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29 July 2026

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: (1) Fifteenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training, from 7 to 9 December 2026

(2) Fourth Meeting of the Consortium of WMO Education and Training Collaborating Partners, from 10 to 11 December 2026

(3) Meeting of Directors of WMO Regional Training Centres, 11 December 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

The ability of WMO Members to deliver high-quality weather, climate, water and related environmental services depends fundamentally on the knowledge, skills and competencies of their workforce. Scientific and technological advances, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, integrated Earth system approaches and rising societal expectations are transforming the work of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). As workforce requirements continue to evolve, sustained investment in education, training and workforce development are essential to ensure that Members are equipped to meet current and future challenges.

Against this background, I am pleased to inform you that the fifteenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training (**SYMET-15**) will be held from 7 to 9 December 2026 at the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST), Nanjing, China, in a hybrid format. SYMET-15 will form part of an integrated week of events that will also include the fourth Plenary Meeting of the Consortium of WMO Education and Training Collaborating Partners (**CONNECT-4**), on 10 and 11 December 2026, and the Meeting of Directors of WMO Regional Training Centres (**RTCs**), on the afternoon of 11 December 2026. Together, these three events will constitute the Joint Event.

Under the theme **"Transforming Education and Training to Build Workforces for Future-Ready Weather, Climate and Water Services"**, SYMET-15 will bring together representatives of NMHSs, WMO RTCs, universities, education and training institutions, development partners, international organizations and other stakeholders. The Symposium will provide a platform to exchange knowledge and experiences, identify emerging priorities, showcase innovative practices, and strengthen collaboration across the global education and training community, in support of future-ready weather, climate, water and related environmental services.

For the first time, SYMET will form part of an integrated week of events dedicated to education, training and workforce development across the WMO community. The Joint Event will provide a strategic forum to examine how education, training and workforce development can evolve to prepare future-ready workforces for the changing needs of WMO Members. It will consider how scientific, technological, organizational and societal developments are reshaping workforce requirements within NMHSs and how education and training can respond by developing the capabilities, competencies and leadership needed for the future.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

Discussions will consider innovative approaches to learning and continuing professional development, while examining how Members can strengthen workforce development as a strategic organizational function. The Joint Event will also explore how the global education and training community, through the WMO Global Campus initiative and enhanced collaboration and partnerships, can better support Members and translate shared priorities into coordinated and practical action.

The Joint Event programme is being developed under the guidance of the SYMET-15 International Advisory Committee (IAC) and the Management Group of the Consortium of WMO Education and Training Collaborating Partners (CONNECT-MG). It is expected to include keynote presentations, panel and plenary discussions, interactive sessions, working groups, poster and innovation showcases, and networking opportunities. The outcomes from SYMET-15 will provide the basis for collaboration discussions during CONNECT-4 and inform the consideration of implementation priorities by RTC Directors. The programme and further information will be made available on the [SYMET-15 website](#).

I will be grateful if you would give this Circular Letter the widest possible dissemination among relevant institutions and prospective participants in your country. I encourage you to support the participation of appropriate experts and their active engagement in the Joint Event. Detailed information on the provisional programme, registration, submission of poster abstracts and practical arrangements is included in the attached annex.

I am confident that the Joint Event will provide an important opportunity for Members and partners to help shape the future of education, training and workforce development, strengthen collaboration across the WMO Global Campus initiative and advance the development of future-ready workforces capable of delivering high-quality weather, climate, water and related environmental services.

I look forward to the active participation of your experts in the Joint Event.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General

**Fifteenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training
7–9 December 2026**

**Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Consortium of WMO Education and Training
Collaborating Partners
10–11 December 2026**

**Meeting of Directors of WMO Regional Training Centres
11 December 2026**

Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, Nanjing, China
7–11 December 2026 – Hybrid (in-person and online)

Information Note

1. Introduction

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organizes the Symposium on Education and Training (SYMET) approximately every four years as part of its Education and Training Programme. As the Organization's flagship global event on education, training and workforce development, SYMET brings together representatives of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), WMO Regional Training Centres (RTCs), universities, technical commissions, development partners, international organizations, and other education and training institutions from around the world. It provides a forum for exchanging experiences, identifying emerging priorities, showcasing innovative practices and strengthening collaboration across the global education and training community. Since the first Symposium in 1975, SYMET has played an important role in shaping WMO policies, initiatives and partnerships in education and training.

In 2026, the fifteenth SYMET session (SYMET-15) will, for the first time, form part of an integrated week of events that will also include the fourth Plenary Meeting of the Consortium of WMO Education and Training Collaborating Partners (CONNECT-4). This integrated approach is designed to connect the strategic dialogue of the Symposium with strengthened collaboration and coordinated action across the WMO Global Campus initiative.

The Joint Event will conclude with the Meeting of Directors of WMO RTCs, providing an opportunity to consider the outcomes and priorities emerging from SYMET-15 and CONNECT-4, and identify practical actions for the RTC network in support of Members' workforce development.

Together, these three events will provide a coherent progression, from understanding the future context and transforming education and training, to strengthening workforce development systems, enhancing collaboration across the global learning ecosystem, and advancing implementation through the RTC network.

2. The Joint Event: SYMET-15 / CONNECT-4 / Meeting of Directors of WMO RTCs

SYMET-15 will be held under the theme "***Transforming Education and Training to Build Workforces for Future-Ready Weather, Climate and Water Services***".

SYMET-15 will take place from 7 to 9 December 2026. It will be followed by CONNECT-4, to be held on 10 and 11 December 2026. Participation in both **SYMET-15 and CONNECT-4 are open to all interested participants.**

The afternoon of 11 December 2026 will be dedicated to the **Meeting of Directors of WMO RTCs, which is by invitation only**.

