



VLab Newsletter

What Is On?

Are you confused about the WMO Aeronautical Competencies? The Virtual Round Table on WMO Aeronautical Meteorological Competencies maybe just what you need.

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It Happened

The VLab map changed again this year, with the inclusion of a new Centre of Excellence in Morocco.

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Trainers Corner

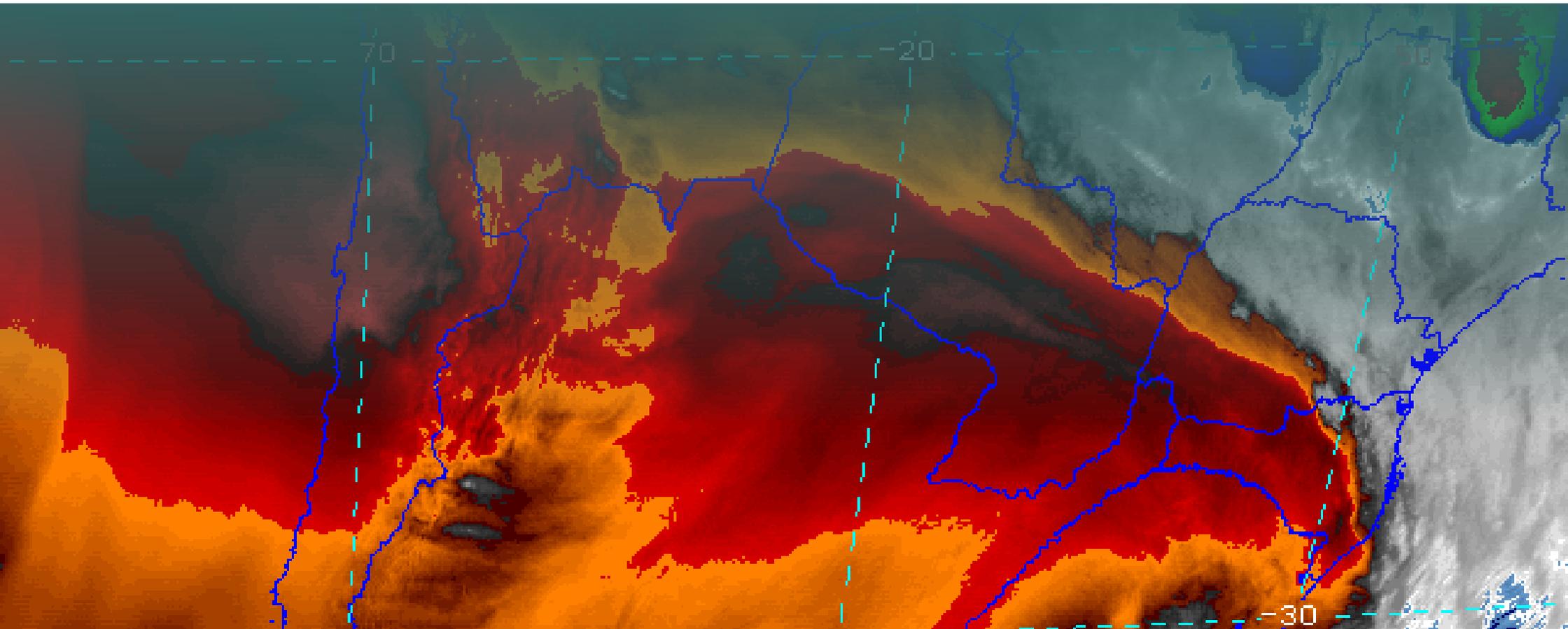
The VLab most senior RFG initiative - the Americas and Caribbean RFG - has seen an increased interest in the past few months. Bernie Connell reports on their journey since 2004.

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Quick News

Introduction to Remote Sensing Technology - CEOS WGCapD offers an online course to university lecturers in Africa.

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Virtual Round Table on WMO Aeronautical Meteorological Competencies



What are the new definitions for WMO Aeronautical Personnel? What is the WMO Meteorologist? How is this different from an Aeronautical Meteorological Forecaster? What are the WMO Aeronautical competencies? Have you heard of the new WMO Guidelines for training, WMO Document 1083? What happens after November 30, 2013 and November 30, 2016? Do you know anything about the questions above?

Confused!?! Well you are not alone, and VLab is working with our colleagues in WMO Education and Training Office and the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM) to help clarifying these questions and to give you a forum to learn more, and ask further questions.

In February 2013, VLab will host a 'Virtual Roundtable Event on Aeronautical Meteorology', modeled on past Virtual Event weeks, such as the Dust and Aviation Event Weeks. Besides similar



The idea is to have a standard presentation prepared that highlights all aspects of the WMO aeronautical policies: the competencies, CAeM, the Competency Toolkit, the implications, the training materials, and competency assessments.

This presentation will be shared with the various RTCs/CoEs to be translated into the various regional languages. The Event itself will be presented over a period probably longer than a week, as presentations in different time zones need to be considered. All presentations will be facilitated by native speakers and followed by a discussion with a Q&A forum where Aeronautical Meteorological Personnel (AMP) can ask questions to address their concerns. Presentations will be recorded and made available to watch asynchronously.

Additionally, Aeronautical Meteorological Personnel will be invited to submit their questions beforehand.

More updates on this event will be made available through the VLab central website at <http://vlab.wmo.int>

*Kathy-Ann Caesar
Ag. Chief Meteorologist CIMH
VLab Co-chair
Member ET/ETC*

to the event weeks, this event will have a few major differences: (1) it will be composed of a standard online presentation containing all relevant information on the WMO Aeronautical Meteorological Competencies, which will be made available in all of the WMO official languages, each coordinated by a native speaker; (2) the presentations will take place in a range of dates and time zones, in order to give all an opportunity to take part.

