

SECOND TRANSITION PLANNING MEETING

Paris, France, 14-16 June 2000

FINAL REPORT

JCOMM Meeting Report No. 4

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NOTE

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1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1. Opening

1.1.1 The second transition planning meeting for the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), and second meeting of the interim JCOMM Management Committee, was opened at 0900 hours on Wednesday, 14 June 2000, in the headquarters of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Paris, by the interim co-president of JCOMM, Prof. D. Kohnke. Prof. Kohnke welcomed all participants to the meeting and introduced the Executive Secretary of IOC, Dr P. Bernal.

1.1.2 Dr Bernal also welcomed all participants to the meeting and to the IOC Secretariat. In doing so, he recalled that this present second planning meeting for JCOMM was the next important step in a unique process, the implementation of a formal joint body serving two distinct organizations. He recognized that this represented a complex process, with many challenges to be overcome, but stressed that both IOC and WMO were fully committed to its success. JCOMM, as a body dealing with operational marine systems, was critical to the future of oceanography, to global climate studies, and to GOOS in general. He noted that GOOS planning was now well advanced, and that it was up to JCOMM in particular to address implementation issues. Dr Bernal concluded by ensuring the meeting of the full support of the IOC Secretariat in its work, and wishing participants a successful meeting and an enjoyable stay in Paris.

1.1.3 The list of participants in the meeting is in **Annex I**.

1.2. Adoption of the agenda

1.2.1 The meeting adopted its agenda for the session. This is given in **Annex II**.

1.3. Working arrangements

1.3.1 The meeting agreed its hours of work and other practical session arrangements. The documentation was introduced by the Secretariats.

2. REPORTS OF AD HOC GROUPS AND SECRETARIATS

2.1 Report by the *ad hoc* Working Group on Work Plan and Structure

2.1.1 The meeting recalled that the first Transition Planning Meeting for JCOMM had established this **ad hoc** group to prepare an initial report and proposal for a draft JCOMM structure, to be used as a basis for further discussion on this major aspect of JCOMM planning. The report of the group was presented by the Secretariats, since none of the authors of the report were, unfortunately, able to attend the meeting. The report had served as a basis to develop, after some reviews and consultations, the provisional final draft proposal for JCOMM sub-structure discussed under agenda item 3. The meeting recognized that the report had been of great help in defining JCOMM internal structure, and commended the group for a very precise and detailed statement of requirements for the structure.

2.2 Report by the *ad hoc* Working Group on Capacity Building

2.2.1 This **ad hoc** group had also been established by the first Transition Planning Meeting to develop proposals regarding a JCOMM capacity building strategy. The report of the group was also introduced by the Secretariats and by Ms Miriam Andrioli (Argentina), a member of the group. Ms Andrioli had undertaken a survey amongst South American countries (Members of the WMO Regional Association III) concerning their capacity building requirements in the context of JCOMM. The meeting commended this undertaking and considered it as an excellent background for future

action. The report contained also a proposal for an international marine environmental prediction workshop and a summary of the initial plans for GOOS capacity building.

2.2.2 The meeting considered that the survey might serve as an example to be followed in other regions of the world, to gather more background data on Member States' existing capabilities and requirements for capacity building in the context of JCOMM. In particular, the questionnaire used in RA III might (once translated from Spanish to English) serve as a basis for developing a standard form to that effect. The World Wide Web might be used as a vehicle to distribute the questionnaire. The meeting proposed to the Secretariats that the WMO network of regional rapporteurs on marine meteorology might also be a mechanism to conduct and analyse the survey in their respective regions.

2.2.3 At the same time, the meeting recognized that substantial work remained to be done to complete the preparatory work for a JCOMM Capacity Building Strategy, to include a prioritisation of requirements and the identification of resources to meet them. This should be done in close co-operation with GOOS, whose Principles for Capacity Building are an extension of the IOC Training, Education and Mutual Assistance (TEMA) programme principles, tailored for GOOS needs. The meeting therefore decided to re-establish the **ad hoc** group, with the following terms of reference:

- (i) Prepare a draft Strategic Plan for Education, Training and Capacity Building in support of JCOMM requirements, bearing in mind:
 - (a) the proposed terms of reference for the JCOMM ETIS coordination group;
 - (b) that the plan should be built on the principles for capacity building of IOC, GOOS and WMO;
 - (c) that JCOMM capacity building activities should be implemented in concert with the relevant activities of IOC, GOOS and WMO.
- (ii) Suggest specific activities, and their priorities, for the period 2001-2005.

