



VL Newsletter

WMO-CGMS Virtual Laboratory
for Education and Training
in Satellite Meteorology

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/CGMS/CGMS_virtualab.html
<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/sat/>

April 2009

Meryem Uz, EUMETSAT, Editor

Appointment of the VL Technical Support Officer (TSO)

INPE (Luiz Machado) has kindly proposed Mrs. Luciane Veeck for the new post of VL Technical Support Officer (TSO). INPE will financially sponsor her for a period of 6 months and during this period she is expected to move from Brazil to the United Kingdom. In the meantime, a letter has been sent from the Director of the WMO Space Programme to all CGMS satellite operators seeking their commitment to continue financially supporting the VL TSO post in the future. The letter also seeks commitment to the provision of future TSO candidates, as may be needed and financial support for travel and per diem costs of the TSO when visiting the satellite operators or their supported Centres of Excellence.

A CENTRA-based interview with Luciane was conducted on 24 March 2009 by a Board comprising Gordon Bridge, Volker Gärtner, Tony Mostek and Meryem Uz. The Board was quickly convinced of her background experience and capabilities and agreed that she would be a very suitable candidate for this post.

Luciane has a background in environmental science and is very interested in independent learning methods. She has an MSc in Environmental Geochemistry and a BSc in Oceanography. She is currently working for the Institute of Aeronautics Technology, Brazil, and The Open University in the United Kingdom.

Luciane will be available to start her job as TSO from 1 May 2009, based in INPE, Brazil. From June/July 2009 onwards she will be working from Southampton, England, but still financially supported by INPE.

Thus, it is now becoming urgent to seek agencies willing to financially support the TSO post from November 2009. Therefore the WMO space programme has asked in a recent letter by its Director, Barbara Ryan, the sponsoring agencies to look into possibilities for contributing to this funding scheme.

VL Reporting Template

To facilitate the progress tracking at the Centres of Excellence and at the satellite agencies, a Reporting Template has been created, in response to an action from the VLMG-4 meeting held in Langen, Germany (action 4.13). The template consists of three sections, namely, two tables and one part containing more general questions related to training. You will receive the Reporting Template in a separate e-mail to submit the requested information for the reporting period **September 2008 to April 2009**. Comments from VL members on this template would be most welcome. The best way to evaluate this new reporting template will be to test and try it.

In future we intend to collect this information twice per year covering the reporting periods January to June and July to December of each year.

South African Weather Service (SAWS) has become a new Centre of Excellence (CoE)

Following a positive decision of the WMO CBS, we are very pleased to announce that the South African Weather Service (SAWS) has become a VL CoE for Training in Satellite Meteorology and related environmental remote sensing within the Southern African sub region. The SAWS commitment to regional satellite training will certainly be a valuable contribution to the VL and will strengthen the development of satellite meteorology and remote sensing data applications in Africa.

New Centre of Excellence in Russia

Also during the last CBS the proposal of the Russian Federation to participate in the VL as a sponsoring agency as well as with its own Centre of Excellence was positively received and welcomed. The CoE will be at the Regional Training Centre of Moscow and the sponsoring satellite agencies will be ROSHYDROMET and ROSCOSMOS. Completion of the necessary formal exchange of correspondence on this matter between ROSHYDROMET and WMO is ongoing.

JMA VL website



Meteorological Satellite Center (MSC) of JMA

Home VL Products Operations Supports

Current position: Home > Virtual Laboratory

JMA Virtual Laboratory
For Satellite Training and Data Utilization

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Virtual Resources SATAID

Contributions to the WMO/CGMS-VL

The Virtual Laboratory for Satellite Training and Data Utilization (VL) was established to maximize the use of satellite data around the world. It is a collaborative effort that connects the world's major satellite operators with WMO Centers Of Excellence in satellite meteorology. These centers serve as satellite-focused training resources for WMO Members.

JMA Virtual Laboratory users must note the **COPYRIGHT** information and **DISCLAIMER** below.

