



Our ref.: 32502/2018/OBS/OSD/MAR/SOT-10

7 December 2018

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Tenth session of the JCOMM Ship Observations Team (SOT-10)
(Hong Kong, China, 1-4 April 2019)

Action required: To inform the WMO Secretariat of representative(s) participation in
SOT-10, as soon as possible, but not later than **31 January 2019**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Ship Observations Team (SOT) was created to build on synergies between the three groups 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 working towards a full integration of ship-based observing systems on commercial and research vessels, within a multi-platform global ocean observing system.

Membership to the Team is open, and comprises operators of VOS, SOOP and ASAP networks, 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. 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 fifth Session (JCOMM-5, Geneva, Switzerland, 25-29 October 2017).

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 tenth session of the Ship Observations Team (SOT-10) will be held at the kind invitation of the Hong Kong Observatory, Hong Kong, China, from 1 to 4 April 2019¹.

¹ The SOT Executive Committee plans to meet prior to the meeting on 31 March 2019 afternoon and also after the meeting on 5 April 2019.

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

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives
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
Dr David Legler, JCOMM OCG Chair
Mr Darin Figurskey, Chairperson, SOT
Mr Henry Kleta, Chairperson, VOS Panel
Dr Rebecca Cowley, Chairperson, SOOPIP
Dr Rudolf Krockauer, Chairperson, ASAP Task Team

As a SOT Member, operating VOS, SOOP, and/or ASAP, you are cordially invited to nominate one or more representatives to participate in the tenth session of the Ship Observations Team (SOT-10). 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 information and accommodation information, as well as all related documents, will be posted, in due course, to the following Website: <http://www.jcomm.info/SOT-10>. Documentation will be available 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.

The SOT-10 will consist of a common session for the three programmes; the twelfth session of the VOS Panel (VOSP); and the fourteenth 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.

A special session of the meeting will provide Members/Member States with 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 8 minutes will be allowed for each presentation, with the exception of countries operating a SOOP, who may extend their National Report to a maximum of 12 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, Scientific Officer, Marine and Ocean Meteorological Observations and Data Management Unit, Observing and Information Systems Department), (cgallage@wmo.int) and SOT Technical Coordinator(ship-tc@jcommops.org), as soon as possible, but no later than **10 March 2019**.

I would greatly appreciate if you could notify the WMO Secretariat (cgallage@wmo.int), as soon as possible, but no later than **31 January 2019**, whether your representative(s) will be able to participate in the above-mentioned session. Kindly provide the full name and contact details of the participating representatives in your reply.

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 favourable response and to your continuous and active participation in JCOMM activities, and, in particular the Ship Observations Team.

Yours faithfully,



(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 on a 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 on 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 and the SOT Technical Coordinator at: ship-tc@jcommops.org

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