

InterMET Asia 2016, International Conference

Thursday 17 – Friday 18 March 2016

Special World Bank-GFDRR Session on integrated technology systems for improving the performance and sustainability of national meteorological services and building extreme weather early warning services.

1. Improving the performance of national meteorological services (Meteo France International and GFDRR)

Format: Presentation, panel discussion, audience Q&A

Summary: The GFDRR has commissioned MFI to draft a paper exploring the actions that could be taken to support and enhance the modernisation efforts of national meteorological agencies in developing countries.

This session will evaluate the pros and cons of investment in integrated weather systems – that is, systems that are built based on integrated design in which component parts complement and work well with each other, rather than activities that have been selected for other reasons, such as low cost or value for money of individual items, possibly with little thought for how they might perform together in use and where beneficiaries will be able to implement them. It will also consider the importance of taking into account the funding needs of ongoing operation & maintenance of met systems and equipment; the need for ongoing training, education and professional development; and the role the private sector can play.

2. Legal and competitive issues associated with the provision of meteorological services

Format: Presentations, panel discussion, audience Q&A

Summary: This session will discuss and debate the issues associated with the provision of met services by the private sector and how these interface with public met services, including:

Competitive issues

- Private provision of services in competition with national met services. Should public sector recognize that there are areas of competitive advantages of private sector, and if so, define these areas and find out how align relative strengths of public and private sectors?
- Competitive issues associated with private sector products based on free to use data from systems (satellites, ground networks, etc) funded by national taxpayers and international organisations.
- The legal and ethical responsibilities of private and public sector service providers in respect of products that prove to be inaccurate or unreliable in use, so possibly having an adverse impact on livelihoods (e.g. farmers), or even endangering lives (e.g. inaccurate or misleading extreme weather forecasts).
- How the private and public sectors can work together to resolve potential conflicts in practice, hopefully for the benefit of all parties.

Legal and regulatory issues

Some countries are considering implementing legislation or regulations governing the delivery of meteorological products and services by private sector organisations within their national borders. This session will cover such issues as:

- Role and use of regulation and legislation to protect national weather services from unfair competition, the legal and political implications of inaccurate forecasts, etc.
- Implications of regulation and legislations for the global weather enterprise at a time when extreme weather events are increasing in frequency and scale, leading to a growing demand for high accuracy extreme weather impact forecasting capabilities.
- Factors underpinning potential introduction of regulation and legislation.
- Issues associated with monitoring and enforcing regulations and legislation.
- Who would be mediate between the public and private sectors.

3. Integrated meteorology technology systems, system sustainability, and public-private sector co-operation.

Format: Presentations, panel discussion, audience Q&A

Summary: Too often, national meteorological met services purchase or are provided with technology products that (a) do not function well together as integrated systems, or (b) do not deliver the

outputs required. The upshot is that the systems are difficult and costly to maintain in practice and are essentially unsustainable. This session will explore how properly integrated systems can be developed, together with the implications for financing, O&M, and public-private sector co-operation.

- Integration of technology products into systems that work well together and sustainably, can be upgraded on a planned basis, and lifetime usefulness is optimised.
- Ways that the key players – national met agencies, WMO, donor agencies, developing partners and the private sector – need to work together to achieve this.
- Financial and other implications of integrated technology systems.
- Issues associated with full end-to-end integration where the meteorological and hydrological systems are themselves integrated into sectoral decision support systems (including emergency services, health, education, transportation, agriculture, water management, and planning).
- Evolving relationships between national met agencies, private sector met service providers, donor agencies and the WMO in the provision of national met services.
- Potential global regulatory framework for the provision of met services and the implications for national met agencies, private sector met service providers, donor agencies and the WMO.

4. Wrap up session

This session will bring the proceedings to a conclusion with a summary of the results and outcomes of the earlier sessions.

It is anticipated that the findings of the InterMET Asia World Bank-GFDRR Special Session will contribute to the deliberations of the International Donor Conference which will be held in Geneva in late March 2016.

PLEASE NOTE: The World Bank-GFDRR Special Session will commence after lunch on Thursday 17 March at Marina Bay Sands and continue on Friday 18 March at the Rendezvous Hotel. The schedule and speaker details will be published in due course. The above programme is subject to change.

The InterMET Asia-GFDRR Hosted Delegate Program is a part of cooperation framework of the World Bank, GFDRR, the WMO and the Organisers of InterMET Asia, and the Program is funded by the GFDRR.