EUMETSAT Precipitation Week 2013

4 – 8 February 2013

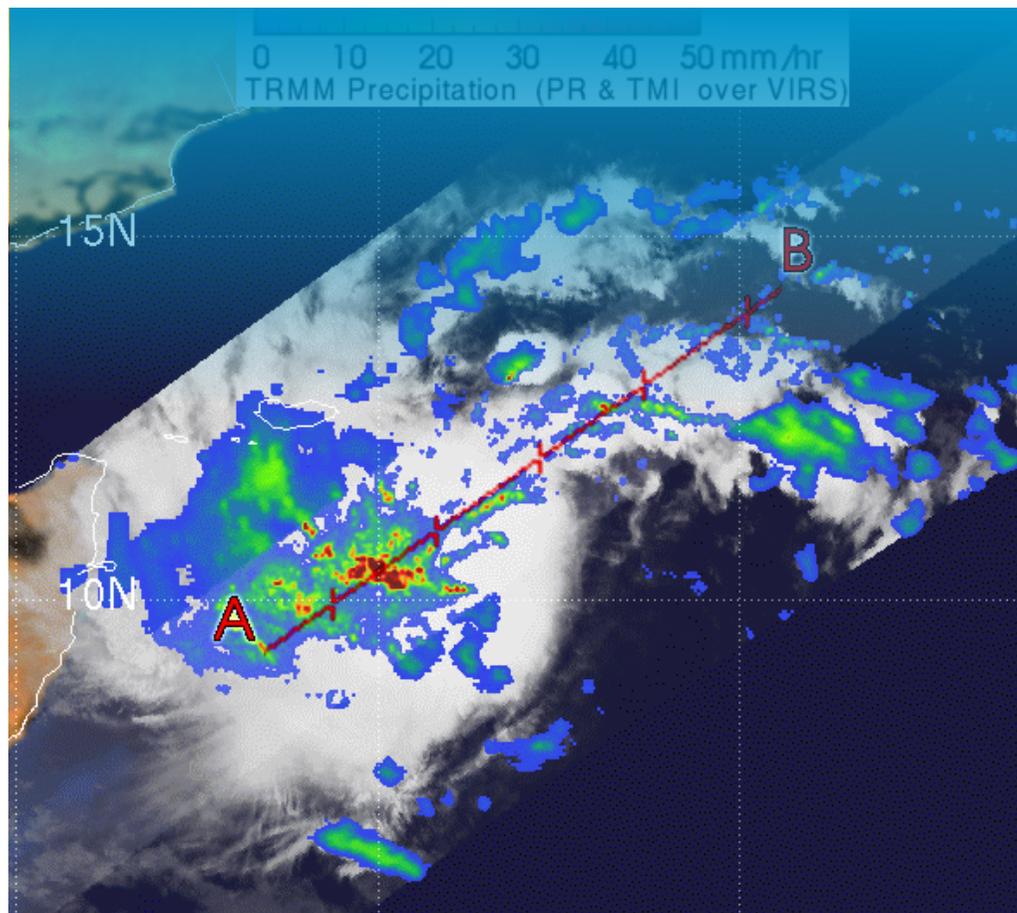
From 4 to 8 February 2013 EUMETSAT will organise an event week on Precipitation. This event will cover three topics: VIS/IR Precipitation Estimates, Microwave Precipitation Estimates and Multi-sensor Precipitation Estimates. The event will include eight online presentations according to the following program:

I VIS/IR Precipitation Estimates

- ~ Cecilia Marcos, AEMET: Nowcasting SAF - Convective Rainfall Rate (CRR) and Precipitating Clouds (PC) products
- ~ Estelle de Coning, SAWS: Use of the Hydro-estimator in South Africa
- ~ Daniel Rosenfeld, HUJ: Detecting the formation of various precipitation types in clouds

II Microwave Precipitation Estimates

- ~ Ralf Bennartz, UWI: Overview of Microwave Precipitation Products
- ~ Sheldon Kusselsson, NOAA: Microwave Products and Applications overview
- ~ Remy Roca, LMD: Other Precipitation missions - TRMM / Megha-Tropiques / GPM

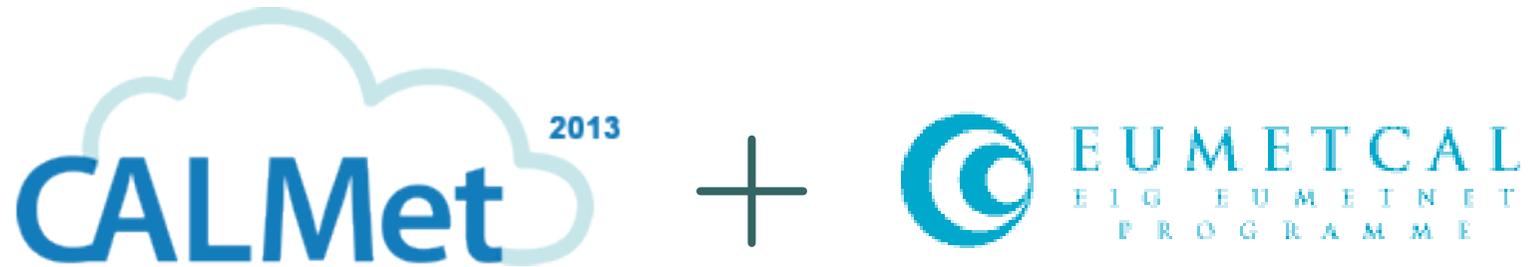


III Multi-sensor Precipitation Estimates

- ~ Thomas Heinemann, EUMETSAT: The Multi-sensor Precipitation Estimate (MPE) Product
 - ~ Vincenzo Levizzani, ISAC-CNR: Hydrology SAF Precipitation Products
- Additional information about each presentation is available at the event's website. As usual, participation in this event is free of charge, but registration is required. Registration is already opened and can be done via the event's website at <http://training.eumetsat.int/mod/page/view.php?id=4417>

Sent by Vesa Nietosvaara, EUMETSAT

CALMet X and Eumetcal Workshop - A joint event in 2013



The CALMet Conference

The 20th anniversary of the CALMet conference will be celebrated next year with CALMet X, to be held August 26-30, and hosted by Météo-France and the Ecole Nationale de la Météorologie in Toulouse, France. Making the 20th anniversary even more special, this year CALMet will be held in jointly with the 8th Eumetcal Workshop.

Since its origins, CALMet has been a forum to share experiences, expectations, and new ideas for applying innovative learning approaches and new and emerging technologies for meteorology and hydrology education and training. CALMet conferences not only increase our knowledge and skills to help our work—they also build international working relationships that have lasting impact.

The Eumetcal programme is a virtual training organization sponsored by the European EUMETNET Council, and has a mission to help member nations by stimulating and supporting collaborative projects to develop and deliver effective Meteorological training



courses and resources, and by developing the skills and capabilities of trainers in their meteorological services.