The meeting agreed that the group should include Miriam Andrioli and Sachooda Ragoonaden, together with representatives of both Secretariats, and that Geoff Holland, chairman of the GOOS Capacity Building Panel, should be invited to chair it. The report of the group should be submitted to the interim co-presidents of JCOMM, and to the Secretariats, by November 2000 at the latest, to allow time for the preparation of the appropriate documentation for JCOMM-I.

2.2.4 Finally on this item, the meeting recognized that the environmental prediction workshop proposed by Bill Appleby, to be hosted by Canada (see details of the proposal in **Annex III**), would most probably be very appropriate to JCOMM capacity building requirements. At the same time, however, it was reluctant to recommend the commitment of potential JCOMM capacity building resources to the workshop prior to the development of the planned strategy and priorities. It therefore requested the Secretariats to communicate with Bill Appleby to this effect, with a proposal that a final decision regarding JCOMM cosponsorship of the workshop should be postponed to early 2001.

2.3 Report by the Secretariats

2.3.1 The report outlined work undertaken by the Secretariats since JCOMMTRAN-I in support of JCOMM development (JCOMM programme activities are reported under agenda item 6). Some items were specifically highlighted, such as:

- (i) the definition of an IOC policy and practice for the international exchange of oceanographic and related data and products; an expert meeting on the topic was unable to agree fully on a detailed proposal to be put to the IOC Governing Bodies, and there was clearly a need for further extensive discussions. The forthcoming session of the IOC Executive Council will address the issue in more detail, and decide how to proceed;

- (ii) the terms of reference and activities of the IOC Regional Committee for the Southern Ocean (IOCSOC) should be considered in the light of proposed JCOMM and GOOS activities;
- (iii) the interim JCOMM arrangements (co-presidents and Management Committee) had been approved by the WMO Executive Council, and the IOC Executive Council was expected to follow suit;
- (iv) the lack of an appropriate JCOMM logo; national facilities are invited to make design proposals for such a logo.

3. JCOMM STRUCTURE AND WORK PLAN

3.1 The meeting recognized that this was the key item for discussion at the present meeting. It recalled that JCOMMTRAN-I had agreed the overall concept of an integrated work plan for the Commission, as well a structure to address this, based on broad Programme Areas. The report of the **ad hoc** intersessional group charged with the task of developing further proposals for the Commission sub-structure had been presented under agenda item 2.1. Based on this report and on comments and input received from interim Management Committee members, the Secretariats and the GOOS Steering Committee over the past few months, the meeting again extensively reviewed and revised the draft structure. The final proposals, including draft terms of reference for all components of the structure, are given in **Annex IV**.

3.2 The meeting requested the Secretariats to ensure that the draft proposals were distributed to Member States well in advance of JCOMM-I. This would ensure adequate time for consideration and review of the proposals at the national level, and would also give Member States time to identify potential candidates for chairs and members of the various groups, teams and rapporteurs.

3.3 Also under this agenda item, the meeting considered a proposal from the DBCP/SOOP coordinator, for the establishment of a "JCOMM Operations Centre", to be based essentially on the existing DBCP/SOOP coordination and information centre, expanded as proposed to include also the Argo Information Centre. This centre would provide essential data and tools, as well as a centralised information and technical support facility, required for coordinating and integrating many of the existing operational ocean observing networks under JCOMM. The meeting strongly endorsed the concept, at the same time suggesting that the name might be changed to more clearly reflect its actual functions. However, the meeting agreed to retain the existing URL of JCOMMOPS, since this was already widely known. It requested the Secretariats to seek the agreement of DBCP and SOOPIP for the proposal, including proposed terms of reference, since these bodies actually provided the funding to support the centre. Following this agreement, a formal proposal to JCOMM-I for the establishment of the centre should be prepared, though it was agreed that the centre could, in practice, begin operating almost immediately on an interim basis. This proposal should specify the mechanism for providing JCOMM guidance to the centre.

4. PREPARATIONS FOR JCOMM-I

4.1 The meeting noted with approval that JCOMM-I would now be held in Akureyri, Iceland, from 19-29 June 2001. By agreement between WMO and IOC, and pending the development and formal approval of common rules and procedures for the conduct of and support for JCOMM, this session would be conducted according to WMO rules relating to sessions of technical commissions. The session would be funded by WMO, which would also be responsible for pre-session documentation and immediate follow-up. Further details relating to preparations for and conduct of the session are given in **Annex V**.

