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

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International courses for the training of ice experts on interpretation of satellite images

(Submitted by ETSI Chairperson and Vladimir Smirnov, AARI)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document describes AARI proposal on organization of the international courses for the training of ice experts on interpretation of satellite images.

ACTION PROPOSED

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

(a) Note and comment on the information provided as appropriate;

(b) Consider suggestions in developing ETSI workplan in part of training and CB.

Discussion

1. Satellite remote sensing in the various spectral ranges is the main and a very often the only source of the information on an ice cover state in the Arctic and freezing seas. However methods of remote sounding of an ice cover, basically, are indirect. Reliable interpretation of satellite images is provided when the expert has the long-term experience of works, knowledge of an ice regime for the definite arias, skills of joint processing of satellite images of an ice cover in various spectral ranges, and also knowledge of peculiar properties of satellite images of various ice types. Such experience is gained during teamwork with skilled ice experts on interpretation of satellite images after initial training course was passed.

2. In 2009 a course for the training of ice experts on interpretation of satellite images was developed, arranged and run. The training was carried out at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation. The basis for performing the work was the contract on conducting research for the BP Arctic and Cold Regions Technology and Engineering Programme. 16 trainees – AARI employees were graduated from this course and have got corporate certificates.

3. To increase the quality of ice information derived from satellite imagery it is proposed to consider the possibility to merge the educational materials and curriculum of different ice services and organize the international courses for the training of ice experts on interpretation of satellite images.