The CALMet conference is typically held each 2 years, although recently, in 2010 and 2012, we have seen successful offerings of CALMet Online as well, which is offered completely in a virtual, online environment using a wide variety of new e-Learning tools and techniques. For this year's offering, visit <http://training.eumetsat.int/course/view.php?id=174>.

Conference themes

For this conference, the proposed themes include:

- ~ e-Learning resources and tools: To meet growing training needs, nearly all of us are planning to offer more of our training online. For this theme, we are looking for sessions on the theoretical basis of e-learning, the tools available for synchronous and asynchronous activities, and strategies and processes for designing, delivering and evaluating online courses.
- ~ Lessons learned (Reflecting on current

practice): Whether your institution mainly offers only residence courses or has fully moved to online learning, we want to hear your story about what works - and what doesn't. Share your lessons learned from the ongoing projects at your institution. The emphasis should not just be what you did, but why you chose the strategies you used, the challenges you faced, and things you would do differently next time.

- ~ Learning to teach and train: How can we best prepare trainers and new faculty, particularly those who teach only part time, to do their jobs well? How can we help them to become competent more quickly? In early 2013, the WMO will release a set of new trainer competencies. How can your institution use them to develop more competent trainers and teachers, more effective training programs, and more engaging and successful learning activities?
- ~ Breaking new ground (Adopting new teaching strategies and innovations): What new learning strategies and training innovations are you currently using or planning to use? What theories or arguments influenced you to try them? What are your experiences with

the new learning strategies and training innovations? We encourage you to share, discuss, and demonstrate alternative training strategies and how to choose the right approach to meet the desired outcomes. We all recognize that "knowledge transfer" is no longer sufficient. Instead, we see a strong movement toward active and informal learning approaches, such as knowledge management, simulations, and social learning networks, as we strive to train for difficult-to-learn and constantly evolving job tasks and skills like forecast decision making, using new and more complex data and tools, and communicating to end-users.

Types of sessions

During the conference, a wide variety of conference learning experiences are planned. The formats below will help your planning, but do not hesitate suggest alternative approaches to the organizers if you think they can add to the conference.

- ~ Short presentations (10-15 min)
- ~ Panel discussions (45 min)
- ~ Extended plenary sessions (30-45 min, this

format will be used only for innovative and collaborative activities of interest to the full group)

- ~ Demonstrations (10-15 min)
- ~ Short workshop activities (45 min)
- ~ Long workshop activities (1.5-3 hr)

The conference will also welcome formal papers and posters. International collaboration on presentations is encouraged, as are active and non-traditional approaches to conference sessions. We also hope to include several online presentations in the program as well for those who cannot attend in person.

The Call for Papers will be open in January through 30 April, 2013. Watch for details at the CALMet Website: <http://www.calmnet.org> or the Eumetcal website <http://www.eumetcal.org>. Or send an email to the program organizers asking to be added to the CALMet mailing list. For more information, please contact: calmet2013@comet.ucar.edu

Sent by the CALMet Working Group

New CoE Morocco

The VLab map changed again this year, with the inclusion of a new Centre of Excellence situated in Morocco.

Recommended by the WMO Commission on Basic Systems (CBS) and the Virtual Laboratory Management Group (VLMG), a new Centre of Excellence (CoE) joined the VLab in 2012. The Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) finally endorsed the recommendation during their annual meeting

(CGMS-40), which took place in Lugano, Switzerland, in November 2012.

Located in the WMO Regional Association I (RAI), the CoE Morocco will be hosted by the National Directorate of Meteorology of Morocco and supported by EUMETSAT.

Mr Nouredine Filali B., head of the National Centre of Meteorological Research, is the main point of contact of the new CoE. He is already

well involved with the activities of the VLMG and had participated in the VLMG-6 meeting in Brazil (October 2012), being of great support to the group. Trainers from CoE Morocco have also been meeting VLab colleagues from other Centres of Excellence as they participated in the Training for Trainers event organised by EUMETSAT earlier this year (June 2012).

The addition of the Centre of Excellence in Morocco is great news for our growing VLab Community, and will significantly enhance the edu-

cation and training capabilities of countries in WMO Region I in a synergetic way with the existing centre at Niamey.

Lu Veeck, VLab TSO



VLab links between Centres of Excellence (represented by their national flag) and their supporting satellite operators (highlighted in yellow). Status: November 2012.



VLMG – 6

8 – 11 October 2012, São José dos Campos, Brazil

The sixth meeting of the Virtual Laboratory Management Group (VLMG-6) took place at the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) in São José dos Campos, Brazil, 8-11 October 2012. A total of 30 participants made this meeting a very successful event. With the exception of KMA, which was hosting the 3rd Asia/Oceania Conference in Jeju Island in the same week, the meeting had representation from all VLab partners. VLab CoEs, Satellite Operators and Agencies, and Partner Programmes presented their latest achievements and planned activities which, together with the discussions that took place, generated actions and recommendations that were captured in the VLMG-6 report. The event promoted an opportunity for the VLMG to reflect on the challenges and benefits of the different formats of training activities organized by VLab partners, like the Regional Focus Group (RFG) sessions, the thematic Event Weeks, and face-to-face and online courses. Other topics also considered during the meeting included the development of conceptual models for the Southern Hemisphere; the dissemination of training materials on the GEONETCast training channel; the widening of the scope of VLab by addressing additional training areas such as



Participants of the VLMG-6 meeting in Brazil, October 2012.

climate, marine and land surface applications; and the review of VLab five years strategy and its alignment with WMO. One of the highlights of the meeting was the discussion of the use of a maturity model as a self-assessment tool. The model was proposed as a process to generate

critical reflection, dialogue and appreciation of the different stages that VLab members find themselves when working towards the fulfillment of the VLab expectations. Further details about the discussions and actions generated at the VLMG-6 can be found in the report avail-

able at the VLab central website <http://www.wmo-sat.info/vlab/meeting-reports/>

Lu Veeck, VLab TSO

Training course in Niamey, Agrhymet, November 2012



In the week 19 -23 November, the Agrhymet Centre of Excellence in Niamey together with World Meteorological Organization, EUMETSAT and the Virtual Laboratory organized a workshop about Satellite Products applied to the agricultural meteorology.

