

**WMO OMM**

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

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2 April 2026

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: Eighth International Port Meteorological Officers Workshop (PMO-8),
Shanghai, China, 22-24 September 2026

Action required: To nominate participants for the Workshop from your country **before
10 May 2026**

Dear Sir/Madam,

You will recall that as part of the activities of the Ship Observations Team (SOT) of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the international network of Port Meteorological Officers (PMO) provides a way to ensure that standard procedures proposed by WMO are followed throughout the whole Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) fleet in every country and that the data produced are homogenous and comply with WMO standards. PMOs also provide marine meteorological services, or information on such services, to shipping companies and port authorities.

At its thirteenth session, in Brest, France, in April 2025, the SOT reinforced the view that the work of PMOs was crucial for voluntary ship observations and the VOS Panel. An eighth PMO workshop will therefore be held in Shanghai, China, from 22 to 24 September 2026 with the kind invitation from the China Meteorological Administration (CMA). The primary focus of the workshop is to further develop the skills and knowledge of active PMOs who may be relatively new to the role or who could benefit from some further guidance (intermediate level). [Annex I](#) outlines the background, rationale and major aims of the workshop.

At the 19th Congress of WMO, Members requested that ocean observations be integrated into the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON). PMOs will play a role in implementing this. As a member interested in participating in GOOS activities, you are invited to nominate one or more participants to attend this workshop using the Nomination/Registration Form provided in [Annex II](#). The workshop will be conducted in English only. General information about the workshop, the programme, and local information, including accommodation, will be made available in due course through the [GOOS website](#).

[General Regulation 31](#) (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)) states that: "Expenses of attendance of members of subsidiary bodies of constituent and additional bodies at sessions of these bodies shall normally be borne by the Members or the international organization to which those members belong." I thus very much hope that you will be able to arrange funding for the attendance of your representative from national sources. If, however, this is not possible, WMO will then consider, upon request, the possibility of providing funding support for a limited number of the nominated experts from developing countries to cover travel costs (lowest airfare available locally) and/or a subsistence allowance.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO from coastal nations (limited distribution)

cc: Chair of SOT: Mr Joel Cabrie; Vice chair of SOT: Mr Zhaobin Sun;
Chairs of VOS: Ms Jacqueline Sugier and Mr Henry Kleta

A selection committee will be established to identify the most suitable candidates from all nominations received by the application deadline for this intermediate-level workshop. The committee will convene shortly thereafter and will inform selected candidates accordingly.

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

Non-staff members of WMO who are authorized to travel at the Organization's expense and/or who are receiving a DSA from WMO must ensure they are fully responsible for expenses incurred in the event of death, illness or injury during official travel and attendance at meetings on behalf of the Organization. They are, therefore, fully responsible for arranging life, health, and accident, as well as any other forms of insurance with an adequate level of coverage for the duration of such meetings and events.

WMO liability is limited to the performance of services or attendance at a meeting on behalf of the Organization, is covered by an injury and illness benefit insurance which provides limited coverage for medical, emergency, and supplementary official travel expenses.

I would appreciate if you could kindly provide the WMO Secretariat (cgallage@wmo.int) as soon as possible but preferably **not later than 10 May 2026**, with nominations of experts from your country to attend the Workshop, by completing the Nomination/Registration Form, provided in [Annex II](#) (one form for each nominated expert) indicating whether any financial assistance will be required for travel and/or per diem.

We look forward to your favourable response and to your active participation in GOOS activities, and particularly those of the Ship Observations Team.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Ko Barrett
for the Secretary-General

**Eighth Port Meteorological Officers Workshop (PMO-8)
(Shanghai, China, 22-24 September 2026)**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

WMO maintains an international network of Port Meteorological Officers (PMO) as a liaison between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and the maritime industry on weather and related maritime safety issues, and to recruit vessels for the Voluntary Observing Ship scheme (VOS).

The role of PMOs is a very important one, and the efficiency of the voluntary system of ships' observations often depends on the initiative displayed by these officers. For example, PMOs play a key role in the day-to-day operations of the VOS scheme at a national level through:

- (i) ship recruitment;
- (ii) training provided to marine observers on VOS;
- (iii) checking and calibrating the instruments;
- (iv) collecting metadata and delayed mode data (e.g. from e-logbooks);
- (v) advising or assisting in meteorological matters upon request by the master of any ship; and
- (vi) providing feedback to the master of the ship on data quality and use.

WMO regularly organizes International Port Meteorological Officers workshops to make sure that the standard procedures proposed by WMO are followed throughout the entire VOS fleet in every country, and the data produced are homogenous and comply with WMO standards.

Major aims for the Eighth International PMO Workshop will be to further develop the skills and knowledge of active PMOs who may be relatively new to the role. The goal of the workshop will be to promote global standards of service for the VOS scheme through training on endorsed best practices that are relevant to the role of a PMO.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to develop capabilities and form relationships in a role which relies heavily on international cooperation and is becoming more complex, requiring new computer and other IT-related skills. It will also deal with deploying drifters and floats, using e-logbooks, retrieving delayed mode data, installing ship-based sensors and weather stations and providing information on marine meteorological services to shipping companies and port authorities.

There is a demand from developing countries to expand ocean observing programmes. Programmes relying on ships-of-opportunity are quite cost-effective and can realistically be supported by those countries. The training provided at the workshop will assist those countries in this regard. In addition, developing countries also have research vessels that can be used for the deployment and servicing of ocean instruments, including tropical moorings. This will be an opportunity to build partnerships between developed countries who contribute expertise on ocean observing programme management and data use and developing countries that have valuable ship logistical resources.

**Eighth Port Meteorological Officers Workshop (PMO-8)
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NOMINATION/REGISTRATION FORM

The Government of _____ proposes the nomination of the following expert to participate in the 8th PMO Workshop.

Family name		Dr/Mr/Ms
First name		
Date of birth		
Job title		
Address		
Tel. Number(s)		
Email(s)		
Job responsibilities:		
Are support services provided for:	• VOS and ship recruitment?	
	• Ocean observing programme support?	
	• Marine services?	
	• Maritime Safety Information?	
WMO financial assistance is requested for:	• Travel? • Per diem?	

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY THE EXPERT
NOMINATED FOR THE TRAINING WORKSHOP**

1. What do you expect from this workshop?
2. In your view, what would make the workshop successful?
3. Do you have any questions or concerns that could be addressed prior to the workshop?

4. Other comments or remarks
5. Does your organisation have a national VOS programme? Yes/No

**PLEASE NOTE:
ONLY NOMINATION FORMS SIGNED BY THE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE(PR) OF YOUR COUNTRY/TERRITORY
WITH WMO WILL BE CONSIDERED.**

Name of the Permanent Representative with WMO			
Date			Signature of the Permanent Representative with WMO

Please return the completed form with PR signature **before 10 May 2026** by email to Ms Champika Gallage (cgallage@wmo.int)