4.2 The meeting next reviewed and finally agreed a draft provisional agenda for JCOMM-I, which is given in **Annex VI**, as well as a draft documentation plan for the session, which is in **Annex VII**. The meeting recognized the requirement that documentation preparation should be undertaken strictly according to this plan, and should adhere to the prescribed WMO formats. It

therefore urged all those responsible for document preparation to adhere to the deadlines and document structure guidelines, which would be provided in due course by the WMO Secretariat. The meeting also noted a draft annotated provisional agenda for the session, which had been prepared by the Secretariats. Participants were requested to pass any comments, proposals and revisions relating to this draft to the WMO Secretariat by 1 July 2000 at the latest. In this context, the meeting also agreed that details of the proposed draft structure for JCOMM should first be discussed under the relevant technical agenda items for JCOMM-I, prior to final adoption of the structure under agenda item 16.

4.3 The meeting agreed that three extended scientific lectures should be presented at the session, during one half day, on the following themes:

- Operational oceanography, including models and applications
- New technologies for operational oceanography
- Oceans and climate

It requested participants to pass the names of potential lecturers on these topics to the Secretariats by the end of July 2000.

4.4 The meeting recognized that, in view of the novelty of the JCOMM concept, many delegates to the session were likely to be unfamiliar with this concept, with the history of its development, and with the goals and objectives of JCOMM. It therefore agreed that a short introductory document on JCOMM should be prepared by the Secretariats, to be presented to the session by the interim co-presidents as part of their report under agenda item 3.

4.5 Finally under this agenda item, the meeting recognized that the chairs of the programme area coordination groups in the proposed new structure would be critical positions in the implementation and operation of JCOMM, requiring both individual expertise and enthusiasm, as well as a commitment on the part of national agencies concerned. Participants were therefore urged to investigate potential candidates for these positions, and to provide names and background details to the interim co-presidents, if possible before the end of 2000.

5. WORK PROGRAMME UNTIL JCOMM-I

5.1 In addition to ongoing programme activities, JCOMMTRAN-I identified a number of specific actions to be undertaken in the one year remaining before JCOMM-I and as part of the transition process. Some of these actions have been completed and some are ongoing. In addition, there remains considerable work to be done as part of the preparation process for JCOMM-I, to complete ongoing programme activities and to initiate work to address new priorities. **Annex VIII** provides a list of activities to be undertaken or continued prior to JCOMM-I.

5.2 The meeting noted with interest the results of the 5th Integrated Global Observing Strategy Partners meeting in Geneva (June 7th, 2000). A team was asked to produce an Oceans Theme Report comprising a strategy for implementation of satellite and complementary **in situ** observations. The authors of the report took pains to ensure that it was fully consistent with the developing implementation strategy for GOOS and GCOS, and that it was consistent with the recommendations of the OceanObs99 conference in St. Raphael in October 1999. The report, which was approved at the 5th IGOS-P meeting, and endorsed by the GOOS Steering Committee at its meeting in Paris (May 10-12, 2000), was included in the documentation for JCOMMTRAN-II. It highlights the need for specific kinds of observations from space and from the oceans, and stresses the need for continuity of key satellite and **in situ** observations. It will be used by the space agencies as part of the argument for continuity of observations of the ocean from space and for identifying important challenges.

5.3 The IGOS-P accepted the Ocean Theme Team Report as the strategy document for the implementation process, and asked partners such as the IOC and the WMO to seek approval for it

from their governing bodies as an aid in underpinning space agency commitments. They will formally request GOOS to accept responsibility for ensuring the over-arching implementation of the strategy as an end-to-end process. CEOS agreed to provide GOOS with appropriate support on the space element side and in resolving outstanding problems. Other arrangements will be needed to ensure parallel support on the **in situ** side. The meeting agreed that this was an important development in ocean observations, and that JCOMM would certainly have an important role to play in the implementation of the **in situ** component. It therefore requested the Secretariats to ensure that JCOMM was fully informed of developments, and agreed that the Management Committee and Observations Coordination Group should plan and oversee relevant JCOMM implementation activities. The meeting also noted that a satellite expert would be part of the Observations Coordination Group.

