**Minute of International Panel for Director Generals of Islamic Countries**

**(10 May 2017 / İstanbul 1st and 2nd Sessions)**

**1st Day 10 May 2017, Wednesday**

**1st Session**

* 1. Opening ceremony and adoption of the agenda
  2. Quran Recitation
  3. Opening speech of Prof. Dr. Veysel Eroğlu, Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs

The meeting started at 14.08. The agenda was read and adopted. Hafız, Mr. Ahmet Sarıkaya presented Quran Recitation. By emphasizing that this night is the night of Repentance, Prof. Dr. Veysel Eroğlu, Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs wish that this meeting would be beneficial for everyone. He stated the importance of the meeting for National Meteorological Services of Islamic Countries and what activities can be done for enhancing the cooperation between the Services. By pointing out the fact that current cooperation is not enough and it should be enhanced, he suggested some ideas regarding the issue:

* The meetings should be held regularly,
* One centre should be established,
* Expert and working groups should be established,
* Needs of the NMHS’s should be determined,
* Joint projects should be created,
* Trainings should be extended,
* Early Warning Systems should be improved,
* There should be joint fund for carrying out these ideas.

He confirmed that Turkish State Meteorological Service will carry out its missions and aims. Through video conference with Mauritania Meteorological Service, Prof. Dr. Veysel Eroğlu stated that Automated Weather Observing Stations was established in Mauritania within the framework of cooperation between Turkey and Mauritania which was agreed a year ago. Representatives of Mauritania Meteorological Service expressed its appreciation regarding the cooperation and thanked Turkish State Meteorological Service.

Break for Group photo (14.45)

**2nd Session**

Director General of TSMS, Mr. İsmail Güneş opened 2nd Sessioncelebrated the night of Repentance. He emphasized thatmeteorology as a field is important regionally. For this reason, sharing information and cooperation is a must. Because of effects of climate change to the countries, countries need more information and data share. He also added that countries should study forecasting in detail because of increasing in demand for meteorological data coming from all sectors. He addressed the importance of acting together as Islamic Countries are sharing common history and culture. He emphasized the works that should be carried out together because of difference between countries in terms of development level. He stated that they can achieve useful results from this meeting and he could inform WMO about recommendations of this meeting as he is a member of Executive Council.

All participants introduced themselves.

Mr. Cemal Oktar, Head of Meteorological Data Processing Department presented these issues in his presentations:

1. Organizational structure and Human Resources of TSMS
2. Phases of Meteorological Services
3. Geography of Turkey
4. Observation network of TSMS
5. Calibration Centre
6. Models and forecasts
7. Applications and International Projects
8. Products
9. International Relations

Upon this presentation, Mr. İsmail Güneş, Director General of TSMS asked what can be done as joint work and stated that every country has different priorities..

Representative of Indonesia demanded every country to comment in accordance with their needs.

Representative of Pakistan stated that every country has local problems because of their geography and they can be solved by synthesising.

Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina asked suggestions of TSMS.

Representative of Turkey, Cemal Oktar stated that they can work by using general draft plan prepared by Turkey and every country can contribute to this plan.

Representative of Lebanon stated that every country should determine their subjects. Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina demanded update of TURKMETCAP software that they are using by stating that they have financial and technical problems. They don’t have radar. They have calibration problem. They need marine forecasting.

Representative of Lebanon stated below issues:

1. Financial problem
2. Education
3. AWOS in hills are not working
4. Yearly contribution of international organizations are high

Representative of Togo demanded support for establishing radar and AWOS, marine observation system. In addition to this, he expressed their needs for education and METCAPPLUS software.

Representative of Senegal stated that Protocol between Senegal and TSMS didn’t go any further and they needed cooperation in the fields of radar, early warning, data gathering, processing and distribution and mobile application. Contact points should be determined and action should be taken.

Moderator of the meeting, İsmail Güneş stated that MoU process should be followed by citing Mauritania and Djibouti.

