



Our ref.: 8785-16/OBS/WIGOS/OSD/MAR/SOT-9

GENEVA, 15 December 2016

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Ninth session of the JCOMM Ship Observation Team (SOT-9) (London, United Kingdom, 27-31 March 2017)

Action required: To inform the WMO Secretariat of representative(s) participation in SOT-9, as soon as possible, **but not later than 15 January 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam,

You may recall that the Ship Observations Team (SOT) was re-established by the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology at its fourth session (JCOMM-4, Yeosu, Republic of Korea, 23-31 May 2012). The SOT was created to build on synergies between the three Panels involved in coordinating global ship-based observing programmes, i.e. the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Scheme, the Ship-of-Opportunity Programme (SOOP), and the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP), with a view to an eventual possible full-integration of ship-based observing systems on commercial and research vessels.

Membership to the Team is open, and comprises operators of VOS, SOOP and ASAP, as well as representatives from other groups using ships as observing platforms. It also includes representatives from: monitoring centres; data management centres and bodies; INMARSAT and other communication systems; manufacturers; scientific advisory bodies; and users as appropriate.

On behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, I have the pleasure to inform you that the ninth session of the Ship Observations Team (SOT-9) will be held, at the kind invitation of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in London, United Kingdom, from 27 to 31 March 2017.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members of WMO participating in JCOMM (limited distribution)

cc: Action addressees of IOC Member States participating in )  
JCOMM (limited distribution) )  
Focal points for SOT, VOS, SOOP, and ASAP )  
Executive Secretary, IOC )  
Mr Johan Stander, JCOMM co-president for Meteorology )  
Dr Nadia Pinardi, JCOMM co-president for Oceanography ) (for information)  
Dr David Legler, JCOMM OCG Chairperson )  
Mr Chris Marshall, Chairperson, SOT )  
Ms Sarah North, Chairperson, VOS Panel )  
Dr Rebecca Cowley, Chairperson, SOOIP )  
Dr Rudolf Krockauer, Chairperson, ASAP Task Team )

The SOT-9 will commence at 09:00 hours on Monday, 27 March 2017. It will consist of a common session for the three programmes; the tenth session of the VOS Panel (VOSP); and the twelfth session of the SOOP Implementation Panel (SOOPIP). As for previous sessions ASAP aspects will be considered as part of the VOSP session and the relevant SOT Task Team. In this respect, it should be noted that a Scientific and Technical Workshop on New Initiatives and New Developments will take place on the first day of the meeting. The session will be conducted in English.

As a Member operating VOS, Ships of Opportunity (SOO) and/or ASAP, you are cordially invited to nominate one or more representative(s) to participate in the above-mentioned session. It should be noted that, according to established procedures for the SOT, financial assistance by WMO or the IOC will not be available for the participation of delegates at the session. The Provisional Agenda, Local and Accommodation Information, as well as all related documents will be posted, in due course, at the following website: <http://www.jcomm.info/SOT-9>. Documentation will be presented in English only.

I would also like to invite you to check the list of SOT contact points listed on the JCOMM website (see details in Annex), to report any discrepancies or required changes to the Secretariat, or to nominate new contact points if needed.

A special session of the meeting will provide Members/Member States a chance to report on their national activities related to the SOT. Each country is invited to provide only one consolidated national presentation on its SOT-related activities (i.e., VOS, SOOPIP, ASAP and Port Meteorological Officers (PMO)), as appropriate. A maximum of 10 minutes will be allowed for each presentation, with the exception of countries operating a SOOP, which may extend their National Report to a maximum of 15 minutes to report on those activities, including the status of sampling on each SOOP line. All presenters are invited to provide a copy of their presentation in electronic format via e-mail to the attention of Ms Champika Gallage ([cgallage@wmo.int](mailto:cgallage@wmo.int)), as soon as possible, **but not later than 10 March 2017**.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could notify the WMO Secretariat ([cgallage@wmo.int](mailto:cgallage@wmo.int)), as soon as possible, **but not later than 15 January 2017**, whether your representative(s) will be able to participate in the above-mentioned session. Kindly provide in your reply, full name and contact details of the participating representative(s).

A copy of this letter is being sent to the VOS focal point(s), SOOPIP member(s) and ASAP focal point(s) of your country, as appropriate.

We look forward to your favorable response and to your continuous and active participation in JCOMM activities, and, in particular the Ship Observations Team.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Zhang', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(W. Zhang)  
for the Secretary-General

## SOT CONTACT POINTS

The Ship Observations Team (SOT) is maintaining lists of contact points for itself as well as for its sub-programmes.

WMO Members and IOC Member States operating ship-based observation programmes are invited to coordinate at the national level and nominate **one** SOT Focal Point for each Member/Member State. They may also nominate one or more contact point(s) for the SOT sub-programmes (VOS, SOOP, ASAP), and Port Meteorological Officers (PMOs).

The current lists of focal points are available from the web pages detailed in the table below. Members/Member States are invited to check these lists and report discrepancies or required changes to the attention of Ms Champika Gallage at: [cgallage@wmo.int](mailto:cgallage@wmo.int).

<b><i>Lists</i></b>	<b><i>Summary</i></b>	<b><i>Website</i></b>
<b>SOT</b>	Ship Observations Team <i>(one contact point per country)</i>	<a href="http://www.jcomm.info/sot-nfp">www.jcomm.info/sot-nfp</a>
<b>VOSP</b>	Members of the Voluntary Observing Ship Panel <i>(one or more contact point per country)</i>	<a href="http://www.jcomm.info/vos-nfp">www.jcomm.info/vos-nfp</a>
<b>SOOPIP</b>	Members of the Ship of Opportunity Programme Implementation Panel <i>(one or more contact point per country)</i>	<a href="http://www.jcomm.info/soopip">www.jcomm.info/soopip</a>
<b>ASAP</b>	Contact points for the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme <i>(one or more contact point per country)</i>	<a href="http://www.jcomm.info/asap-nfp">www.jcomm.info/asap-nfp</a>
<b>PMOs</b>	Port Meteorological Officers – <i>useful contacts</i>	<a href="http://www.jcomm.info/pmos">www.jcomm.info/pmos</a>