The Joint Event will be hosted by the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST), Nanjing, China, and conducted in a hybrid format, enabling both in-person and online participation from across the WMO community.

3. Goals

SYMET-15 aims to provide a global forum to examine how education, training and workforce development can evolve to prepare future-ready workforces that meet the changing needs of WMO Members. The Joint Event will be organized around the following strategic questions:

- How are scientific, technological, organizational, societal and economic developments reshaping weather, climate, water and related environmental services?
- How can education and training evolve to prepare current and future professionals to adapt and thrive in this changing environment?
- How can WMO Members strengthen workforce development as a strategic organizational function to support future-ready services?
- How can the global education and training community, through the WMO Global Campus initiative, collaborate more effectively to address shared challenges and priorities?
- How can the network of WMO RTCs collectively advance implementation of the priorities emerging from SYMET-15 and CONECT-4?

4. Provisional Programme

The provisional programme for the Joint Event is being developed by the WMO Secretariat under the guidance of the SYMET-15 International Advisory Committee (IAC) and the CONECT Management Group (CONECT-MG). It is expected to combine keynote presentations, plenary and panel discussions, interactive sessions, working groups, poster and innovation showcases, and networking opportunities.

The programme is designed to provide a coherent progression over the five days, moving from understanding the future context, to transforming education and training, strengthening workforce development systems, fostering collaboration across the WMO Global Campus, and advancing implementation through the network of WMO RTCs. The proposed daily themes are:

- Day 1 – The Future Context for Weather, Climate and Water Services
- Day 2 – Transforming Education and Training for Future-Ready Workforces
- Day 3 – Building Future-Ready Workforce Development Systems
- Day 4 – Strengthening Collaboration for a Future-Ready Global Learning Ecosystem
- Day 5 – From Strategy to Implementation: Advancing the RTC Network

The programme will continue to evolve as preparations progress. Updated information on the programme, registration and logistical arrangements will be made available on the [SYMET-15 website](#).

5. Registration and Participation

Participation in the Joint Event require completion of the relevant registration procedures. Depending on the nature of their participation, participants may also be requested to complete

one or more of the additional forms described below. Participants are kindly requested to observe the applicable submission deadlines to facilitate the timely processing of registrations, poster abstracts submissions, requests for financial support and visa documentation.

Action	Form / Contact	Deadline
Register for SYMET-15, CONECT-4, or the Meeting of RTC Directors (<i>by invitation only</i>) (required for both online and in-person participation)	Registration Form	30 November 2026
Submit a poster abstract (<i>optional</i>)	SYMET-15 Poster Abstract Submission Form	15 October 2026
Request an Invitation Verification Letter (TE Letter) (<i>for in-person participants only, if required</i>)	Registration Form	15 September 2026
Request financial support (<i>subject to the availability of very limited funds for a small number of invited contributors and representatives of RTCs</i>)	Email to: tra@wmo.int	15 September 2026

5.1 Registration

Participation in the Joint Event is subject to registration. Prospective participants are kindly requested to complete the Joint Event [Registration Form](#) by **30 November 2026**. Registration is free of charge for online and in-person participants.

5.2 Poster abstract submission

Participants are invited to contribute to SYMET-15 by submitting poster abstracts showcasing innovative practices, experiences, research, partnerships, educational resources, technologies and capacity development initiatives relevant to the Symposium theme and daily programme.

Poster sessions, offered in both in-person and virtual formats, will provide opportunities for participants to share their work, exchange knowledge and experiences, and engage in discussions with colleagues from across the global education and training community. Accepted posters will be displayed on the Symposium website throughout the event, and appropriate venue arrangements will be also made to facilitate interaction between poster authors and participants attending in person.

Participants wishing to propose a poster are kindly requested to submit their abstracts using the [SYMET-15 Poster Abstract Submission Form](#) no later than **15 October 2026**.

Authors will be notified of the outcome of the review process shortly after the submission deadline.

Please note: Submission of a poster abstract does not constitute registration for SYMET-15. All poster presenters must also complete the Joint Event [Registration Form](#).

5.3 Visa Invitation Verification Letter (TE Letter) for in-person participants only

Participants intending to attend the Joint Event in person are advised to determine whether they require a visa to enter China before making their travel arrangements. Information on China's visa policy, including visa-free arrangements, is available on its [national immigration administration website](#).

Participants requiring a visa should contact the Chinese Embassy or Consulate responsible for their place of application to confirm the applicable visa requirements, including whether an Invitation Verification Letter (TE Letter) issued by the Chinese authorities is required.

Participants requiring a TE Letter are kindly requested to indicate this in the Joint Event [Registration Form](#) and submit their registration no later than **15 September 2026**. As additional processing time is required to obtain the TE Letter, requests submitted after the deadline may not be accommodated.

Participants who do not require a TE Letter are nevertheless encouraged to allow sufficient time to complete any necessary travel formalities before departure.

5.4 Financial support

Participants planning to attend the Joint Event in person are expected to secure financial support for their participation from their respective institutions or other sources. Subject to the availability of very limited funds, however, WMO may consider providing financial assistance to a small number of invited contributors and RTC representatives. Requests for financial support should be submitted to WMO (tra@wmo.int) no later than **15 September 2026**. Requests received after this date may not be considered.

6. Further information

Further information, including updated programme details, registration, accommodation, visa information and other practical arrangements, will be made available on the Symposium webpage.

Enquiries concerning the Joint Event may be addressed to:

Division of Capacity Development (CD)

Department of Science, Services and Capacity Development (SSCD)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Email: tra@wmo.int
