

**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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12 March 2020

Subject: 2020 Contribution to the AMDAR Operating Fund

Dear Sir/Madam,

You will recall that the Aircraft Meteorological Data Relay (AMDAR) observing system is now a fully operational component of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS). Following [Decision 37 \(EC-70\)](#) — Inter-programme Expert Team on Aircraft-based Observing Systems (*Executive Council: Abridged Final Report of the Seventieth Session* (WMO-No. 1218)), the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) Inter-Programme Expert Team on Aircraft-Based Observing Systems (IPET-ABO) has WMO programmatic responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and development of AMDAR and the Aircraft-based Observations Programme (ABOP). This team and its work programme and activities will continue to be supported by the AMDAR Operating Fund under agreed and approved Terms of Reference¹, up until the reorganization of WMO constituent bodies and the establishment of ABOP under the Infrastructure Commission takes effect.

A comprehensive strategy, workplan and budget² have been developed for ABOP that are based on the actions relevant to aircraft-based observations and AMDAR from the CBS Implementation Plan for Evolution of the Global Observing System (GOS) as a component of WIGOS.

A major development within the programme is the establishment of the collaborative arrangement between WMO and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) on the future operation of the AMDAR programme following [Resolution 39 \(Cg-18\)](#) — Establishment of collaboration between the International Air Transport Association and WMO on the development and operation of the Aircraft Meteorological Data Relay Programme (*World Meteorological Congress: Abridged Final Report of the Eighteenth Session* (WMO-No. 1236)).

Over 2019, ABOP coordinated and completed work towards the following activities and outcomes:

- a) Finalization of the Terms of Reference, Concept of Operations and Implementation Plan for the WMO-IATA Collaborative AMDAR Programme (WICAP) submitted to Cg-18 in June 2019;
- b) Established a position in the Secretariat to support the role of Oversight Planning and Coordination Team within the WICAP;
- c) Completion of a study on WMO AMDAR Programme Coverage Status and Potential Extension and the provision of an online support tool for AMDAR coverage analysis;

¹ <https://wmoomm.sharepoint.com/sites/wmocpdb/>

² <https://community.wmo.int/activity-areas/aircraft-based-observations/aircraft-based-observations-work-program>

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

cc: President of the Infrastructure Commission

- d) Conducted a Regional Workshop on WICAP for RA V and coordinated the meeting of the RA V Task Team on Aircraft-based Observations;
- e) Coordinated the holding of the Workshop on the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) for Operational Meteorology, 2–4 July 2019, Toulouse, France; and
- f) Completed a pilot project to derive aircraft-based observations over the South-west Pacific and the Caribbean and continued to support derivation of supplementary AMDAR data over Africa.

In line with [Resolution 22 \(Cg-17\)](#) — Global Observing System (*Abridged Final Report of the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress* (WMO-No. 1157)), you are invited to make a contribution to the AMDAR Trust Fund in 2020 to support technical developments and capacity-building related to the following very important ongoing activities associated with the Aircraft-based Observations Programme:

- a) Consultancy for further development and technical coordination supporting the implementation of the WMO-IATA Collaborative AMDAR Programme;
- b) Consultancy and support for aircraft-based observations outreach and capacity development activities, including a major IATA and WMO conference on aircraft-based observations (October 2020);
- c) Provision of aircraft-based observations over upper-air data sparse areas, including Africa and the tropics;
- d) Attendance at aviation standards forums and other meetings;
- e) Development of the aircraft-based observations metadata repository within Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review (OSCAR)/Surface; and
- f) Holding of technical workshops, seminars and meetings supporting national and regional AMDAR development.

Alternatively, you may wish to consider providing support for specific ongoing activities in the Aircraft-based Observations work programme.

I would also request that you please review the status of your organization's WMO Focal Point on AMDAR and advise of any changes in this regard. The current list of national focal points is available from the WMO Community Platform here:

<https://community.wmo.int/governance/commission-membership>

I would be most grateful for an indication of whether your country will contribute to the AMDAR Trust Fund for the period 2020 in support of Aircraft-based Observations Programme activities and related projects and initiatives. In the affirmative, an early indication of the amount that you may be able to contribute to the AMDAR Trust Fund or other support that you are prepared to offer, would also be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



(W. Zhang)

for the Secretary-General