



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**Seventh Meeting of CNS/MET Sub-Group of APANPIRG and  
Tenth Meeting of CNS/ATM IC Sub-Group of APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand, 15 – 21 July 2003

**Agenda Item 8 (2):      Review Transition to the final phase of WAFS**

**GRIB/BUFR TRAINING FOR THE STATES IN THE ASIA/PAC REGION**

(Presented by Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper provides information concerning the GRIB/BUFR Training Workshop for the SADIS user States held in Bangkok, November 2002.

**1.                    Introduction**

1.1                    The ASIA/PAC SADIS Workstation Software Training for decoding of WAFS products in the GRIB and BUFR Codes was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 18 to 20 November 2002. The training was held as part of the ASIA/PAC Transition Plan to the Final Phase of WAFS and was organized as a follow up action of APANPIRG Conclusion 12/22. Training was provided by the SADIS provider State, United Kingdom, the organization and programme of the event being coordinated with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

1.2                    The initial plan for the training was that it would cover the GRIB coded products only and the training in BUFR products was to be provided as a separate event. However, after coordination with the SADIS provider State and in order to save funds to the participating States, it was agreed that both GRIB and BUFR coded WAFS products should be covered by one training event.

**2.                    Attendance**

2.1                    The training was attended by 23 experts from 11 SADIS user States and 2 special administrative regions, as follows: Bangladesh; China; Hong Kong, China; Macau, China; Indonesia; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Thailand and Vietnam. Representatives of two non-user States, Bhutan and Myanmar also attended the training. Mr. T. E. Goodman, Senior Consultant for ALMOS Systems Company attended partly the training.

2.2                    Mr. Nigel Gait, International Aviation Manager and Ms. Pamela Sexton, International Aviation Advisor, both from Met Office, United Kingdom served as instructors for the training

**3.                    Scope and conduct of the Training**

3.1                    The main purpose of the training was to acquaint the participants from the SADIS user States in ASIA/PAC Region with the software for decoding WAFS products in GRIB and BUFR

codes, developed by authorized vendors of SADIS workstations. The goal to be achieved was that after the training participants would be able to generate Wind and Temperature charts from the raw GRIB data and to produce Significant Weather (SIGWX) Charts for any tailored area using BUFR encoded data, by using any of the presented software packages. Since it was too costly to train all operational staff in every SADIS user State, it was foreseen that the participants in this training should be able to transfer the knowledge received to their colleagues in their respective States.

3.2 The workshop was run as a mixture of informal presentations and practical sessions, with the emphasis on practical use of the software packages.

3.3 At the first session the participants were provided with an overview of the World Area Forecast System and products. The plan for transition to the final phase of WAFS with target date November 2004 was highlighted.

3.4 The following software packages were presented by the instructors:

- METISS SADIS by ALMOS SIGMEX, Australia and Netherlands
- Messir-SADIS by Corobor, France
- HI-WIPS by IES, Canada
- FlightMan Light by Netsys UK Ltd, United Kingdom

3.5 The software packages were preinstalled on 5 working positions in the training room. During the practical sessions participants have been working with the different software packages in groups of 4 to 5 people on a rotational bases. The exercises included generation of different wind and temperature charts from GRIB-coded messages and SIGWX chart from BUFR-coded messages. Special attention was given to the software capabilities of producing tailor-made charts by selection of different geographical areas, colors, labels, etc.

3.6 The newly introduced ftp SADIS backup service by the UK Met Office has been presented and the participants have been given information of how to apply for access to this service and receive username and password.

#### **4. Results of the Training**

4.1 A general discussion was held on the last day of the training in order to receive feedback from the participants. One of the participants presented a PowerPoint presentation describing the Aviation Met Service provided by his State. Other participants shared information on their current systems and plans for upgrading of their SADIS receiving systems and workstation software. Participants were requested to make an assessment of the training by filling in a special appraisal form.

4.2 Some of the participants expressed their wish to receive certificates for completion of the training. UK Met Office provided these certificates later by mail.

4.3 Participants expressed their thankfulness to the instructors for the well conducted training and for the financial support provided by the UK, that made possible their attendance to the training.

#### **5. Action by the Meeting**

5.1 The Meeting is invited to note the information presented in this paper.

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