



Radiocommunication Bureau

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Administrative Circular
CA/183

16 July 2009

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU and Radiocommunication Sector Members

Subject: First Seminar of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) “**Use of Radio Spectrum for Meteorology: Weather, Water and Climate Monitoring and Prediction**”, 16-18 September, 2009, WMO, Geneva, Switzerland

1 Introduction

“Climate change is the moral challenge of our generation...”

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

Between 1980 and 2005, more than 7,000 natural disasters worldwide took the lives of over 2 million people and produced economic losses estimated at over 1.2 trillion US dollars. Ninety per cent of these natural disasters, 72 per cent of casualties and 75 per cent of economic losses were caused by weather-, climate- and water-related hazards, such as droughts, floods, severe storms and tropical cyclones. At present, radio-based applications such as remote sensors provide the main source of information about the Earth’s atmosphere and surface. In turn, this information is used for climate, weather and water monitoring, prediction and warnings, natural disaster risk reduction, support of disaster-relief operations and for planning preventive measures for adapting to and mitigating the negative effects of climate change.

For 135 years, there has been excellent collaboration and partnership between WMO and ITU. Whilst WMO focuses its efforts on meeting the needs for environmental information and the corresponding radio frequency spectrum resources, ITU, as international steward of the spectrum, allocates the necessary radio frequencies to allow the interference-free operation of radio-based applications and radiocommunication systems (terrestrial and space) used for climate monitoring and prediction, weather forecasting and disaster early warning and detection.

This seminar is organized by the ITU and the WMO as an open forum for discussion of the ITU and WMO roles in the use of radio spectrum, space orbits and radio-based meteorological tools and systems for monitoring, mitigation and adaptation to climate change. It is also planned to consider the main problems in the development and use of meteorological systems and the future ITU/WMO activities in this area.

2 Seminar's primary goal and main issues for discussion

The primary goal of this seminar is to provide information and exchange of the experience National Meteorological and Radio-Frequency Spectrum Management Services/Authorities have on the use and further development of radio-based space and terrestrial systems and applications employed for weather, water and climate monitoring and the relevant radio-frequency spectrum management activities.

The main issues proposed for discussion are as follows:

- The role of information communication technologies (ICTs) in general, and radio-based technologies in particular, in monitoring climate change – general overview
- ITU role in international radio-frequency spectrum/satellite orbit management and international standardization
- Current status and development of radio-based systems and applications for weather, water and climate monitoring and prediction:
 - weather and wind profiler radars
 - meteorological aids (radiosondes)
 - active and passive spaceborne remote sensing
 - meteorological satellite radiocommunication systems
 - other radiocommunication systems for meteorological activities
- Operation of meteorological systems and quality of meteorological measurements:
 - relations between available spectrum and quality of meteorological measurements
 - impact of other radio technologies, applications and systems on quality of meteorological measurements
- ITU and WMO roles in development, use and effective operation of systems and applications for monitoring of the environment, prediction, detection of natural disasters and mitigation of negative effects of disasters initiated by climate change:
 - ITU and WMO activities/studies and relevant forums (Steering Groups, Study Groups, etc.)
 - ITU and WMO standards on environmental monitoring applications/systems
 - mitigation and adaptation to climate change
 - Agenda items of the next WMO Congress and ITU World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) related to development and operation of environmental monitoring systems
- Activities of other national and international organizations in climate monitoring and disaster prediction, detection and mitigation of negative effects of disasters.

Further detailed information including a preliminary programme and other details will be published on the:

ITU Web page at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/seminar-itu-wmo/>

WMO Web page at: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/TEM/WMO_RFC/index_en.html (under “Events”).

The national telecommunication administrations, regulators, frequency management authorities, scientific and research institutions, specialists in the field of spectrum management, as well as representatives of other interested organizations of your countries are invited to participate in this seminar.

Point of Contact on technical matters:

in ITU	Mr. Alexandre Vassiliev - e-mail: alexandre.vassiliev@itu.int , telephone: +41 22 730 59 24, telefax: +41 22 730 58 06
in WMO	Mr. Jean-Michel RAINER - e-mail: jmrainer@wmo.int , telephone: +41 22 730 82 19, telefax: +41 22 730 80 21

The seminar will be conducted in English.