The objectives of this event included the dissemination of Land SAF products to agro meteorologists in Africa and also reinforce the monitoring of vegetation, humidity and precipitation, use of the soil, and the radiative balance in the south of the Sahara. A further objective was to strengthen the communication between Agrhymet, EUMETSAT and WMO, particularly concerning receiving sta-

tions and product utilisation, and create a partnership between those organisations to better support the project METAGRI OPERATIONEL.

The five day workshop included a strong on-line component delivered with the web-conferencing system provided and technically supported by EUMETSAT.

A significant reason for the success of the event was the combination of a remote element and on-site training. One learnt lesson is the importance of familiarizing the presenters with the web-conferencing tools days in advance of the actual delivery, and preparing the particular style required for the distance presentations,

which include regular checks on the participants attention, and their motivation through quizzes or questions.

The event summoned participants from the francophone African countries such as Cape Verde, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Togo plus staff in Agrhymet.

The participants' evaluation was excellent, with emphasis on the products, references to evapotranspiration, dust and fire products, a general wish to work more intensively with the available products and software, and to implement continuous education schemes in agriculture.

A second workshop is planned to take place in 2013 (maybe in Ghana), for the English speaking countries in the project.

Additional information about this event is also available in French at: <http://nigerdiaspora.info/index.php/les-infos-du-pays/politique/item/40610-atelier-de-formation-sur-l%E2%80%99utilisation-des-produits-satellites-pour-les-applications-agrom%C3%A9t%C3%A9orologique--exploiter-les-donn%C3%A9es-satellites-pour-relever-le-d%C3%A9fi-climatique>

Sent by Jose Prieto and Maja Kuna, EUMETSAT



Training course in Korea

WMO-KMA RA II Pilot Project VLab High Profile Training Event and the third Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference

WMO and The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) co-organized a high profile regional training event designed specifically for satellite data users in RA II. This event,

held on 4-6 October 2012 at KMA's National Meteorological Satellite Center (NMSC) in Jincheon, consisted of a series of lectures, including contributions by Virtual Laboratory Centres of Excellence (CoE) and partners; and working sessions to express its needs for training in the access and use of satellite data. Topics of this event included:

~ The WMO Space Program, WMO Virtual Labo-

- ~ Lectures and exercises on choosing satellite orbits and applications areas;
- ~ CMA, JMA and KMA satellite status and plans, including a focus on data and product availability and access;
- ~ Lectures on satellite data utilization topics from Beijing and Nanjing, Melbourne, IPWG and Jincheon, and regional interests such as tropical storms and hurricanes;

- ~ Lectures and exercises on choosing satellite spectral bands and their applications for land, ocean and atmospheric applications;
- ~ Lectures on application of satellite data for analysing and nowcasting convection.



WMO-KMA RA II Pilot Project VLab High Profile Training Event



The training event was two and a half days long and it was closely associated with the RA II Pilot Project. There were 15 participants from 11 nations in RA II and 5 people from the NMSC. Lectures were given by Dr. James Purdom (Special Advisor to WMO on Integrated Observing Systems & CIRA, Colorado St. University), Dr. Paul Menzel (CIMSS, University of Wisconsin) and Professors from the Jincheon facility (preliminarily on rainfall and the D'Vorak tropical cyclone technique) to be finalized with the development of the syllabus. Other VLab partners such as CMA, JMA,

EUMETSAT and the International Precipitation Working Group (IPWG) participated in a virtual capacity. The topics were developed within a syllabus and not satellite details to be presented at 3rd Asia Oceania, but perhaps demonstrations of access to products and ensuing real-time satellite data "map" discussions.

Subsequently, the third Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC) was held in Jeju, Korea from 9-12 October 2012. The conference was hosted and sponsored by the Korean Meteorological Administration

(KMA) and was co-sponsored by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (AuBOM), the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The conference featured high quality presentations in thirteen oral sessions and three poster sessions. The presentations produced spirited discussions and interesting highlights; noteworthy were the many excellent papers contributed by the young scientists of the Asia Oceania community. The current activities and plans of

the satellite operators in Asia Oceania were exemplary in their forward looking and cutting edge approaches. The close cooperation between the operational and research satellite communities and users within Asia Oceania pointed to a bright future with many challenging opportunities.

Sent by Dr. Dohyeong Kim – VLab CoE Republic of Korea

Training course in Beijing



Training Course on the Application of Meteorological Satellites in Disaster Mitigation and Environmental Studies

The VLab CoE Beijing organized the International Training course on the Application of Meteorological Satellites in Disaster Mitigation and Environmental Studies from 22 October to 2 November, 2012.

The event took place at the China Meteorological Administration Training Centre

(CMATC) in Beijing and it was co-sponsored by CMA and CMA Training Centre.

This 12-day training course is designed to help trainees to learn and know satellite meteorology related knowledge, the recent operational, scientific research and management development, and to know the latest development in the application of meteorological satellites in disaster mitigation as well as environmental studies, which will be helpful to improve participants' abilities in carrying out the operation

of meteorological satellites, scientific research and management. 23 international participants from 19 countries who are working in the field of satellite meteorology attended the training. 19 experts from National Satellite Meteorological Centre (NSMC) of CMA were invited to give lectures for the training course. The content of the lectures included infrared precipitation estimation and microwave precipitation retrieval; cloud motion wind products; tropical cyclone monitoring; observation operator and aerosols in satellite data assimilation; NSMC satellite data exchange and sharing; retrieval method of cloud parameters by remote sensing data; on the application of meteorological satellite to space weather; thermal infrared remote sensing and its application; use of FY-3 satellite data in Numerical Weather Prediction; satellite channel setting and its application on disaster mitigation and environment studies; drought monitoring with meteorological satellite.

In addition to the classroom lectures and discussions, the participants visited NSMC three times: the first time the Central Operational Control Lab of NSMC, the second time the Computer Lab of Remote Sensing Department of NSMC, and the last time the Computer Lab of Space Weather Centre of NSMC. The visits have broadened the participants' horizon and offered them the chances to get to know the real time operational work of NSMC staff. The two weeks' course ended on November 2. All of the international participants addressed

in the closing ceremony. They said that they had learnt a lot from the Chinese experts of NSMC. The development of satellite meteorology is of vital significance in the improvement of meteorological prediction accuracy and service provision. The participants were confident that what they learnt here would be quite helpful in their operational and scientific work.

