



**World Meteorological Organization  
COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS  
OPAG-ISS  
FIRST WIS MONITORING WORKSHOP**

**WIS-Mon-1/Inf 0(1)**

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## **BACKGROUND TO THE WORKSHOP**

### **Workshop to define the monitoring required for WIS**

#### **1.1 Objectives**

The objectives of the workshop are:

1. To define the aspects of WIS operation that need to be monitored in a standard way to allow the effectiveness of WIS operations to be assessed and improved (WIS network monitoring)
2. To define what has to be monitored in a standard way to allow the effectiveness of WIS in exchanging information to be assessed and improved (WIS quantitative monitoring)
3. To define the WIS monitoring needed to support quality reviews that form part of the procedures for ongoing certification WIS centres
4. To define standard approaches to allow the effectiveness of exchange of observations and products to be assessed and approved. (WIS quantitative monitoring)
5. To identify how WIS monitoring will contribute to meeting the needs of WMO Programmes for monitoring their products, in the same way that the WWW Monitoring (operated by the GTS centres) supported the GOS and DPFS programmes, and to define clear boundaries between the monitoring undertaken by WIS and that which needs to be undertaken by application Programmes.

#### **1.2 Need for workshop**

The Manual on WIS identifies under Technical Specification 15, the need for all WIS centres to participate in Monitoring. To this day, neither the Manual on WIS or Guide to WIS indicate what this monitoring encompasses. EC-65 initiated the first step to improving this situation by the following amendment to the Manual on WIS.

3.5.10.2. Monitoring of the collection and dissemination of WIS information (data and products) should include, as appropriate, WIS monitoring and monitoring related to WMO Programmes.

Although this amendment helps clarify the monitoring needs in WIS relative to WW and other programmes, attempts to identify and document WIS monitoring practices and procedures in separate expert team meetings has been unsuccessful in clarifying the requirements or procedures both from a network and from a centre operations view. A major inhibitor has been the confusion between the existing WWW monitoring undertaken with the infrastructure of the GTS supporting multiple programmes which itself is undergoing change due to the implementation of TDCF. Now WIS is operational and Members are expected to commit to and implement WIS functionality, it is essential that WIS monitoring be clearly documented in the manual and guides for WIS and the future role of WWW monitoring be addressed. It was agreed at the recent meeting of ET-WISC that it is essential to bring together a group of experts and to accelerate the creation of agreed monitoring standards and practices for consideration of CBS 2014.

The Manuals on the GTS and DPFS define the World Weather Watch (WWW) Quantitative monitoring plan. That plan concentrates on counting the number of observations received from each RBSN station, and although the Special Main Telecommunication Network Monitoring produces some information on the telecommunication packages that are used to exchange information, it concentrates on reports received from individual observing stations.

With an increased variety of information exchanged through the WIS, and greater flexibility in telecommunications methods offered by the WIS, attempting to use the same methodology for monitoring the WIS as has been used in the WWW monitoring will become increasingly complex and costly to maintain and operate. Furthermore, the increased level of automation implied by the WIS infrastructure means that inaccuracies in the WIS catalogues may have higher impacts than those in the GTS catalogues, suggesting that some qualitative monitoring of the catalogues may be needed.

Separating monitoring of the information flow from that of the information content will simplify the activities needed to collect and analyse the monitoring information.

Many factors have to be considered when designing a monitoring methodology, so creating the design needs experts in many disciplines to work together. The workshop is intended to produce a consensus on how monitoring should be performed by WIS centres.

### **1.3 Approach**

There will not be enough time during the workshop for participants to identify the strengths and weaknesses of current practices, list the requirements for future monitoring activities, create options for monitoring procedures and then to decide on appropriate procedures to refine and adopt.

A lead expert will need to be identified (Leonid Bezruk, Roshydromet has volunteered to lead this) to lead the preparations for the workshop. The key tasks will be to:

1. identify the key issues that will need monitoring in order for them to be managed
2. identify the monitoring activities that are currently in place
3. produce options for monitoring of the WIS, with particular emphasis on monitoring to manage
  - a. day to day operations
  - b. the effectiveness of information exchange
  - c. the user experience in using the WIS, and
  - d. the effectiveness of information provision

Note: although the quality of the content of WIS catalogues and quality issues such as timeliness of information delivery are within scope of the workshop, and the workshop should consider monitoring of the amount of content exchanged (for example the number of reports from individual observing stations on behalf of the WWW Programme), the workshop should not consider the quality of the exchanged information (such as the errors in observations).

The lead expert will draft some of the documents and seek contributions from other experts for other documents.

Following the decisions made at the workshop, the input documents and the workshop output will be combined by an expert in drafting to provide documentation of the monitoring procedures to be used in the WIS (including changes to Manuals and Guides), and the expert will produce an implementation plan. This work will largely be recording the conclusions of the meeting and preparing documentation based on these. Employing a consultant for one month (one week before the meeting for familiarization with the materials and planning the running of the meeting, facilitating the meeting, and completing the documentation).