



Our ref.: SG/CPA/WMD 2017

GENEVA, 12 December 2016

Subject: Celebration of World Meteorological Day 2017

Action required: (1) Appropriate arrangements to be made for the celebration
(2) Secretariat to be provided with reports and, if possible photographs, film footage and press feedback

Dear Sir/Madam,

Next March we will once again celebrate World Meteorological Day to commemorate the coming into force on 23 March 1950 of the Convention establishing WMO. The theme for 2017, as agreed by the Executive Council at its sixty-seventh session, will be "Understanding clouds."

Our 2017 theme recognizes the importance of clouds for observing and forecasting weather. It also highlights their importance for climate research, as clouds are one of the key uncertainties in the study of climate change: we need to better understand both how clouds affect the climate and how a changing climate will affect clouds. Clouds further demand our attention for the critical role they play in moving water around the world and shaping the global distribution of water resources. On the lighter side, World Meteorological Day 2017 will provide an opportunity to celebrate the inherent beauty and aesthetic appeal of clouds, which has inspired poets and artists around the world throughout history.

I am pleased to inform you that on World Meteorological Day we will launch the updated International Cloud Atlas, which will continue to serve as a standardized reference document for operational observation systems. Last updated in 1987, the Atlas will be published as a user-friendly, digital-based product for professional meteorologists, but it will also be of great interest to amateur enthusiasts, cloud spotters and the public at large.

The WMO Secretariat is preparing materials to assist you in organizing the World Meteorological Day celebration. The first product, which you will receive shortly by post, will be the 2017 WMO wall calendar with the winning cloud photographs from a WMO Facebook competition. The others will start being posted on the WMO website by early next year. Should you desire any assistance with accessing, using or adapting them, please contact our Communications and Public Affairs office at ipa@wmo.int.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6941)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)
Information and Public Affairs Focal Points of NMHSs)
Directors, United Nations Information Centres) (for information)
and/or UNDP Resident Coordinators)

We would welcome the opportunity to post and promote in advance of the Day the brochures, photos, videos and other materials that you may produce, as well as relevant press clippings. The Secretariat will also promote the Day and theme through social media and would welcome engaging with your communications team on this effort. Finally, after the event I invite you to inform me of how World Meteorological Day 2017 was celebrated in your country.

I wish you every success with your celebration of World Meteorological Day.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke followed by a smaller, more complex flourish.

(Petteri Taalas)
Secretary-General