The composition of the 23 participants were from Kenya (1), Thailand (1), Malaysia (2), Bhutan (1), Poland (1), Egypt (1), Madagascar (1), Tajikistan (1), Iran (1), Indonesia (1), Senegal (1), Nigeria (1), Tanzania (1), Bahrain (1), Saudi Arabia (3), Philippines (1), Rwanda (1), Liberia (2), Morocco (1).

Sent by WANG Chunzhu - VLab CoE China - Beijing

Aviation week in Australia

Melbourne Centre of Excellence (CoE) conducts its "VLab Aviation Week 2012"

The Melbourne CoE hosted its Aviation Week during 23rd and 27th July 2012 at the Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre in Melbourne. Seventeen online sessions were presented to a classroom and online audience. The majority of presentations pertained to Aviation Hazards, but some additional forecasting topics were also included this year. This event is BMTC's contribution to the international community as a Centre of Excellence in the WMO Virtual Laboratory Program.

The week commenced on the 23rd June with a welcome address by Duncan Tippins, the Course Coordinator. Bureau of Meteorology specialists presented most of the on-line sessions. Once again our Sponsoring Satellite Operator, the Japan Meteorological Agency participated with a presentation on "Rapid Scan Observation from Space and its Applica-

tion". Other international contributions included presentations by Met Service New Zealand, the South African Weather Service, Meteorological Service of Canada and COMET staff.

Topics covered included Aviation Competency / Hazards, using satellite imagery to detect turbulence, icing, severe thunderstorms, fog and low cloud. A number of online chart discussions were also presented.

New topics included high resolution NWP, Heat Waves, detection and nowcasting of turbulent mountain waves using satellite data, Aviation Handover – Takeover, Operational Consensus Forecasts, and presentations on Tropical Cyclone forecasting using satellite data. There was also a COMET Resources Overview session. It was extremely satisfying to have an audience from Australasia, Asia, Europe, America and Africa. Many of these stayed up to listen to the presentations well past normal bedtimes!

Once again, the GoToWebinar software was

used for these sessions, and overall this performed well. Aside from the presentations there were also hands-on activities that the participants could engage in. We found new creative ways of engaging the remote audience. This included "free play" by the participants on the introduction and conclusion slides as shown in the centre-right panel of the attached image, also "question slides" that punctuated a presentation and prompted audience participation. It was satisfying to see a great improvement in participation on the associated web-based chat forum, when compared to our first Aviation Week of 2011.

For those who could not attend the sessions, recordings of all of the presentations of the Aviation Week are on our new Melbourne VLab Centre of Excellence web page, specifically at <http://www.virtuallab.bom.gov.au/archive/aviation-week-2012/>

Interested parties are encouraged to download

the videos prior to viewing to avoid congesting the bandwidth. Comments and feedback are encouraged and should be forwarded to the Aviation Week VLab Course contact Bodo Zeschke b.zeschke@bom.gov.au

A big thanks to all our Australian and international presenters and participants and in particular the members of the Advanced Forecaster Course Management Group of Duncan Tippins, Ross Bunn, Roger Deslandes and Merrin Bennett.

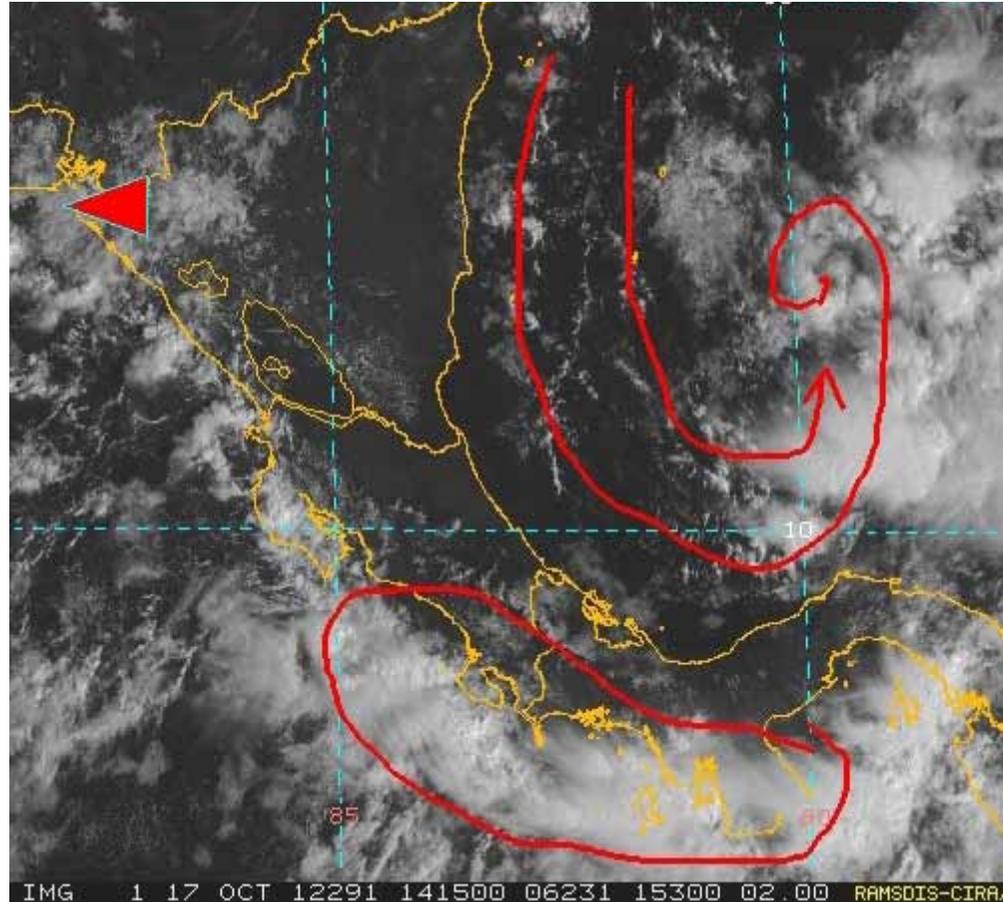
Sent by Bodo Zeschke – VLab CoE Australia

Launch this section

As trainers, we are always searching for better ways to help others to learn. We check for advances in training tools and reflect on reasons to use (or not to use) them in our activities. We keep thinking about the format of our courses and training materials, trying to find the best way to engage trainees and bring excitement and joy to learning. These are all part of our own learning journey as trainers. This new section of the VLab Newsletter, the Trainers Corner, is intended to be a space to write about all that is related to this journey. Things that you may already talk about with your colleagues in your coffee breaks, and would like to share with the wider Community of Trainers. In this issue of the VLab Newsletter, Bernie Connell (CIRA) is sharing her experience in coordinating the Americas and Caribbean Regional Focus Group, which has been getting together since 2004. We also have Ivan Smiljanic (EUMeTrain Project) giving us an insight into the capabilities of the ePort interface, the uses that trainers are making of it, and the future developments planned. I hope you will enjoy this section and I am looking forward to receiving your contributions to future issues of the VLab Newsletter.

