

**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC  
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)**

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JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR  
OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY  
(JCOMM)

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EXPERT TEAM ON SEA ICE – FOURTH SESSION

STEERING GROUP FOR THE PROJECT GLOBAL DIGITAL  
SEA ICE DATA BANK (GDSIDB) – TWELTH SESSION

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ITEM 2.10.2

ST PETERSBURG, RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
1 TO 5 MARCH 2010

Original: ENGLISH

**SUPPORT FOR JCOMM CAPACITY BUILDING**

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*(Submitted by the Secretariat)*

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**Summary and Purpose of Document**

This document provides information on JCOMM-III directions for capacity-building, on training development initiatives of the ETSI during the past intersessional period and on possible workshops to be organized by the Team.

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**ACTION PROPOSED**

The Expert Team on Sea Ice (ETSI) is invited to:

- (a) Note and comment on the information provided in this document, as appropriate;
  - (b) Provide recommendations for the agenda and organization of a third Ice Analysts Workshop.
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**DISCUSSION**

1. At JCOMM-III, the Commission recognized that it was essential that all maritime Members/Member States should be in a position to both contribute to and benefit from the work of JCOMM. In this context, a set of *Guiding Principles for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology Capacity-Building* were adopted. It noted that JCOMM is jointly sponsored by the WMO and the UNESCO/IOC and therefore its capacity-building activities must operate within, and draw upon, the overall principles of its governing bodies. The WMO and UNESCO/IOC should also assist with the development of partnerships with potential donor agencies and with links with other UN and other relevant regional and global organizations. The activities also must be compatible and work with similar efforts in other WMO and UNESCO/IOC Programmes. In addition, the JCOMM should seek partnerships to pursue mutual objectives in the development of capability.
2. JCOMM should support capacity development elements that are not fully included in other ocean or atmosphere programmes, and draw attention specifically to other capacity-building programmes of the WMO or UNESCO/IOC. Examples include

specialized observations and resulting products, e.g., those of some satellite missions, the Argo profiling float programme, or the Data Buoy Cooperation Programme, and other applications. The three JCOMM Programme Areas each should include capacity-building activities for a more integrated, focused and proactive approach.

3. The JCOMM capacity-building principles are, in no particular order:
  - (i) The primary objective of JCOMM capacity-building is to enhance the implementation of the overall JCOMM Programme through enhancing capacity in all Members/Member States to contribute to and benefit from the programme;
  - (ii) The Activity Leader on Capacity-Building should work with the PA coordinators and the Secretariats to revise the JCOMM capacity-building strategy that builds on existing capacity-building work in both WMO and UNESCO/IOC, to implement a range of JCOMM-focused capacity-building activities;
  - (iii) Specific JCOMM-focused capacity-building activities should be implemented by the respective Programme Areas and included in their respective workplans;
  - (iv) JCOMM capacity-building activities should aim to fill-in gaps and avoid overlapping at national, regional and international levels. It is highly desirable that national partners from both JCOMM themes (i.e., oceanography and marine meteorology) be involved so the complementary and “symbiotic” benefits of JCOMM are clearly demonstrated;
  - (v) JOMMM capacity-building will include continuous professional development;
  - (vi) JCOMM capacity-building will aim, where possible, for a “train the trainer” approach to help ensure continuity by countering staff turnover/brain drain problems and to promote the wide spread of knowledge and practices;
  - (vii) At the regional level, JCOMM capacity-building will develop programmes and projects that follow WMO and UNESCO/IOC strategies (e.g. the ODIN strategy, developed by IODE of UNESCO/IOC; the SWFDP, developed by WMO/CBS; the PANGAEA concept, developed by the JCOMM OPA);
  - (viii) At the regional level, JCOMM capacity-building will develop, preferably, medium to longterm programmes and projects that will result in national structural and embedded capacity that can be sustained by national funding sources;
  - (ix) Creating awareness in the minds of the public and policy makers is essential for raising national and international support;
  - (x) JCOMM capacity-building activities will include assessment of feedback regarding the satisfaction and requirements of users of JCOMM observations, products and services;
  - (xi) One member of the JCOMM Management Committee will be responsible for liaison with the three Programme Areas regarding capacity-building activities;
  - (xii) JCOMM capacity-building activities should endeavour to utilize existing methods, courses, tools and other capacity-building aids, particularly those of the WMO and UNESCO/IOC.
4. Among other training tools, JCOMM-III specifically noted “Bilko” as a complete data analysis system developed primarily for learning and teaching remote sensing image analysis skills. Bilko is supported by UNESCO and is available free of charge.
5. ETSI-III noted the availability of Bilko and requested the Canadian Ice Service to evaluate its suitability for ice analysis training. The CIS was only able to undertake a cursory review and concluded that it did not have enough resources to even learn the Bilko system sufficiently to do a proper analysis.
6. COMET is another training system specifically mentioned by JCOMM-III. The National Ice Center has initiated a project to develop a COMET module that will overview the NIC, products and services available to clients and including

introductions to egg code interpretation, seasonal climatology, ice formation/ablation and iceberg types and identification. This first module is planned for release in September 2010.

7. In its discussion on specialized education and training, JCOMM-III noted that the Ice Analysts Workshops, organized by ETSI with the IICWG and local hosts, had been of particular value to the national ice services and it agreed that they should continue during the coming intersessional period. In response to this, it is recommended that the ETSI establish objectives and a draft agenda for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Ice Analysts Workshop and propose an approximate time and place.
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