies and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) through the recent Chile tsunami in February 2010, however there is still a need for further improvement in the overall early warning systems, especially for tsunamis. In this regard, the Association requested the Secretary-General to continue providing assistance to Members in establishing multi-hazard early warning systems.

3.5 The Association also recognized that other natural hazards such as coastal floods caused by abnormally high sea levels, tropical cyclones and floods affected Members of the Region. The Association encouraged its Members to continue to improve their warning systems and requested the Secretary-General to support them in these efforts through facilitating provision of infrastructure for operational exchange of forecasts, warnings and other information on a real-time basis through the implementation of regional components of WMO programmes such as the Storm Surge Watch Scheme (SSWS), the Severe Weather Forecast and Disaster Risk Reduction Demonstration Project (SWFDDP), Pacific-HYCOS and South-East Asian (SEA)-HYCOS to support multi-hazard early warning systems. The Association noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of SWFDDP in the Region in a complete end-to-end cascading process with a pilot phase and it requested the Secretary-General to extend the pilot phase to a full project and to extend the coverage area as resources permit.

3.6 Noting the WMO Fact-Finding Mission to Fiji in August 2007 and assistance provided to Fiji including human resources development, the Association requested the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to addressing them with the aim of strengthening the capacity of the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS)/RSMC Nadi-TCC to ensure providing tropical cyclone-related services and aviation services to Members in the Region.

3.7 Noting that there is still a need to improve the capabilities of NMHSs in the Pacific region to access sophisticated products in the preparation and dissemination of weather information and products and timely warning for severe weather and climate extremes, the Association requested the Secretary-General and Members to give special attention to the communication technology issues in the Region.

3.8 The Association acknowledged the roles of the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific and the WMO Office for the South-West Pacific in various regional capacity development activities, facilitating implementation of WMO regional events, maintaining close contact with Members, providing support to meet Members requirements, and addressing WMO cross-cutting programmes, all being carried out in close collaboration with Members and relevant regional organizations.

3.9 The Association expressed a warm welcome to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste for a new membership with WMO (22nd Member of RA V) as from 4 December 2009. In this regard, the Association was pleased to note that Marshall Islands, Palau and Tuvalu had taken the necessary steps to becoming Members of WMO following continuing discussions and missions carried out by the president of RA V and the Regional Director for Asia and the South-West Pacific in November 2009.

World Meteorological Organization

**REGIONAL ASSOCIATION V
(SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC)**

FIFTEENTH SESSION

Bali, Indonesia
30 April to 6 May 2010

XV-RA V/Rep. 3

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REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY

Reference: XV-RA V/Doc. 3

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Appendix:

- Summary of the report by the president of RA V

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

Introduction

1. This report covers the period from the fourteenth session of the Association to March 2010.

Members of the Association

2. The number of Members of the Association increased from 21 to 22 during the intersessional period, since the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste became a Member of WMO as from 4 December 2009 and exercised its right to belong to Regional Association V (South-West Pacific).

Officers of the Association

3. Mr Arona Ngari (Cook Islands) and Dr Sri Woro Budiati Harijono (Indonesia) served as president and vice-president of the Association, respectively.

Regional working groups and rapporteurs

4. At its fourteenth session, the Association established five working groups, one committee and the Management Group. The Association designated rapporteurs for eight specific areas of interest to the Region. The working groups and rapporteurs carried out their tasks according to their terms of reference, as explained in their reports [*ref. XV-RA V/INF. 7*].

5. The future working mechanism including the establishment of working groups based on the Expected Results of the WMO Strategic Plan and the Strategic Plan for the Enhancement of NMHSs in RA V will be discussed under Agenda item 5.1 - Internal matters of the Association at this session [*ref. XV-RA V/Doc. 5.1*].

Major regional events and outcomes

6. During the period of the report, a number of seminars, workshops and other events were organized or hosted by WMO and its Members, as listed in XV-RA V/INF. 3. Members of the Association actively participated in these events, among others:

- (a) WMO Regional Seminar on Enhancing Service Delivery by NMHSs in RA V, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2-6 April 2007, organized jointly with UNESCO-IOC Seminar on Tsunami Warnings Operation under Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System;
- (b) Fifth Technical Conference on Management of Meteorological and Hydrological Services in RA V – Strategic Capacity Development on NMHSs in Region V, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20-24 April 2009;
- (c) WMO Fact-Finding Mission to Fiji, July 2007, as a follow-up to the discussions during Cg-XV that expressed a serious concern on the operational status of the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS)/RSMC Nadi-TCC;
- (d) Three Regional Meetings of Meteorological Service Directors (RMSD) in the Pacific, co-organized with SPREP in Noumea in July 2006, in Rarotonga in July 2007 and in Nadi in May 2009;

- (e) Implementation of a VCP coordinated project, financially supported by the USA, for the provision of Low Rate User Stations (LRUSs) to enable SIDS in the Pacific to have access to meteorological satellite images in Low-Rate Information Transmission (LRIT) format; and
- (f) SWFDDP pilot phase commenced on 1 November 2009 focusing on Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands in a complete end-to-end cascading process with operational support from RSMC Wellington which also developed a web portal for enhanced guidance products available from global, regional and national centres. In-country training was provided during September to October 2009.