6. REPORT ON PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES SINCE JCOMMTRAN-I

6.1 The meeting noted that a number of JCOMM programme-related meetings, workshops, training events and other related conferences had taken place in the period since the first transition planning meeting. Details of these are given in **Annex IX**. A number of specific issues had arisen from these events which required the immediate attention of the interim JCOMM Management Committee, the decisions on which are as follows:

- (i) *Southern Ocean pressure drifters and global XBT deployments.* The meeting recognized that the anticipated decreases in both these key elements of the global ocean observing system in 2000 and beyond were due essentially budgetary pressures coupled with increasing prices for expendables. The meeting agreed that this was an important generic issue for future planning in JCOMM. In essence, the overall observing system should be robust and flexible enough to be able to cope with short or medium term anomalies in resource availability in individual countries or regions. It also highlighted the need for agencies and governments to establish funding programmes to maintain ocean observing systems operationally, once the value of and need for these systems had been clearly established. The meeting therefore referred this issue as a high priority topic for consideration by the future Observations Programme Area Coordination Group. It also recognized that, since these specific observations were very relevant to global climate studies, the problem should be highlighted by GCOS in its future submissions to COP relating to the adequacy of the global observing systems for climate.
- (ii) *Observing systems in Antarctic waters.* The meeting noted the potential problem of governments placing restrictions on the deployment of ocean observing platforms in Antarctic waters, because of perceived environmental concerns related to the Madrid Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty. It was, however, unsure whether the problem was a general one, nor on the appropriate actions to take to assure governments of the great value of such observations and of the minimum environmental risks involved. It therefore requested the WMO Secretariat to bring the matter to the attention of SCAR, through the WMO EC Working Group on Antarctic Meteorology, with a view to ascertaining the extent of the problem and obtaining advice on possible actions.
- (iii) *Standardization of observing practices and instrumentation; intercalibration.* The meeting recognized the importance of utilising commonly agreed, standardized observing practices and instrumentation, and of ensuring full intercalibration and testing whenever new instrumentation or instrument components and devices were introduced. Such issues are discussed in detail in the GOOS Principles. It noted that standardization and intercalibration were already undertaken within individual deployment and operational groups (e.g. SOOPIP, DBCP, etc.), and considered that this remained the most appropriate approach to this question for JCOMM at the present time. It nevertheless recognized that the results of and any questions arising from such work should be regularly reviewed by the Observations Coordination Group, with a view to recommending changes or additional actions to JCOMM.

7. LEGAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF FLOAT AND BUOY DEPLOYMENTS

7.1 Under this agenda item, the meeting was informed of the status of the Argo project, including funding, implementation activities, follow-up to the IOC Argo Resolution, and establishment of the Argo Information Centre (see **Annex X** for details).

7.2 It noted that an Argo implementation meeting for the Pacific region took place in Tokyo in April 2000. The meeting initiated a coordinated implementation process for Argo floats in the Pacific and parts of the Indian Oceans, and adopted a formal statement emphasising the importance of Argo and pledging the support of all participating countries to this implementation. Other such meetings for Argo implementation in the Atlantic (Paris, July 2000) and in the Indian (to be determined) Oceans are expected to increase Argo visibility and interest amongst concerned Member States. Since the first proposal for an Argo project dates back less than two years and a half, the meeting recognized that progress in developing and implementing the project had been very good.

7.3 The meeting endorsed the concept of an Argo Information Centre, as well as the interim measures taken pending its establishment. It agreed that JCOMM would review progress with the Argo project through its Observations Coordination Group, which would also be charged with developing and overseeing the implementation of procedures for the full integration of Argo into the overall observing system at the appropriate time.

7.4 Regarding float deployment opportunities, offered and/or requested, the meeting agreed that, pending the establishment of the Argo Information Centre, details of these would be made globally available through the following web site:

<http://www.jcommops.org/>

An alternative solution, for those interested either in offering or using deployment opportunities, would be to address the Chair of the Argo Science Team, Dr Dean Roemmich (roem@kakapo.ucsd.edu).

8. CLOSURE

8.1 Participants reviewed and approved the final report of the meeting.

8.2 In closing the meeting, the interim co-president of JCOMM, Johannes Guddal, thanked all participants for their substantial input and contributions to what had been a very successful meeting, and a major step forward in the implementation of JCOMM. He also thanked the IOC Secretariat for hosting the meeting and providing such excellent support.

8.3 Speaking on behalf of all participants, Worth Nowlin thanked the two co-presidents, Johannes Guddal and Dieter Kohnke, for their excellent guidance of the meeting and of JCOMM in general. He also thanked the Secretariats for their support for the present meeting and for the ongoing development of JCOMM.

8.4 The second Transition Planning Meeting for JCOMM closed at 1315 hours on Friday 16 June 2000.

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