Lu Veeck, VLab TSO

A renewed presence – RFG Americas



The Americas and the Caribbean Regional Focus Group has been running monthly sessions since March 2004. The sessions are bilingual, in Spanish and English, with support

from CIRA, NOAA, and CoEs Costa Rica and Barbados. We primarily view satellite imagery and products for real-time and climatological outlooks. Including December 2012, out of a

total of 105 possible monthly sessions, we have only missed 5 months: 4 due to leaders not being available and one because of technical problems. That is an impressive record! Of course we have had our ups and downs. Our highest month of participation was during the High Profile Training Event back in October of 2006 with participation from 24 countries and over 190 people. Our lowest month in the last year drew 4 countries and 7 participants. Recently, it seems like there is new interest. Last month, November 2012, 79 people joined in from 15 countries. We are pleasantly surprised to hear from groups and individuals in training sessions, classes, offices, internet cafes, and even from home. Some of the "older" participants are now trainers and introduce their participants to our community. In September, we leveraged the group email to broadcast important information about problems with the GOES-13 satellite and backup plans for imagery using GOES-14. We now record the sessions and make them available on the web. Portions of the sessions are also being rebroadcast through GEONETCast Americas via the VLab Training channel. For more information, please visit our website <http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/training/rmtc/focusgroup.asp>

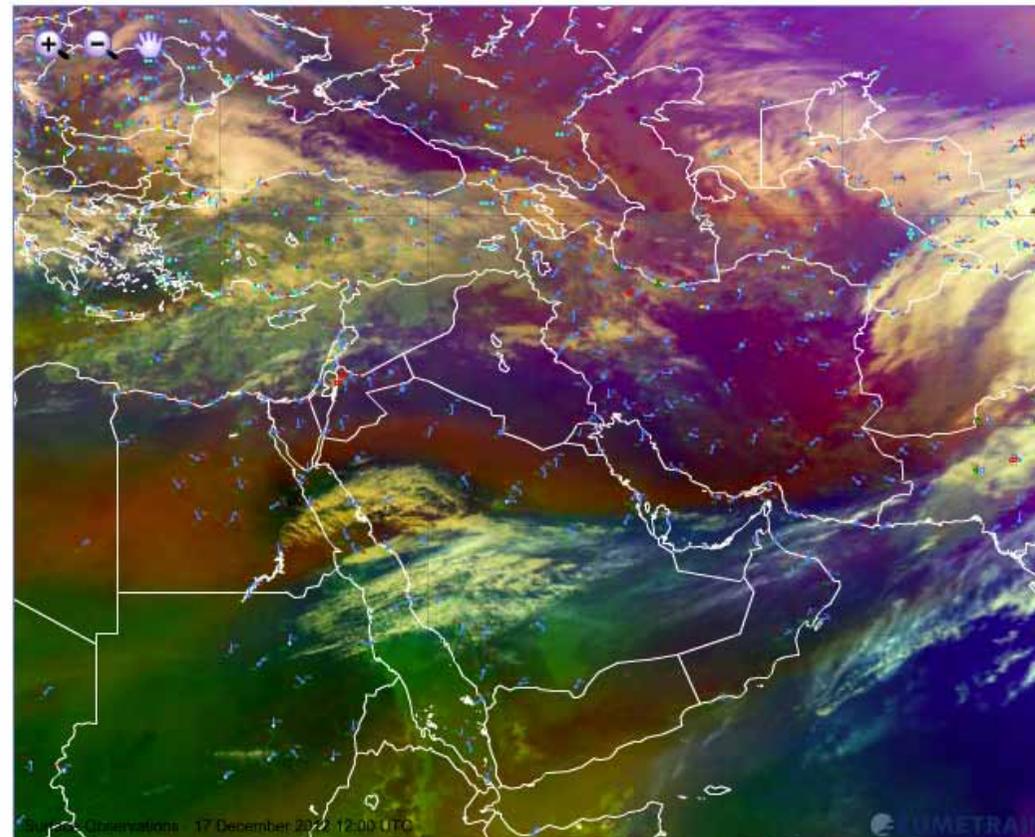
Sent by Bernie Connell, CIRA

Using ePort for Training in Satellite Meteorology

Using ePort for Training in Satellite Meteorology

Developed by the EUMeTrain project, ePort (<http://eumetrain.org/eport.html>) is an interface that allows combining a range of EUMETSAT satellite images and satellite derived products with NWP model fields and observation data. The concept of ePort is inherited from the long and successful practical application of SatRep analysis, used in the weather rooms around Europe. Originally the SatRep was a written report containing information about the cloud structures visible in the IR Meteosat image in combination with NWP models output and observations in terms of Conceptual Models. The method was first employed in the 1980s at the Austrian Meteorological Institute (ZAMG). Further development took place in co-operation of EUMETSAT, the Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) and the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI). In short, SatRep is a method of deriving a thorough view of the actual weather using satellite imagery and products combined with NWP

- ECMWF NWP**
- H300
 - Streamlines300
 - Isotachs300
 - PVA300
 - DIV300
 - RV300
 - PV320K
 - H500
 - T500
 - ThetaE500
 - PVA500
 - RV500
 - TA700
 - RH700
 - Omega700
 - TFP
 - Equiv. Thickness
 - ThetaE850
 - CAPE
 - TPW
 - Spec. Q-BL
 - Lapse Rate
 - BLH
 - LCC
 - Tdd
 - DIV1000
 - 10m. Windspeed
 - 2m. Temperature
 - MSLP



