



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
 Organisation météorologique mondiale
 Organización Meteorológica Mundial
 Всемирная метеорологическая организация
 المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
 世界气象组织

Secrétariat

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Our ref.: 04114/2019/OBS/WIGOS/OSCAR

4 March 2019

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: OSCAR/Surface update activities and Training Course for RA II in the West Asian Sub-Region, Muscat, Oman, 16-18 April 2019

Action required: To confirm your country's participation in the OSCAR/Surface update activities and to nominate an OSCAR/Surface National Focal Point from your Country to participate in the course, but not later than
11 March 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is organizing a series of activities within the WIGOS Implementation Plan for Regional Association II (RA II), with the intention of updating OSCAR/Surface. The activities include a series of webinars, the drafting and implementation of an OSCAR/Surface update plan for the sub-region and will be grouped around an OSCAR/Surface Training Course for RA II in the West Asian Sub-Region, in Muscat, Oman from 16 to 18 April 2019. You will find more details about the planned activities, including their dates, in Annex I.

OSCAR/Surface is the Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review tool for surface-based observations. It is a critical component of WIGOS, which is one of the strategic priorities of WMO. It has been developed by WMO and MeteoSwiss and its website is available at: <https://oscar.wmo.int/surface>.

The course is targeted at OSCAR/Surface National Focal Points (NFPs) of RA II in the West Asian Sub-Region, for which I would like to invite you to specifically nominate a NFP for OSCAR/Surface from your country, who should participate in these activities, including the course. For your reference, please find attached the Terms of Reference of the OSCAR/Surface NFPs in Annex II.

Due to limited financial resources of the Organization, it is hoped that the cost of the participation of your NFP will be borne by the Government of your country. If this is not possible, WMO will consider, upon request, providing financial support, which may consist of travel cost (most economic air fare according to the most direct route) and/or per diem. Kindly confirm the participation of your NFP, or his or her alternate, and if financial support will be required, by notifying the WMO Secretariat with a copy to Ms Yingchu Chu (ychu@wmo.int) at your earliest convenience and preferably by **11 March 2019**.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO in RA II (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) (limited distribution)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

Regarding insurance coverage for non-staff members, may I draw your attention to the following:

"In the case of non-staff members of the Organization who are authorized to travel at its expense and/or who are receiving a daily subsistence allowance, WMO accepts limited responsibility for compensation in the event of death, illness or injury attributable to attendance at meetings or the performance of services on behalf of the Organization. These persons are therefore fully responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of events which are not attributable to attendance at meetings or the performance of services on behalf of the Organization and for arranging such life, health and other forms of insurance as they consider appropriate".

I look forward to the participation of your NFP for OSCAR/Surface in this training course and I thank you for the support of the Programmes and activities of WMO.

Yours faithfully,



(W. Zhang)
for the Secretary-General

OSCAR/Surface update activities, including training, in RA II West Asia (Muscat, April 2019)

The Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review tool for the metadata of surface-based observing systems

