

Summary of IFMS Global Meeting 6

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1 Introduction

The IFMS Global Meeting #6 (**IGM-06**) was held on January 14 and 16, 2020 concurrently with the AMS Centennial. It was attended by all 11 IFMS Councilors, members of member societies and many other attendees. There were three types of presentations:



1. Specially Invited Presentations
2. Presentations by Council Members (Committee Chairs) about progress of their Committees and future plans
3. Presentations by Member Societies on their activities.

In addition, we have also provided a very short summary of the GWE Forum Meeting organized by the World Bank and attended by our Council members.

2 IGM-06 Presentations

2.1 Specially Invited Presentations

The Secretary General of WMO **Prof. Petteri Taalas** presented the main outcomes of the 18th World Meteorological Congress, held in June 2019, related to the WMO constituent bodies reform, the new WMO Strategy 2020-2023, and the new approach to partnerships across the public, private and academic sectors. **Dr. Vladimir Tsirkunov**, Lead specialist, Hydromet Program/GFDRR, World Bank, stated that the latest technologies are not reaching developing countries and despite the significant increase of investments in NMHSs by the World Bank, WMO and other development partners, it's difficult to make the results of these investments sustainable: the NMHSs are not receiving adequate government funding to retain qualified NMHSs' staff and support operations.

We were also pleased to have the presence of the now current and incoming Presidents of AMS both of whom spoke about their commitment to strengthen IFMS. **Dr. Michael Farrar** who spoke on the first day welcomed the IFMS attendees on behalf of the AMS and provided a brief historical perspective on the genesis and evolution of IFMS. He also commented on the role of the AMS and discussed the ongoing and future AMS support for the IFMS.

Dr. Mary Glackin, who spoke on the second day, stated that both economic health and social well-being are dependent on quality weather, water and climate services which are also key drivers because of rising global population and extremes from a changing climate. It is believed that the Private Sector has become increasingly capable of making contributions across the value chain. It can be an important additional party to the existing collaboration between the Public and Academic sectors – to make it a Global Weather Enterprise (GWE). Although there is a significant distrust among the sectors, there are some successful examples of cooperation and collaboration. Her talk focused on those examples and highlighted the roles Meteorological Societies can play in enabling these successes.

Dr. Tim Spangler, with assistance from **Dr Patrick Parrish** Head of Training Branch of WMO, presented an overview of the WMO Global Campus. The Global Campus which began in 2013 was endorsed by WMO Congress 18 held in June 2019. Its major components were described including the "WMO Learn Portal", the Events Calendar, the E-library, translations resource center, and activities to develop partnerships. The benefits of collaboration with universities were outlined along with a few thoughts about collaboration with IFMS. A brief review of upcoming activities was presented. This was followed by a discussion on how IFMS can get involved in this Program.

Prof. S. K. Dash, the Chair of IFMS Webinars and Training Committee is in touch with **Dr. Patrick Parrish** of WMO and **Dr. Elizabeth Page** of COMET to define the role of IFMS in the Global Campus Program.

Dr. Walter Dabberdt made a presentation on Volunteerism and described AMS' International Academic Volunteering Program. This Program seeks to identify AMS members who are interested in providing

specialized expertise and services to international professionals in academia and certain non-profit NGO institutions. Typically, these institutions will be in need of assistance in course and curriculum development, research planning, public engagement, and other not-for-profit activities. Such services would be provided on a pro bono basis except for travel, per diem, communications, and other support costs as necessary. The role of the AMS will be to function as an exchange mechanism to facilitate the matching of those in need of relevant volunteer services with those AMS members desiring to provide them. The AMS Volunteering Program role may also include an assessment of the need for pro-bono services by NGOs.

IFMS suggested that this Program should be done in collaboration with IFMS because it can find volunteers from all over the world. Its member societies can coordinate the activities to be carried on the other side. A separate discussion was held between Dr. Tim Spangler representing the AMS and **Dr. Jack Hayes, Dr. Elizabeth Bentley and Dr. Harinder Ahluwalia** representing IFMS. This discussion will be continued to find ways of collaboration because both IFMS and AMS are interested in creating capacity in developing countries and they should be partners in this noble mission.

The meeting also involved address by the Director of US-NWS **Dr. Louis Uccellini** who addressed the importance of a Volunteer-based Organization like IFMS for strengthening the Global Weather Enterprise. He also noted the outcomes of the WMO Congress cg18 related to public private engagement, with a focus on the importance of partnerships to deliver core mission goals and address vulnerability consistent with the WMO Strategic Plan. He highlighted both the NWS-WRN effort and the international Weather Ready Nations (WRNs) effort.