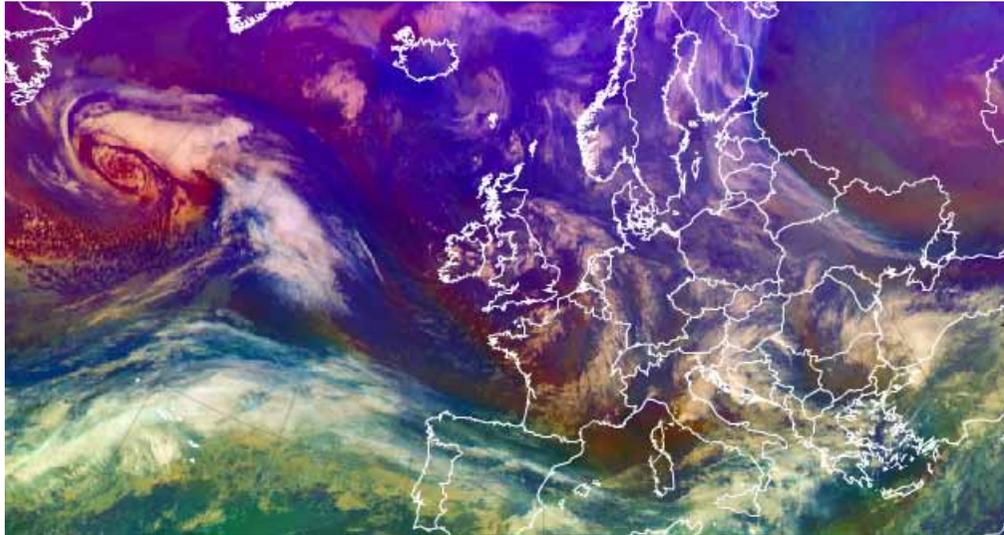
- ▼ Meteosat Second Generation**
- IR10.8
 - WV6.2
 - VIS0.6
 - Pseudo IR
 - Pseudo WV
 - Airmass RGB
 - Dust RGB
 - Day_Microphys. RGB
 - Natural Colour RGB
 - Severe_Storm RGB
- ▼ Products**
- ASCAT
 - JASON
 - SYNOP

ePort Middle-East panel

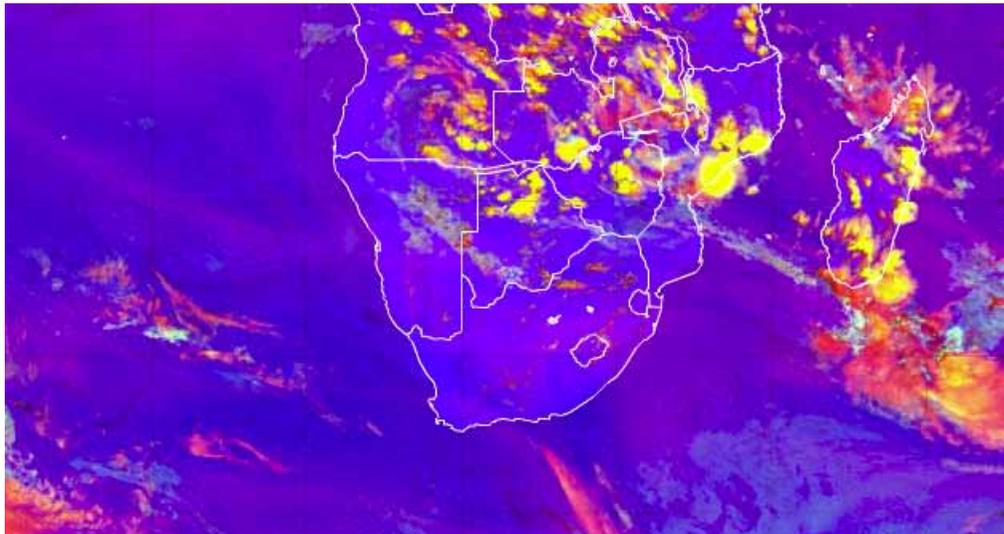
model data, and ePort is an interface enabling such analysis. At the moment ePort provides five panels, each representing a different geographical area of the globe. These are: Europe,

South Africa, Middle East, Atlantic and Polar. In addition to the real-time images and products, ePort also enables the access to an archive dating back to mid 2010. The archive data allows a

quick overview of interesting meteorological situations that can be used to build a variety of case studies.



ePort Europe panel



ePort South Africa panel

Who is using ePort?

The above-mentioned features and capabilities of the ePort interface have been widely used in academic and practice communities in Europe and abroad.

Recent examples of training events that have used the ePort interface include the NOMEK course (7-11 May 2012), ZAMG workshops in Serbia (Belgrade, 5-7 June 2012) and Lithuania (Vilnius, 17-19 October 2012), EUMETSAT courses (e.g. Germany, June/12; South Africa, 2012; Oman, 2012). Trainers have referred to ePort as a handy tool in dealing with conceptual models, current weather analysis, satellite diagnosis, comparing NWP and satellite data and browsing various weather cases to elaborate new training exercises.

Lecturers from Helsinki University and University of Zagreb have also been using ePort in their classes "Synoptic meteorology and Practicum of meteorology" with great success. Furthermore, EUMeTrain team members organise monthly weather briefings, where ePort is used to discuss recent weather events. These briefings have been recorded since February 2012, and are available at <http://eumetrain.org/briefings.html>. Similarly, the VLab Regional Focus Group in South Africa has also been using ePort in their monthly discussions since 2011, with great success. Both briefings, the "ePort Weather Briefing" and the "South African RFG" are held online and are open to partici-

tion for meteorologists, forecasters, students, trainers and researchers worldwide. Participation is free of charge. For briefing dates and link to registration (ePort briefing requests registration), please check the Calendar of Events at the Vlab website at <http://www.wmo-sat.info/vlab/calendar-of-events/>

Future developments

Due to recent extensive developments of portable media players and mobile computing devices that do not support Flash-based applications such as the ePort interface, it became necessary to re-design ePort in order to make it accessible to a wider community of users. Future plans, therefore, include re-programming the ePort interface in HTML code. Along with source-code changes it is planned to enhance the frequency of the available satellite and NWP material to 3-hourly time steps. The new version of ePort should enable the possibility of fixing a desired combination of satellite image and NWP model field, which could then be viewed in previous time steps in order to follow the system development. Further on, the ePort domain will be expanded to the whole MSG satellite view, with real vector fields that will enable high quality zoom-in option.