Ref.: 04128/2019-1.0 OBS-WIGOS/WIGOS

General description	The OSCAR/Surface database is an online tool that is available for WMO Members to register all WIGOS metadata regarding their surface observing systems. This tool is a practical implementation of the WIGOS Metadata Standard, which was approved in 2015 by Congress 17 and entered in force from July 2016. WMO Members need to learn how to use the tool. The Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan for RA II also contains provisions for updating OSCAR/Surface.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparatory webinar April 1st 2019 (online) - OSCAR/Surface training 16-18 Muscat 2019 (Oman) - Follow-up webinar May 1st 2019 (online) - Implementation plan review June 5th 2019 (online) - Closure and evaluation July 3rd 2019 (online)
Expected outcomes	<p>After completing the training, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (primary outcome 1) interact with the Web interface of OSCAR/Surface, via Internet to find and extract observational metadata, as well as to manage (insert, correct/update) their observational metadata. - (primary outcome 2) understand the WIGOS Metadata Representation model and to contribute to the exchange of metadata using the corresponding XML Schema and API. - (primary outcome 3) continue documenting the national observing systems in OSCAR/Surface. - (secondary outcome) review and improve their national processes related to the collection and processing of observational metadata.
Audience(s)	<p>Primary audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Focal Points for OSCAR/Surface in RA II West Asia subregion. <p>Secondary audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other staff involved in Station or Network maintenance
Topics outline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to WIGOS 2. The WIGOS Metadata Standard 3. WIGOS Station Identifiers 4. OSCAR/Surface Functional Description 5. Register/login process in OSCAR/Surface 6. How to find information in OSCAR/Surface 7. How to extract metadata from OSCAR/Surface 8. Data integration including transition from Vol.A 9. How to manage the metadata in OSCAR/Surface 10. How to create a new station in OSCAR/Surface 11. The WMDS representation/XML schema 12. The machine-to-machine interface and API
Course format	A mixture of online and classroom type courses. Training material will be available prior to the sessions and also for the use after training event. It will consist of lectures and practical exercises about using OSCAR/Surface and the machine-to-

Learning activities	<p>machine interface. The internet based WMO webex system will be used for the webinars.</p> <p>a) Learners will discuss about relevance of observational metadata and what, how and when it should be collected. b) Learners will do a set of practical exercises for managing observational metadata in OSCAR/Surface. c) Learners will have to work on a small project related to manage observational metadata from their own countries. d) Learners will contribute to developing an OSCAR/Surface update implementation plan</p>
Learning assessment	<p>During the training a formative assessment of the learners will be made based on observation of practical exercises. At the end of the training a summative assessment of the learners will be made, based on a final project on managing a set of metadata in OSCAR/Surface.</p>
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One end-of-course questionnaire. - Classroom discussions and practical exercises to determine how well students are learning. - An area in the WMO Moodle will be made available for follow-up discussions amongst participants, as well as to access the training material. - The success of the OSCAR/Surface update activities will be evaluated based on updates to OSCAR/Surface at the closure event.
Learning resources	<p>The OSCAR/Surface platform/website: https://oscar.wmo.int/surface/ The Manual on WIGOS: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/WRM.html The Guide to WIGOS: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/WGM.html</p>
Certificate	<p>Learners who participate the full time of the course and who succeed to do the final project will receive a course certificate.</p>

World Meteorological Organization

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the National Focal Points (NFPs) for OSCAR/Surface (Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review tool for surface-based observations)

The National Focal Point (NFP) for the OSCAR/Surface shall provide linkages between the Member country/territory and the WMO Secretariat to ensure that all WIGOS metadata required for the OSCAR database regarding the observing systems operated and maintained by the country/territory are recorded, entered into OSCAR and updated as needed.

In this respect, the NFP shall:

1. Liaise with the National WIGOS FP in the country/territory to ensure that all the operators of the relevant observing systems in the country/territory are aware of OSCAR and ready to make the required metadata routinely available to OSCAR.
2. Coordinate user account creation in OSCAR for the people accredited, to manage within OSCAR the relevant metadata from the country/territory.
3. Promulgate the WMO technical regulations relevant to OSCAR, as well as the guidance and training materials for an adequate use of OSCAR.
4. Make all efforts to ensure that all accredited users of OSCAR are well trained to make the right use of the editing tools available in OSCAR.
5. Promote, in collaboration with WMO Secretariat, and in compliance with the required standards, the use of automatic, or semi-automatic, machine-to-machine transfer of information for insertion/updates of metadata within OSCAR, from the relevant observing systems of the Member country/territory.
6. Work closely with the established Regional WIGOS Centre (RWC) of the region/sub-region.
7. Upon request, provide the Secretariat and the RWC with an overview of the country/territory WIGOS metadata status in OSCAR.
8. Take, without any delay, actions in order to correct any erroneous and/or missing metadata identified in OSCAR, regarding the Member country/territory observing systems.
9. Collaborate with the relevant WMO working bodies and the Secretariat to perform the critical review and gap analysis at national and regional levels, using the OSCAR/Analysis tool.