3 Participation/Visa requirements

Delegate/participant registration for the meeting will be carried out online via the ITU-R website. Each Member State/Sector Member was requested to designate a focal point to be responsible for the handling of all registration requests for his/her administration/organization. Individuals wishing to attend should contact the focal point designated for all Study Group activities for his/her entity directly. The list of designated focal points (DFPs) is available on the **ITU-R Delegate Registration and Member Information** webpage at:

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/delegate-reg-info/en>.

Visa requirements

We would like to remind delegates and participants that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter and spend time in Switzerland. **The visa must be requested at least three (3) weeks prior to the opening of the meeting** and obtained from the office (embassy or consulate) representing Switzerland in the respective country of origin. In cases where there is no such office in the country, the visa should be obtained from the office that is closest to the country of departure. If problems are encountered, the Union can, at the official request of the administration or entity being represented, approach the competent Swiss authorities in order to facilitate the delivery of the visa, however, this procedure will require three weeks as mentioned above.

Visa requests

If ITU Headquarters assistance is required, the request for support in obtaining a visa may be made by the DFP at the time of completion of the registration request for the individual concerned. On the bottom of the registration form, the DFP will find several questions which must be completed fully and accurately. The required information is as follows:

Date of birth

Passport number

Passport issuance and expiry dates

The visa support procedure will subsequently follow automatically. The Delegate/Participant will be notified via the Confirmation of Registration form sent to his/her e-mail address that the visa support request has been received and is being processed.

For further information see <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/delegate-reg-info/en>.

The Delegate Registration desk, located at the entrance of **the World Meteorological Organization building** (7bis, avenue de la Paix, Geneva, approximately 600 meters from the ITU buildings), will be open from 08:30 hours on the first day of the meeting. Please note that the confirmation of registration sent to each delegate/participant by e-mail, must be presented, together with photo identification, in order to receive a badge.

4 Accommodation

Information regarding hotel accommodation for meetings held in Geneva is available at <http://www.itu.int/travel/index.html>.

5 Fellowships

In recognition of the difficulty faced by some Member States, the ITU will offer one fellowship per eligible country, with priority given to requests from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Fellowship requests should be submitted before **10 August 2009** using the form attached as **Annex 1**. Accommodation will be arranged and paid for by the ITU.

Valery Timofeev
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Annex: 1

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU
- Radiocommunication Sector Members
- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Groups and Special Committee on Regulatory/Procedural Matters
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference Preparatory Meeting
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board
- Secretary-General of the ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

ANNEX 1

	<p>The First ITU/WMO Seminar “Use of Radio Spectrum for Meteorology: Weather, Water and Climate Monitoring and Prediction”, 16-18 September, 2009, WMO, Geneva, Switzerland</p>	
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Please return to: **ITU/BDT** **E-mail : bdtfellowships@itu.int**
Geneva (Switzerland) **Tel: +41 22 730 5487**
Fax: +41 22 730 5778

Request for fellowship to be submitted before 16 August 2009

Participation of women is encouraged

Country	_____
Name of the Administration or Organization	_____
Mr. / Ms.	_____ (family name) _____ (given name)
Title	_____
Address	_____ _____
Tel.:	_____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____
PASSPORT INFORMATION :	
Date of birth	_____
Nationality	_____ Passport number _____
Date of issue	_____ In (place) _____ Valid until (date) _____

CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

1. A round trip airticket in economy class from country of origin to venue by the most direct and economical itinerary
2. Accommodation is booked and pre-paid by ITU
3. A daily allowance to cover meals and misc. expenses will be paid to the fellow
4. Imperative that fellows be present from the first day to the end of the meeting

Signature of fellowship candidate

Date

TO VALIDATE FELLOWSHIP REQUEST, NAME, TITLE AND SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL DESIGNATING PARTICIPANT MUST BE COMPLETED BELOW WITH OFFICIAL STAMP.

Signature

Date