

The WMO AOPC/OOPC Surface Pressure Group

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The WMO Atmospheric Observation Panel for Climate (AOPC)/Ocean Observations Panel for Climate (OOPC) Surface Pressure Group provides a forum to discuss and act on issues involving the collection, processing, quality control, storage and use of historical atmospheric pressure data within the international scientific community. The focus of this Group extends equally to individual station records, databases and gridded products.

The specific terms of reference of the Group are:

- to promote the analysis of global surface pressure from both real-time and historical sources using both daily and monthly data
- to record and evaluate differences among surface pressure analyses through comparison of basic products
- to recommend actions needed to ensure the quality and consistency of surface pressure analyses based on analysis of those differences
- to promote the recovery of atmospheric pressure data, including issues associated with data access, archiving and maintenance
- to promote the comparison of the various types of barometers and pressure sensors (including satellite estimates) used to measure surface pressure
- to report annually to AOPC and OOPC on progress, recommendations and future plans of the Group

A current aim of the Group is the development of a comprehensive international historical mean sea level pressure (MSLP) database. This encompasses initiatives on both monthly atmospheric pressure data with a global focus plus daily atmospheric pressure data over at least the European to Atlantic sector. Such efforts will be of direct benefit to the development of high quality gridded data sets encompassing terrestrial, island and marine atmospheric pressure data. This includes ongoing work to incorporate I-COADS data with land-based records.

To date, the Group has held an initial meeting at the International Workshop on Advances in the Use of Historical Marine Climate Data, held at Boulder, Colorado, USA in January-February 2002, followed by a workshop at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK in November 2002.