



Our ref.: 8715-11/OBS/OSD/MAR/MC

GENEVA, 28 March 2011

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: 2010 Annual Report of the Global Collecting Centres (GCCs), under the revised WMO Marine Climatological Summaries Scheme (MCSS)

- Action required: (1) For information
- (2) To maintain and expand contributions of ships' meteorological reports to the GCCs, under the revised WMO MCSS

Dear Sir/Madam,

Under the revised Marine Climatological Summaries Scheme (MCSS) adopted by the eleventh session of the Commission for Marine Meteorology (Lisbon, April 1993) through Recommendation 11 (CMM-XI/11), two Global Collecting Centres (GCCs) were established, one in Germany and the other one in the United Kingdom.

The role of the GCCs is to collect marine climatological data observed worldwide; ensure that minimum quality control procedures have been applied; generate a complete global data set and then forward the data set to the MCSS Responsible Members (RM), on a quarterly basis.

The Annual Report for 2010 provides details of the GCCs operations and the status of data collection. The report is produced in English only and is now available from the WMO Website at: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/mmop/gcc-reports.html>

To: Permanent Representative of Members of WMO operating Voluntary Observing Ships

- cc: Executive Secretary, IOC)
- Co-presidents of JCOMM)
- GCC Germany and GCC United Kingdom)
- Chairperson, JCOMM VOS Panel)
- Chairperson, JCOMM Ship Observations Team)
- Chairperson, JCOMM Task Team on VOSCLim)
- Coordinator, JCOMM Data Management Programme Area) (for information)
- JCOMM Expert Team on Marine Climatology)
- Chairman, GCOS/WCRP Atmospheric Observations Panel for)
- Climate (AOPC))
- Chairman, GCOS/GOOS/WCRP Ocean Observations Panel for)
- Climate (OOPC))
- VOS Focal points)
- VOS Climate Project Focal Points)

A summary of the report, including recommendations from the GCCs is presented in the Annex.

Climate research, marine forecasting, satellite calibration, climate modeling and maritime industry communities are increasingly making use of marine data. In addition, ocean data in general, and marine climatology data in particular, are expected to play a crucial role in the developing Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). Contributing Members (CMs) can therefore appreciate the importance of the submissions they make, and the value this adds to the global marine database.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Contributing Members for their participation in the MCSS, and in particular, to the GCC Germany and GCC United Kingdom, for their efforts in operating the centres and in supporting the VOS Climate programme.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(J. Lengoasa)
for the Secretary-General

**Summary from the 2010 Annual Report of the
Global Collecting Centres, and Recommendations**

In 2010 the two Global Collecting Centres (GCCs) combined, Germany and the United Kingdom, received a total of 489,117 observations from 17 countries. The amount of data received in 2010 was less than half the amount received in previous years but, aside from other factors, this is understood to result from the decision to no longer submit some buoy/GTS data to the GCC.

During 2010 the GCCs provided assistance to countries experiencing difficulties in submitting their data, resulting in Greece, Sweden and Israel being able to contribute data which they otherwise could not. Data received so far by the GCCs spans 24 years starting in 1987. As expected, 67% of data is from 2009 and 2010 alone. The percentage of blank reported elements has been significantly reduced in 2010, as opposed to recent years' trend, but it is likely that this is due to the reduction in observations from automatic systems.

Seven out of the ten VOSCLim-recruited Contributing Members (CMs) contributed data during 2010. So far, only one CM has not yet contributed to the VOS Climate programme. 67,398 observations were contributed from VOSCLim ships totaling 14% of all data received during 2010. The usual problem of VOSCLim ships omitting the extra VOSCLim elements appears to be improving with 90% of VOSCLim data containing the extra elements.

Regarding ships reporting under a generic masked ID of 'SHIP', both Global Collecting Centres explain that it is not possible to fully quality control such masked data, therefore Contributing Members are urged, when data is no longer sensitive, to ensure the masked callsigns are converted back to the true callsign prior to submitting to the GCCs.

Contributing Members should also identify and rectify significant problems, in particular, issues related to date, time and position by applying the MQC Standards to data prior to submission (only the CMs can correct observations close to the data source). The presence of an slash sign '/' and incorrect/missing flags should also be corrected before submission by applying improvements to the compilation of observations or by using conversion software.

CMs are reminded that as of 1 January 2011 the new operational data format is IMMT-4/MQCS-6 as adopted by JCOMM-III (Marrakech, Morocco, 4–11 November 2009). The description of the IMMT and MQCS can be obtained from the WMO Website at:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/mmop/data_management_en.html

The GCCs make all data available quarterly via FTP in both IMMT and IMMA formats. The full annual report of the GCCs for 2010 is available from the following Web page:

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/mmop/gcc-reports.html>

The Global Collecting Centres in Germany and the United Kingdom would like to thank CMs for their efforts in contributing observations data during 2010 and look forward to further collaborations during 2011.