Representative of Pakistan stated that Pakistan is facing meteorological disasters, drought and flood. They can’t solve their financial problems, seasonal forecasts are not enough. For this reason, cooperation is important by mentioning necessity of early warning systems.

Representative of Mauritania expressed his sincere thanks to TSMS for establishment of AWOS and providing training. Sharing experiences should be beneficial.

Representative of Indonesia stated that quality of service should be improved, trainings should be provided, there are legal problems in Indonesia and there should be cooperation in the field of meteorology and climatology.

Representative of Iran stated that only official datas are shared in GTS, the other datas such as dust datas should be shared, too. Drought is a problem in the region. There should be an infrastructure for sharing data. He expressed that they can cooperate for education and new researches; new forecasting models can be developed and observation datas can be used in this field.

Representative of Kazakhstan stated that basic problem in meteorology is finance, they want to improve hydrological forecasts and they can cooperate in the field of education.

Representative of Malaysia stated that they have problems in precipitation forecast because of their geography, determination of amount of rainfall is hard and they need support for mobile applications and distribution of nowcasting and radar datas to public. In addition to this, he expressed that one country should be determined as Secretariat and problems can be solved through this Secretariat.

Representative of Palestine stated that the need technical support for human resource, education and equipment.

Representative of Uzbekistan stated that they established a joint centre consisting of 5 countries in Central Asia. They share datas from this centre and they share these datas with WMO. Their equipment is old and they should renew them and they need training, too.

Representative of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus stated that they work with TSMS in the field of MetcapPlus software, Lightning Detection System, ravinsonde systems, monitoring of radar datas and they have 43 AWOS, but they have problems in calibration and they need trainings for their personnel. Establishment of meteorological radar in Beşparmak Mountains of Cyprus would be beneficial and establishment of buoys in the Mediterranean Sea would be necessary, too.

Moderator of the meeting, Mr. İsmail Güneş stated that the most important issue is managing finance. Meteorological Services to Airports in Turkey is provided by TSMS. In response to this, TSMS has income from EuroControl and this income is transferred to investment. Although TSMS obtains finance from general budget, but annual increase rate in general budget is limited. For this reason, it is useful for TSMS to transfer money coming from Working Capital to investment. He emphasized that TSMS is ready for cooperation. As there are lots of works to do, exchange of experts and training such as Drought and Early Warning System can be carried out together. He also stated that General Directors should meet once or twice a year and experts should meet more frequent. For this reason, this cooperation attempt should be established and results from this meeting can be presented to WMO.

Representative of Turkey, Deputy Director General Mr. Erol Aydın made a presentation on joint cooperation fields. Every country should improve its national industry, Islamic Countries should act together against International Organizations and they should support each other. He addressed below mentioned issues in his presentation:

1. Observation and observation systems
2. Forecasting
3. Data management
4. Research
5. Capacity development
6. International Relations

Moderator of the meeting, Mr. İsmail Güneş stated that these meetings should be held regularly and these meetings can be held in different country and TSMS can undertake the secretariat.

Representative of Senegal stated that Meteorological Services can cooperate on Air Quality and Dust Measurement and also trainings in these fields can be organized.

Representative of Mauritania emphasized that it is ideal for start to hold this meeting yearly and for this reason, secretariat should be established.

Representative of Pakistan first thanked for presentations as they are including every issue. Priorities and needs for training can be determined through survey and trainings can be organized for basic issues and then improved as modules.

Representative of Indonesia stated that a draft for activities can be prepared and a declaration can be announced in the context of this organization at the end of the meeting.

Representative of Togo stated that how trainings are carried out is an important issue; meetings should be held once a year and timing of these meetings can be planned carefully.

Representative of Turkey, Deputy Director General Mr. Erol Aydın stated that a meeting should be held once a year and TSMS can undertake the Secretariat. Many countries couldn’t participate trainings that were organized by TSMS. For this reason, TSMS can provide trainings for these countries and Calibration Centre of TSMS can provide meteorological service to other participating countries. Moreover, TSMS can support these countries for MetcapPlus and mobile application.

