



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Facsimile

From:	Secretary-General	To:	Mr Petteri Taalas The Permanent Representative of Finland with WMO
Date:	30 April 2009	City:	HELSINKI
Our ref.:	/WDS/MAP/MMO/IAW-2	Country:	Finland
No pages:	8	Fax No.:	+358 919 292 203

Dear Mr Taalas,

As you are aware, at present the ice cover in the Polar Regions is experiencing significant variations, both in mass and in spatial coverage. This change in the Polar environment encourages maritime exploitation of the area, and stimulates enhanced research in the ocean. When the existing WMO Marine Broadcast System under the GMDSS was decided upon, Maritime Safety Information (MSI) broadcast facilities were not envisaged for the Polar Regions. Consequently, as the opening of the Northern Sea Route for international shipping increases, gaps and problems with availability, harmonization and standardization of appropriate MSI broadcasts, including sea ice, for SOLAS and non-SOLAS ships were expected to build up.

In order to enhance the capability of Members concerned to provide harmonized sea ice services and as a follow-up of the *First Ice Analysts Workshop* (Rostock, Germany, June 2008), the Baltic Sea Ice Meeting, at its twenty-third session (Helsinki, Finland, September 2008), and the International Ice Chart Working Group (IICWG), at its ninth session (Lulle, Sweden, October 2008), proposed to convene a *Second Ice Analysts Workshop* to assess the differences in current practices of ice analysis and charting at the national ice services to meet operational needs. The JCOMM Services Programme Area Coordination Group further endorsed this Workshop, at its fourth session (Geneva, Switzerland, March 2009). The major outcome from this workshop would be the development of guidelines for standard sea-ice services response practices, including coding and presentation schemes.

In this context, I have pleasure in informing you that, at the kind invitation of the Government of Norway, the second *Ice Analysts Workshop* will take place at the Norwegian Meteorological Institute, in Tromsø, Norway, from 15 to 19 June 2009. The documentation for the Workshop, as well as the Workshop itself will be conducted in English only. Copies of the Workshop announcement, the Information for Participants and the preliminary registration form are enclosed herewith for your consideration. Additionally, please note that all relevant information regarding the Workshop, including hotel accommodation and other logistics, can be downloaded from the following web address: <http://www.jcomm-services.org/Ice-Analysts-Workshop-June-2009.html>. Updated information regarding the workshop, including case

studies, ice charts and imagery, will also be available on this web site. You are encouraged to regularly, visit the web site for further information concerning the workshop.

In view of the significance of this workshop, you are encouraged to arrange, as appropriate, for the participation of a senior ice analyst(s) from your operational ice service. It should be noted that, according to established procedures, financial assistance by the WMO and IOC will not be available to support participation in this event.

For administrative purposes, I would very much appreciate it if you could kindly arrange for the submission of the preliminary registration form to the WMO Secretariat (attention: Ms A. Soares, E-mail: asoares@wmo.int, Telefax: +41-22 730 8128) as soon as possible, but **no later than 28 May 2009**.

On behalf of the WMO and the IOC, I look forward to the successful conduct of this important event, with the support and active participation of experts from your Service.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

(J. Lengoasa)
for the Secretary-General