7. Members of the Region were affected by natural disasters during the intersessional period, including: the earthquakes and tsunamis in Indonesia in July 2006 and September 2009; mudslides and floods in the Philippines affected by Typhoons Durian in November-December 2006 and Ketsana in September 2009; the tsunami which affected Solomon Islands in April 2007; the tsunami which affected American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga in September 2009; abnormally high sea levels which affected the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in late 2008; floods which affected Solomon Islands, Fiji and other Members and; tropical cyclones such as Oli and Tomas, Pat and Rene affecting Fiji, Cook Islands and Tonga, respectively.

8. The Chile earthquake which occurred on 27 February 2010 prompted a Pacific-wide community reaction to the tsunami warnings issue via National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). The lessons learned from previous tsunami events in April 2007 and September 2009 were taken seriously by the local communities and governments and some improvements were demonstrated: (i) local communities received and responded to warnings issued by the concerned NMHS, (ii) the coordination and collaboration between NMHSs and national disaster risk reduction agencies at the national and local levels have improved; and (iii) the interaction between the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) and NMHSs has also been improved significantly.

WMO Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific and the WMO Office for the South-West Pacific

9. The Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, located at the WMO Headquarters in Geneva, has been providing effective support to NMHSs in their efforts to enhance their services as well as to the president, vice-president and subsidiary bodies of the Association in discharging their responsibilities.

10. The WMO Office for the South-West Pacific, located in Apia, Samoa has been facilitating implementation of WMO regional events, maintaining close contact with Members, providing support to meet requirements of Members in the Region and also to address WMO cross-cutting programmes with relevant regional organizations. *[The activities of the Regional Office and the WMO Office for the South-West Pacific are documented in XV-RA V/Doc. 7.]*

Missions of the president

11. In his capacity as president, Mr Ngari carried out a mission with Dr T. Toya, Regional Director for Asia and the South-West Pacific, to Marshall Islands and Palau in November 2009 to hold discussions with relevant authorities on the development of meteorology and hydrology and benefits and obligations to become a Member of WMO. He also attended the sixty-third session of the Bureau (Paris, January 2010) and the 2010 Meeting of Presidents of Technical Commissions (Geneva, January 2010).

Future work of the Association

12. A draft Strategic Plan for the Enhancement of NMHSs in RA V (2010-2011) has been developed by the Task Team on Strategic Planning chaired by Mr G. Foley (Australia) on the basis of the consultations with Members in the Region. The Strategic Plan is expected to be approved by the Association following discussions during the fifteenth session of the Association [*ref. XV-RA V/Doc. 5.2(2)*].

13. The following issues should be considered with a high priority:

- (a) PWS to provide the means to delivering and presenting weather, climate and water information to users;
- (b) Designation of a Regional Climate Centre(s) (RCCs) through the WMO formal designation procedure;
- (c) Establishment of QMS for all NMHSs in the Pacific for services to aviation;
- (d) Mobilizing and securing resources for the implementation of Pacific-HYCOS and South-East Asian (SEA)-HYCOS projects;
- (e) Full operation and possible extension of the coverage in SWFDDP and the implementation of SSC for the Region; and
- (f) Strengthening the capacity of FMS/RSMC Nadi-TCC, to continue providing tropical cyclone-related services and aviation services to Members.

14. There is an urgent need to pay special attention to the communication technology issues in the Pacific region and actively pursue the technical possibilities that have been identified as long-standing problem areas.

Acknowledgements

15. The president of the Association would like to express his appreciation and gratitude to all those who have contributed to the work of the Association. Particular thanks are due to the vice-president, Dr Sri Woro Budiati Harijono (Indonesia), and the chairpersons and members of working groups as well as individual rapporteurs of the Association. Thanks are due to the Members of the Association who have hosted various meetings, conferences and training events during the intersessional period.

16. The president would also like to express his deep gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary-General of WMO and to the Secretariat, in particular the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific and the WMO Office for the South-West Pacific, for their valuable support and advice in the work of the Association.