Sent by Ivan Smiljanic, EUMeTrain

Looking for free GIS software?

The need to identify the tools used in satellite training was discussed during the VLMG-6. With this in mind, work has started to compile a comprehensive list of tools available to process and visualise satellite data and also to facilitate satellite training. In this context, a list of free GIS softwares accompanied by short descriptions and links to providers is now available at http://www.lapismet.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=48

If you know of additional resources to be included in this list, please send them to the VLab Technical Support Officer.

Sent by Humberto Barbosa, LAPIS - University of Alagoas, Brazil

International course - Introduction to Remote Sensing Technology for Educators

The Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Working Group on Capacity Building & Data Democracy (WGCapD) is organizing an online course on the Introduction to Remote Sensing Technology, to be offered from February to June 2013.

The course is intended to reach university lecturers on the field of Earth Sciences - Geography, Geology, Forest Engineering, Agriculture, Ecology, Cartography, Biology, Architecture, Meteorology, Hydrology and related subjects - who would like to learn about the principles and applications of remote sensing. The main goal of this course is to dis-

seminate the remote sensing technology among university lecturers, encouraging them to use remote sensing in Earth sciences applications.

This is a 'pilot initiative' from WGCapD and it will focus on participants from Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa. The course will have English as the official Language, but future events may consider the offering of the course in other languages too.

This course is free of charge and applications to participate must be submitted online at http://www.dpi.inpe.br/ceos/e_learning/ Further information about course content

and important dates are also available in this website. The application period closes on the 15th of January 2013.

Sent by Hilcéa Ferreira, CEOS WG CapD

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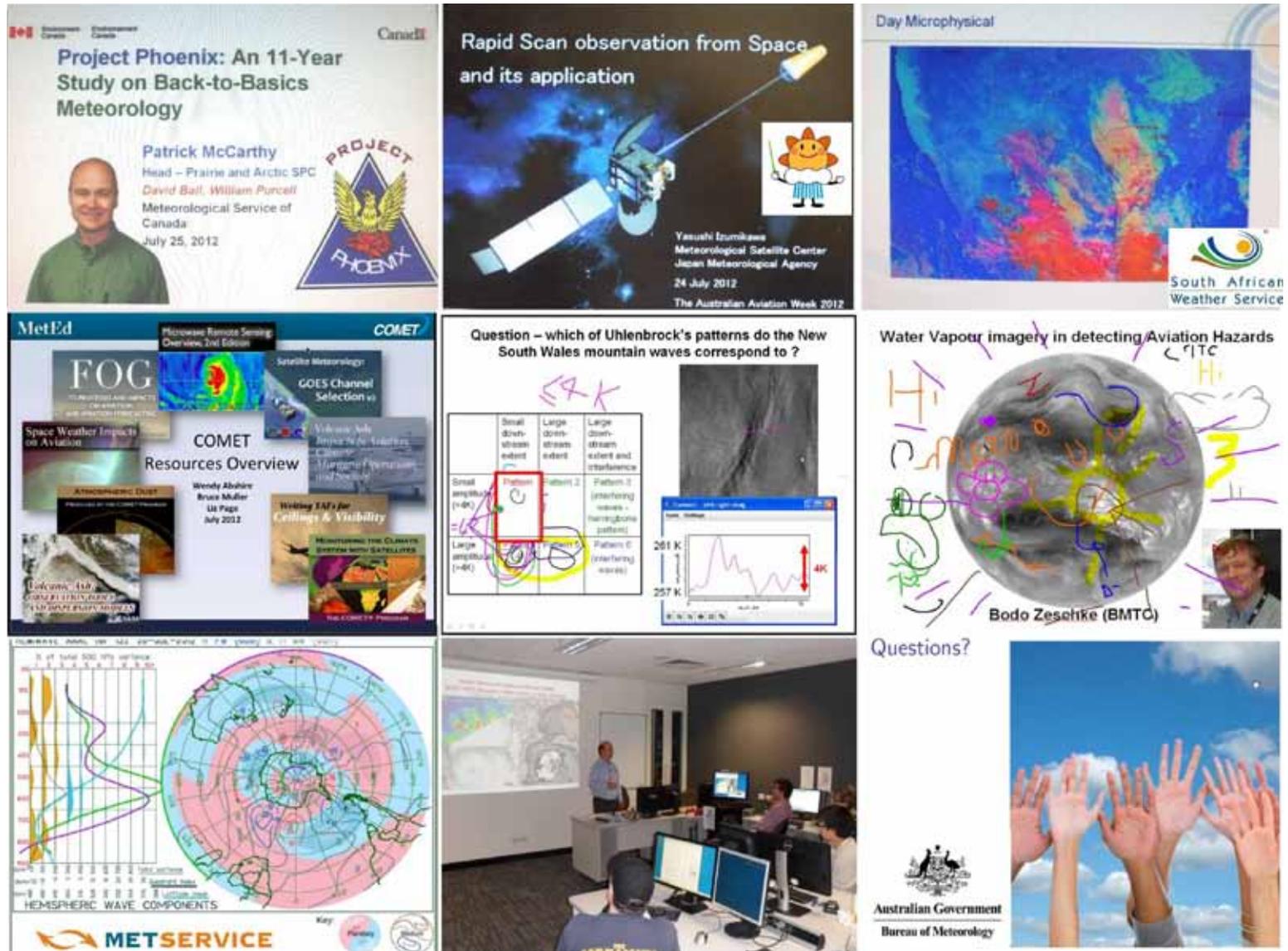
Publication Policy

The VLab Newsletter is published semiannually. Its purpose is to highlight training events organised by VLab members and partners, and also to make the wider meteorological community aware of VLab activities and resources. Most articles are written by VLab colleagues. Article contributions to future editions are welcome and should be sent directly to the editor. The VLab Newsletter is made available online only. Any questions and comments about the content or distribution of the newsletter should be sent to the editor. Editor: Lu Veeck luveeck@googlemail.com

**Erratum – Vlab Newsletter
Volume 3 / Number 2**

The article “Melbourne Centre of Excellence (CoE) conducts its “VLab Aviation Week 2012”, published in the VLab Newsletter issued in December 2012 (Volume 3, number 2, page 12), has a missing illustration.

The omitted illustration, referred to on paragraph 4 (line 48) of the article, can be visualised below.



Melbourne CoE VLab “Aviation Week 2012”