Moderator of the meeting, Mr. İsmail Güneş expressed that maintenance of cooperation is highly important. Meteorological activities can be of secondary importance in many countries. As countries develop, the interest in meteorology increases. The question how we can raise awareness needs to be answered. When we raise awareness, financial support will also increase. Financial problems can be solved by income coming from Eurocontrol as a result of Aviation Meteorology. He expressed TSMS’s experience in Working Capital Fund.

Working groups in different fields can be created. For example, e-mail group can be created in the field of Maintenance and Calibration of Radar and also an e-mail group can be created for this meeting. Mr. Güneş gave example of working groups in TSMS by emphasizing meetings of expert forecasts and creating working groups. Working groups can be created according to fields. For example, suggestions of working groups can make progress in cooperation activities created in the fields of flash, flood and early warning systems. He emphasized the fact that we are responsible of sharing and exchanging current information, opportunities and experiences as Islamic Countries.

Representative of Iran stated that creating working groups is a good solution. By creating a joint website for the meeting, results of the meeting can be published on this website. Representative of Lebanon stated that Islamic Countries are consumer countries. For this reason, production is highly important and by this way, costs of equipment and software can be reduced. By determining needs of the countries, joint solutions can be found together.

Moderator of the meeting, Mr. İsmail Güneş stated that private sector in Turkey wants to produce radar and meteorological stations, but market of Turkey is limited. By determining total needs of countries and making strategic plans for 3-5 years, required numbers for production can reach to economic values. By this way, private sector produces cost effective equipment. Mr. İsmail Güneş also expressed that testing of meteorological radars in Turkey were made, production studies for radiosonde are still continuing and establishing cooperation would be beneficial for production process.

2nd session of the meeting finalized at 17:30.

**3rd Session**

3rd Session started at 09:08 on 11 May 2017. Mrs. Hande Türkyılmaz from External Relations Division of TSMS, made a presentation on training activities of TSMS. During her presentation, she mentioned facilities of TSMS and gave detailed information about training activities of TSMS.

**Moderator of the meeting, Mr. İsmail Güneş** asked what kind of training participants wanted to take. Trainings can be given in Turkey or other training centres. TSMS can send lecturers to other countries to support training.

**Representative of Iran** stated that recently 8 trainings have been held in İran, but number of participants was low. Lecturers from Barcelona and Belgrade came for Training on Dust Transportation. They wanted to give this training this year and they invited willing nominees.

**Representative of Togo** stated that one of his colleagues attended training held in Ankara in 2016. They wanted to attend Training on Software whose presentation was made yesterday’s session. They expressed that this training would be beneficial to their Service. Also, Training in Iran would be beneficial to them. Cooperation in the field of Training between Islamic Countries would be highly beneficial to participant countries.

**Moderator of Meeting, Mr. İsmail Güneş** asked countries to state which trainings they demand. He asked countries if they have studies in the fields of flood and climate. By underlining the fact that forecasting is of first priority, he expressed that calibration Centre is open to everyone.

**Representative of Pakistan** statedthatif training Schedule is shared with member countries, every country can plan their trainings and they can get trainings they need. He expressed that they need Specialization trainings. Flood is an important subject. Data quality control, data management, data archiving and agrometeorology are also important. In recent years, flash flood started to happen because of decrease in rain and increase in humidity in Pakistan. Agrometeorology is important for countries whose economy is based on agriculture.

**Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina** stated that they demand training for MetcapPlus software. They have problems in establishment of some equipment. They want to know experiences of countries regarding mercury containing measurement equipment. They want to establish radar in the future and they want to know experiences of countries regarding brand, model and cost of radars. He emphasized that they need training.

**Representative of Indonesia** stated that they faced flash flood in 2012 and they hold trainings regarding this issue every year. They have experiences regarding forecasting of tropical regions. They need cooperation in the fields of satellite and radar.

