

# Global Weather Enterprise Monitoring Committee

## Summary of presentation for IFMS Plenary

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### Background

The Global Weather Enterprise (**GWE**) consists of the Public Sector (largely WMO and NMHSs), the Private Sector (international businesses producing weather and climate equipment, systems and services) and the Academic Sector (**PPA**). Also included in this group are non-governmental organizations, professional societies, and users of weather information. The primary goal of the Global Weather Enterprise is to provide and exploit high-quality and timely weather information to protect life and property and the enhance national economies and quality of life.

Over the past four decades, the world has seen an increase in both the incidence and impact of severe weather. As a result, there is an increasing need for accurate, reliable, timely and actionable weather information. At the same time, rapidly evolving science and technology offers the potential to meet this need. There are significant challenges to realizing its potential; these include transitioning promising research results into weather forecast and warning operations, and overcoming the growing gap between weather forecast operations in developed and developing countries.

Increased cooperation among the three sectors of the Global Weather Enterprise offers the potential to meet these challenges, to minimize operational limitations, and improve weather forecasts and warnings to meet society's need on a global basis.

### Current Initiatives to Increase Cooperation across the Global Weather Enterprise

There are two complementary international initiatives created to increase cooperation and collaboration internationally across the Global Weather Enterprise: The Global Weather Enterprise Forum (GWEF) and the WMO Open Consultative Platform (OCP).

#### *The Global Weather Enterprise Forum*

The Global Weather Enterprise Forum was created by the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) in the Spring of 2018 as a follow up action from a World Bank-sponsored meeting in late 2017. Among the 30+ attendees at that day-long meeting were the WMO Secretary General, Permanent Representatives from Meteorological Services with WMO, several representatives from weather industries in the US, Europe and Japan, and Research leaders from academia and labs. At the follow up meeting in Singapore, the GWEF was formed and consisted initially of 12 members, four from each of the three Weather Sectors; a core management group consisting of World Bank, WMO and other leaders from the Weather Enterprise was formed to monitor and provide over arching strategic guidance.

Four goals were established:

- Mutually beneficial engagement: strong trust and cooperation among WMO, NMHSs, private industry, the academic sector, international funding institutions, and the societies they all support.
- Sustainable capacity building: cooperation between the GWE and development partners leading to increased capabilities of the weather enterprise in low- and middle-income countries.
- Education and training of the next generation scientists and technologists: increased research and development, operational expertise, and the implementation of innovations that support weather and disaster readiness globally.
- Improved access and exchange of global weather information of high quality capable of appreciably improving the range and accuracy of weather forecasts and warnings.

Over the past two years, initial results include agreement on critical GWE challenges, a broad and constructive dialogue across the three sectors, the opening of debate on important issues related to the global observing system and filling critical data gaps, and development of strategies for educating, training and sustaining the GWE work force.

### ***The WMO Open Consultative Platform***

Seeing a broader strategic need, the WMO formed the Open Consultative Platform (OCP) at its 18<sup>th</sup> WMO Congress in June 2019. Its purpose is to create a high-level and structured dialogue among executive leaders in the Public, Private and Academic Sectors at national and international levels across the weather enterprise. Goals include:

- Strengthening the authoritative voice of NMHSs for weather warnings and other critical weather and climate information,
- Establishing legislative arrangements to enable cross-sector partnerships,
- Encouraging international data sharing,
- Making weather data available for public purposes such as disaster risk reduction.

The planned OCP way ahead will involve creating public-private-sector cooperation models and a code of ethics, organizing and conducting a WMO Global Data Conference in 2020, and hosting annual OCP high-level meetings to provide monitoring and strategic guidance to WMO and GWE initiatives.

### ***GWEF direction following the WMO Congress***

Following the creation of OCP, World Bank and WMO leaders met and decided the GWEF provides a supporting capability focused on disaster risk reduction initiatives which complements OCP. In the coming months, GWEF will take action to broaden its international participation from all sectors. In addition, WMO will support and participate in and contribute to GWEF, and the World Bank GFDRR will participate in and contribute to OCP. A GWEF meeting that included WMO and a number of leaders from the international global weather enterprise was held during the annual AMS meeting in Boston to refine the way ahead.

### **How Can IFMS Help?**

Professional Meteorological Societies can provide a valuable working level resource to both the OCP and the GWEF. Members should:

- Become and stay informed of critical science and service issues within the GWE,
- Be open to and supportive of an active dialogue among the three sectors, including the testing of new concepts,
- Contribute to the growth of cross-sector partnerships within their countries,
- Offer ideas and support to the OCP, GWEF and other strategic initiatives to modernize, improve and sustain weather services.

As stated earlier, weather and climate pose increasing risks and impacts to society; the growing population densities worldwide, especially in environmentally vulnerable areas make action to mitigate them time critical. The OCP and GWEF initiatives described in this summary represent important actions that can succeed through cooperation and collaboration across the three sectors of the Global Weather Enterprise.