World Meteorological Organization | **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO)**

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

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JCOMM-III/BM. 4
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REVIEW OF DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF WMO AND UNESCO/IOC RELATED TO THE COMMISSION

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

SUMMARY

Reference: **JCOMM-III/Doc. 4**

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Appendix:

- Background material

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

WMO Governing Body sessions

1. Possibly the most significant outcome from WMO Fifteenth Congress (WMO Cg-XV, May 2007) was its reaffirmation that many of the marine-related activities could only be implemented through the full and active cooperation between WMO and the UNESCO/IOC. In this regard, Congress urged the Secretary-General of WMO, the Executive Secretary of the UNESCO/IOC and the Co-presidents of JCOMM to further strengthen the integration of WMO and UNESCO/IOC activities, in order to provide a more effective and cost-efficient JCOMM work plan. Major decisions of WMO Cg-XV with impact on the work programme of JCOMM were:

(a) Resolution 30 (Cg-XV) – Towards Enhanced Integration between WMO Observing Systems, and it reaffirmed that the WMO Information System (WIS) was serving all WMO Programmes. Follow-up actions on the WMO Integrated Global Observation System (WIGOS) and WIS are discussed under agenda item 10;

(b) Resolution 32 (Cg-XV) – WMO Quality Management Framework (WMO-QMF). Follow up actions on the subject are reported under agenda item 11.

A full report is available at:
http://www.wmo.int/pages/governance/congress/congress_reports_en.html.

2. The WMO EC-LXI (June 2009) endorsed the theme areas proposed in the JCOMM work programme for the period 2010-2013, as follows:

(a) Met-Ocean Forecasting Systems and Services, including Coastal Marine Hazards and related Climate Change Adaptation in Coastal Areas;

(b) Met-Ocean QMF, including the Catalogue of Best Practices and Standards, and the development of a QMS for the provision of Met-ocean Services for International Navigation, in collaboration with international organizations representing the user community, such as IMO and IHO;

(c) Long-term maintenance and enhanced implementation of the in situ and remote sensing Ocean Observing Systems, and contribution to the WIGOS;

(d) Modernization of Met-Ocean related Data Management Activities, including further development of interoperability between ocean data management systems and the WIS;

(e) Technology transfer and implementation support, with especial attention to LDCs and SIDSs.

It recommended that JCOMM consider at its third session:

(a) Balancing requirements against available resources, and identifying a core set of tasks, as a basis for prioritizing the future work programme;

(b) Further strengthening its coordination with the IODE of UNESCO/IOC;

(c) Adopting a project-oriented structure for the Services Programme Area.

3. The WMO EC-LXI had held extensive discussions on result-based management and actions towards the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness of the technical commissions. A full report is available at: http://www.wmo.int/pages/governance/ec/ec_docs_en.html.

4 Over the intersessional period, the work of the presidents of technical commissions has focused on a range of cross-commission activities, including the WIS, WIGOS, QMF, IPY 2007-2008, the Volunteerism in WMO, and the review of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the technical commissions with a view to linking them with the WMO's Results-based Management approach. It was recognized that for JCOMM there was a need to fit in with both WMO and UNESCO/IOC planning processes. Current JCOMM ToRs are available at: http://www.wmo.int/pages/governance/tc/documents/annex_iii.pdf. A full report is available at: http://www.wmo.int/pages/governance/tc/index_en.html.

UNESCO/IOC Governing Body sessions

5. The Twenty-fifth Session of the UNESCO/IOC Assembly (June 2009) recognized the advantage of multi-sponsor arrangements, such as JCOMM and GOOS, and supported enhanced inter-agency cooperation with clear lines of responsibility with respect to their mandates and specialities. It further endorsed the following priorities for the future:

(a) Enhanced implementation of the ocean observing system, including close coordination with pilot projects and programmes, such as Argo and OceanSITES, and support for the IPY legacy projects SOOS and SAON;

(b) Development of standards and best practices for operational ocean and marine meteorological data, products and services;

(c) Joint work with IODE of UNESCO/IOC on data management standards, the Ocean Data Portal and the WIGOS Pilot Project;

(d) Scientific and technical support for marine hazard forecasting systems, particularly for vulnerable coastal areas;

(e) Further work to standardize, facilitate and apply operational ocean forecasting systems.

6. The UNESCO/IOC Assembly expressed its satisfaction for the exemplary collaboration between JCOMM and IODE of UNESCO/IOC, and recommended continuation of this cooperation with a view to acquiring a wider range of observing data to be used for marine services, and to benefit from the technology and infrastructure of the UNESCO/IOC-IODE Ocean Data Portal (ODP) in developing marine services. The Assembly also recommended that JCOMM should enhance its support for coastal hazard and management issues, through the coordinated efforts of its Programme Areas and other associated organizations/programmes of the UNESCO/IOC.

7. The Assembly encouraged JCOMM, at its third session, to further streamline its structure, working methods and priorities, both to align it with the strategic priorities and programme structure of the UNESCO/IOC and the WMO, and to undertake work which is achievable within the available resources. A full report is available at http://www.ioc-unesco.org/ioc-25.

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