**Representative of Iran** stated that they have experience in flash flood. They are also in cooperation with other meteorological services. They are working in their basin by using numerical models. They have projects for dams. They have a good capacity more than %80. They are interested in the subject regionally. They wanted to study on Agrometeorology. They can reach more than one million users. Thanks to warning and forecasting, they made profit more than 10 million USD. They have problems regarding Seasonal Forecasting. They can get support regarding processing numeric data. They need support and training in the fields of radar and calibration. By arranging a programme, they want to give training on agrometeorology to farmers. They also demand some trainings regarding numerical weather prediction.

**Representative of Pakistan** stated that they need support and help regarding radar and satellite monitoring.

**Representative of Senegal** stated that climate change is an important field of study. Many developing countries don’t have enough equipment. In case where training schedule has to be known in advance, they can provide participants to these trainings.

**Representative of Iran** stated that training on marine meteorology can be added to training schedule.

**Representative of Indonesia** stated that they worked with island countries in Asia-Pacific and established a system. They gave online trainings and these trainings were successful. They received trainings on storm from Australian Meteorological Service.

**Moderator of the meeting Mr. İsmail Güneş** informed about training subjects. Some of these trainings were held in Turkey, but a system for training should be established. Also, experts should come together to establish a better system. They can decide where trainings will be held and who will give these trainings. He also underlined that working groups are important and they are key factors for establishing a sustainable system.

Recommendations were presented to Participants. They commented on every article under recommendations and suggested new ideas. After discussions, they agreed these recommendations:

1. Establishing a Secretariat (Turkey) and Advisory Committee in order to enhance the cooperation between Meteorological Services of Islamic Countries and organising the related meetings every 2 years regularly
2. Establishing a web page for “Meteorological Services of Islamic Countries” (within 3 months). Secretariat will provide meeting documents, proposed or upcoming education programmes and updated focal points in the web site
3. Designating focal points for each country (after establishment of Secretariat, informing Secretariat within 3 months)
4. Establishing Working Groups (For Example; Forecast, Observing System, Research etc.)
5. Determining the needs of Meteorological Services.
6. After determination of the needs, preparing strategic plan
7. Increasing the Educational Cooperation and organizing specialized trainings
8. Improving technical cooperation between Countries
9. Providing expert exchange between countries
10. Sharing the data in addition to GTS on special cases by specified data policy
11. Establishing Voluntary fund
12. Coordinating and providing equipment and instrument supply

**Representative of Kazakhstan** stated that he needed to present some of these recommendations to authorities in his country.

**Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina** statedthat there may be a problem if his country attends a committee referred as **“**Meteorological Services of Islamic Countries” Kosovo and Albania can have also the same problem about naming of the committee. They want to attend this committee as an observer at the beginning.

**Representative of Lebanon** stated that his country does not compromise of only Muslims. He needed to discuss this matter thoroughly with high level authorities.

**CLOSING SESSION**

**Moderator of the meeting Mr. İsmail Güneş** stated that every participant has the same idea about the system. WMO has an ideal system. By taking WMO as an example they can establish the same system. Establishing working groups is of critical importance. These groups can make the right decision. Priorities of Advisory Committee are of critical importance. They should take into consideration of geographical distribution when they determine members of Advisory Committee. They can share their experiences in planning observation system. Fund can be established by voluntary basis. After determining needs and priorities, their works can be finalized with working groups, They started this process with the order of Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs. They can determine experts of satellite in every Islamic country. For example, Turkey has problems in fog forecasting and they can get support from experts. Website will be a platform for sharing information and experience. Contact points should also be determined for every country. Training needs of every country can be determined by online survey. Aim of TSMS is to improve meteorological services, quality and quantity of all Islamic Countries in 10 years. There will be a budget problem, but a mechanism for fund can solve this problem.

Moderator of the meeting Mr. İsmail Güneş closed the meeting and presented certificate of attendance and gifts to participating countries.