Dr. Bob Riddaway, the President of the European Meteorological Society (EMS), spoke about creation and maintaining the European Meteorological Society. He stated that EMS was established in 1999 after a long gestation period. Since then, the number of Member Societies and Associate Members has grown. The EMS now forms an important component of the European meteorological community. An outline was given of the membership and activities of the Member Societies. Also, the role of the EMS was described with emphasis on the development of the EMS Annual Meeting and the action taken to ensure the financial sustainability of the EMS. More information about EMS can be found on www.emetsoc.org.

2.2 Presentations of Committee Chairs (Council Members)

In this part of the IGM-06, each Committee discussed below provided the summary of its mandate, the progress it has made and the plans for the next year.

The main objective of IFMS is to create S&T collaboration between member societies and through collaboration strengthen each other's capabilities – especially stronger societies helping developing societies to make them strong. Another objective is to assist National Hydro-Meteorological Services to create National Meteorological Societies in those countries where no such Society exists.

The Value Propositions described above are managed and handled by **Committee 3**. Rest of the activities are in support of Committee 3 and they include those described in the following paragraphs.

Committee 1 is responsible for creating economical and effective communications channels which include IFMS Website, Newsletter, Facebook Page and other social media.

In order to serve societies in various regions better, we collaborate with Regional Met Societies which include EMS, FLISMET, African Met Society, and yet to be created Asian Meteorological Society. The mandate of **Committee 2** is to determine the areas in which IFMS can collaborate with Regional Societies for mutual benefit. This committee then takes steps to implement the areas of cooperation.

The vision of World Meteorological Organization (**WMO**) is to provide world leadership in expertise and international cooperation in weather, climate, hydrology and water resources and related environmental issues and thereby contribute to the safety and well-being of people throughout the world and to the economic benefit of all nations. WMO is an employee-based organization and hence is limited in manpower resources. IFMS being a volunteer-based organization can assist WMO and also World Bank

(WB) in many different ways. On the other hand, WMO and WB can help IFMS in its development which will benefit them. **Committee 4** mandate is to find different ways we can help WMO and WB and vice versa.

In order to meet its basic expenses, IFMS needs to arrange finances which is the task of **Committee 5** – the **Finance Committee**. This committee is exploring various ways to finance IFMS needs.

In order to standardize the profession of meteorology, many nations would like their meteorologists to be accredited/certified. Usually this activity is carried out by the National Meteorological Society because it is a neutral body. Currently known societies which have developed such a Program are the American Meteorological Society (**AMS**), the Royal Meteorological Society (**RMets**) and the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (**CMOS**). **IFMS Committee 6**, also known as **ACT Committee**, is prepared to assist any of its member societies in implementing this Program with the help of these experienced societies.

In order to stream line its operation, each society normally develops Best Practices for many of its activities. Many developed societies have a wealth of such **Best Practices**. **Committee 7** is tasked to identify these Best Practices and coordinate creation of any additional ones. For example, this Committee has created a new very comprehensive Best Practice for creating a National Meteorological Society in those countries which do not have such a society. We also plan to put currently available Best Practices from our member Societies on our Website. This Committee is tasked to achieve that.

In order to assist in creating a strong Knowledge Base in the countries of our member societies we organize Webinars and coordinate Training Programs – especially through WMO. Currently, we are working with the Training Branch of WMO to assist them in the Global Campus Initiative. This task is handled by **Committee 8** – also known as the **Webinars and Training Committee**.

It is very important to recognize the contribution of scientists and volunteers who are the lifeline of our profession. IFMS has **Committee 9** for defining the ways to recognize outstanding contribution to S&T and to volunteerism, the required qualifications and form of “**Contribution Recognition**”.

For the past few years WMO and WB have been promoting collaboration between Public, Private and Academic (PPA) Sectors. WMO has recently launched Open Consultative Platform (OCP) for Partnership & Innovation for the Next Generation of Weather & Climate Intelligence. This will complement the activities of the Global Weather Enterprise Forum of WB which is also promoting PPA collaboration. For many National Meteorological Services and National Meteorological Societies, it is a new concept and they need to be assisted. Dr. Jack Hayes participates in OCP and GWEF meetings and keeps our members informed through Council Briefings and articles in IFMS Bulletins. Jack chairs our **Committee 10** which deals with **GWE Promotion**.

IFMS holds its Global Meeting approximately every 2 years. In addition, IFMS is encouraging Regional Meteorological Societies to hold World Weather Open Science Conference (**WWOSC**) every three years. This effort is supported by **Committee 11 – Conferences and Meetings**. The host Regional Society will be supported by IFMS and we are expecting WMO to support it.

