

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

JCOMM-III/BM. 6.2

WMO Secretary-General
and UNESCO/IOC
Executive Secretary

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Marrakech, Morocco,
4 to 11 November 2009

Agenda Item: 6.2

IN-SITU AND SATELLITE OBSERVING SYSTEMS

INSTRUMENTATION ISSUES

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

SUMMARY

Reference: JCOMM-III/Doc. 6.2

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Appendix:

- Background material

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

Best practices for Instruments

1. As part of the efforts to produce a JCOMM Catalogue of Best Practices and Standards, a consultant was recruited to address integration issues, i.e. identifying compatibilities, avoiding duplication of information, proposing higher levels of standards, including joint WMO-ISO standards. Several instrument related documents are concerned in this process [see agenda item 11.2 for details].
2. The DBCP has been addressing instrument evaluation issues through the work of its Task Team on Instrument Best Practices and Drifter Technology Developments, as well as the Pilot Project on Wave measurement Evaluation and Test from moored buoys (PP-WET). In particular the DBCP is undertaking the following: (i) review and recommendation on best practices; (ii) evaluation of specific technical issues in order to facilitate standardization; and, (iii) proposal on buoy design changes for better performance, and for extended coverage of Essential Climate Variables including pressure and surface wave height/direction.
3. The SOT produced “Instrument Standards Guidelines” that include a list of corresponding WMO, IOC, and national publications for each of the SOT programme components. The fifth SOT session also made specific recommendations following the 2008 intercomparison of Electronic Logbooks.

Regional Marine Instrument Centres (RMIC)

4. The WIGOS Pilot Project for JCOMM [agenda item 10.2] is proposing establishing Regional Marine Instrument Centres (RMIC). Candidate RMICs would be required to produce a statement of requirements, list capabilities of the proposed centre, state the formal commitment to voluntarily host the centre, and demonstrate capability to JCOMM. Following possible agreement by JCOMM, the WMO and UNESCO/IOC Executive Councils would be invited to approve new RMICs. Regular review of the RMIC capabilities would be organized by JCOMM.
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