VL Resources

- ◆ Contents
- ◆ Outline of Meteorological Observation by Satellites and its Applications
- ◆ Introduction to remote sensing
- ◆ Objective Cloud analysis
- ◆ Processing of Satellite Environmental and Marine Products
- ◆ Rainfall Estimation from Satellite Observations
- ◆ Microwave Remote Sensing
- ◆ Characteristics of Microwave Satellite Data and their Application to the Typhoon Analysis
- ◆ RGB image composites
 - ◆ Flash version [2,309KB]
 - ◆ PDF version [Complete: 4,291 KB, Part1: 1,017 KB, Part 2: 808 KB, Part 3: 235 KB, Part 4: 1,473 KB, Part 4b: 1,071 KB, Annex: 432 KB]

SATAID

We are also pleased to announce that JMA has created a new JMA VL website, as suggested during the Langen (VLMG-4) meeting (action 4.11). This web site can be regarded as a good template for the revision of the VL general web site which will be proposed by a small task team created at VLMG-4. The JMA VL website can be viewed at the following link: <http://mscweb.kishou.go.jp/VRL/index.htm>

During the months to come the global coordination and upgrade of the WMO VL site appearances will be coordinated by the task team which has been established in Langen last September.

EUMETSAT RFG workshop at EAMAC in Niamey, Niger

This was the second workshop for the RFG W-Africa held at EAMAC from 16 to 25 March 2009, the first one was organised in 2008. The countries and organisations represented were: Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin, Togo, Mali, ASECNA Dakar, AGRHYMET, ACMAD and EAMAC.

The objective of this second workshop was to prepare VisitView presentations and to operationally present these presentations from their home offices in their countries. The presentations were made on 24 and 25 March.

The lecturers were: Garba (EAMAC), Diarra (DMN, Mali), Verschuur (EUMETSAT). Subjects of the lectures were: Moodle, Skype, Irfanview and Visitview. The workshop was very focused on distance learning and presentations.

The internet has been considerably improved at EAMAC. This workshop could be organised as the required infrastructure is available now at EAMAC. However, there are still connectivity problems during peak hours. The training laboratory has been upgraded with new PCs, which is now one of the best available in Africa. It is expected that further progress will be made. In several other W-African countries the access to the internet still causes problems.

All training materials were provided through the EUMETSAT training site (<http://training.eumetsat.int>), which is very effective for communication. Also all the VisitView presentations are online available in zip format.

This workshop can be considered as a very successful event. Two new sessions were already proposed: A session from 10 to 14 August for online presentations to be made by the members of the RFG W-Africa and the next workshop in March 2010, also with 6-9 real time distance learning presentations.

The participants were very motivated and were keen to make their presentations a success. The prerequisite to have ready PPT presentations for conversion into the VisitView format was a good decision. Some of the developed presentations can be used for future training activities. The biggest problem was the firewall problem with port 1631 for VisitView. Skype was used for the audio connection. A Skype session with several participants, still poses a problem, one-to-one connection gives excellent results.

(Article contributed by Henk Verschuur, EUMETSAT)

Next Meeting(s) of the VLMG

The co-Chairs of the VLMG have agreed with the WMO Space Program that during 2009 the discussions and meeting of the Virtual Lab Management Group (VLMG) will be done by e-mail, newsletters and virtual meeting(s). The need for another face to face meeting will exist in the first half of 2010. It will be discussed soon when and where this meeting can be held to allow that the participants can plan their travel and seek funding for the trip.

In the meantime, **online** VLMG meetings will be scheduled for the May/June 2009 and (tentatively) September/October 2009 time-periods. Since VL members have very different time zones it will be difficult to get all members together at one particular online VLMG meeting. Therefore, for each of the periods mentioned above, two separate online VLMG meetings will be organised in which VL members will be grouped together so that they can participate at an acceptable time of day.

Note:

The VL Newsletter editor would like to thank to those colleagues who have contributed to this newsletter with articles, information and their feedback.

We would welcome your comments on this Newsletter and would appreciate contributions to future editions. If you wish to contribute to the next edition on training activities or other areas of the VL please contact: meryem.uz@eumetsat.int

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