Finally, we believe that in order to attract more attention and finances, we need to educate governments and public about the wisdom of providing adequate finances to the National Hydro-Met Services and Societies. **Committee 12** is meant to **educate governments and public**.

2.3 Presentations by Member Societies

As a part of the IGM-06, Member Societies were given an opportunity to make presentations on their activities. We have presented a short summary of these reports in this article. **More details are available in the IGM-06 Report**.

The following three National Societies (CAM, TMS and EtMS) and one Regional Society (FLISMET) made presentations in this part of IGM-06:

Dr. Oscar Frumento made a presentation on the **Argentine Meteorological Society (CAM)** which was founded in July 1969 in the city of Buenos Aires basically with the simple promise: “to promote the professional activities of meteorologist”. Currently it has 172 members. The principal initiatives of CAM include:

- Elaborate a draft for a National Legislation on meteorological activities;
- Hold a National Congress on Meteorology;
- Publish a scientific journal.

In 1986, the Argentine Meteorological Society (CAM) together with the Brazilian Meteorological Society (SBMET) and the Mexican Organization of Meteorology (OMMAC) founded the Flismet which currently has membership of the societies of following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Spain, México, Peru, Portugal and Uruguay.

Met Graciela Salaberri, *General Secretary of FLISMET* made a presentation on "FLISMET, institutional strengthening, collaboration and exchange" with assistance from her colleague Dr. Rúben Mario Caffera of Amigos del Viento.

FLISMET has been conceived as an organ that supports and contributes to the strengthening of capacities in the meteorological societies of Ibero-Latin America and the creation of new societies. What are the synergies that we can develop between IFMS and FLISMET as a bridge that contributes to it?

- Increase collaboration and exchange between our entities.
- Synergies: that involves the Federation and the Forum - Introduce opportunities for members to participate
- COMMON points at the AGENDAS:
- Get to know each other
- Status of the situation: regional trends
- Looking back and to the future to build a common strategy.

Dr. Buruhani Nyenzi, **President** of the *Tanzania Meteorological Society (TMS)* spoke about “Sustainability of Climate Services Initiatives in Africa - Challenges and opportunities”.

Speaking about activities of TMS, he stated that since IGM-05 two meetings were organized which were the TMS Annual General Meeting and a National Workshop to present results to various stakeholders on Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) Phase II project.

He concluded his presentation with the following points:

- TMS made a step forward **in revitalization of its activities**;
- Recruitment of members continued and the members participated actively in implementation of donor funded activities and succeeded to build capacity and some trust in that area;
- TMS is looking forward to **finalizing its strategic plan** and start to implement it; and
- TMS believes that implementation of its Strategic Plan **will further contribute in revitalizing its activities**.
- There are plans to hold an Annual general meeting early February, 2020.

Mr. Workneh Degefu presented a report in the activities of the *Ethiopian Met Society (EtMS)*. The Report addressed the activities carried out, events participated in and planned activities of the Ethiopian Met Society (EtMS). Activities carried out included awarding of scholarships, strengthening cooperation with stake holders, establishment of Female Research Award, Preparation of Guide for Users of Meteorological Information, preparation of a new website, organization of the 12th EtMS General Assembly and the revision of EtMS Regulation. Participation in events included attendance in several civil society organizations arranged meetings, other meetings EtMS was invited to, EtMS members excursion, etc.

3 GWEF Monitoring: Meeting organized by WB on January 15, 2020

We had decided to have our IGM-06 on January 14 and 16, 2020 because the GFDRR-WBG had scheduled their Global Weather Enterprise Forum meeting in Boston on January 15, 2020. IFMS Council members attended this meeting.

Here is the Summary of that meeting provided by Dr. Jack Hayes.

Three focus area- World Bank will be forming an expert team in the coming months to develop strategy and action plans for GWEF in three focus areas:

- 1) Developing a regulatory framework in developing countries to enable public-private sector collaboration;
- 2) Pilot program to enable and improve the tender process for modernization programs in developing countries.
- 3) Improving international weather data exchange between public and private sectors.

The World Bank plans to form Expert Teams in the coming months to develop strategies and action plans.

- The World Bank plans a meeting between private sector suppliers and the World Bank procurement section to review and improve its tender process.
- The next GWEF meeting is planned for July in Singapore during the InterMet Asia conference. Should the Corona Virus require cancellation, the Met Tech International meeting in Paris in September is being planned as a backup.

Any questions or input for GWEF can be sent to Dr, Hayes through ifms.collaboration@gmail.com.

