



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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Annexes: 4

Subject: (1) The Fourteenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training (SYMET-14), Online, 22–25 November 2021
 (2) Quadrennial Meeting of Directors of WMO Regional Training Centres (RTCs), Online, 26 November 2021

Action required: For information and distribution to appropriate institutions and for registration **not later than 17 November 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a part of its Education and Training Programme, once every four years, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organizes a worldwide Symposium on Education and Training (SYMET), which is normally attended by educational and training experts from WMO Regional Training Centres (RTCs), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), development partners and other institutes involved in meteorological, hydrological and climatological education and training.

The WMO education and training community are tasked to improve the skills, knowledge and working methods of personnel who, through improved observing and data processing networks and better use of meteorological and hydrological information and data, are required to produce forecasts and services that will result in a greater safety of life and property and contribute to sustainable socio-economic development. Consequently, the ultimate aim of SYMET is to assist the international community as a whole, in particular the NMHSs, to meet current meteorological and hydrological education and training challenges and those that are foreseen to arise over the next five to ten years.

The general goals of SYMETs are to stimulate and facilitate the development of a vibrant and robust education and training capacity within the worldwide meteorological and hydrological community, and to address the key challenges faced by this community for which education and training play a critical role. One of these key challenges is the rapid pace and impacts of change, and how this drives education and training needs and processes.

At the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress, [Resolution 71 \(Cg-18\)](#) - The Education and Training Programme and Delivery Mechanism, reemphasized the importance of education and training in meeting the capacity development strategic objective of the WMO Strategic Plan, and the approved WMO Operation Plan for 2021 calls for hosting the Fourteenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training (SYMET-14) as a way of helping the providers of education and training of WMO Members to work together to meet the human resource capacity development needs required to achieve the WMO goals and objectives. Therefore, I am pleased to inform you that SYMET-14 will be held from Monday 22 November to Thursday 25 November 2021, and will be conducted entirely online. The main theme of SYMET-14 is "Education and Training in a Period of Rapid Change".

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

The world has recently experienced dramatic and rapid shifts in our ways of living, interacting, and educating as we have all adjusted to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has accelerated changes to the delivery of meteorological, hydrological and climate training, leading to the requirement of new delivery modes, new forms of instructional media and new pedagogical approaches. But rapid change has been recognized as the new normal for much longer, and in many more ways than those resulting from the pandemic. Technological innovations and social evolution continue to change our lives and work, society expects greater accuracy in and increased usability of weather and climate predictions, climate change has accelerated and demands immediate action, professions are becoming increasingly interdisciplinary, research uncovers new opportunities each year for service improvements, and globalization means that we all interact and rely on each other more than ever. With these rapid changes in mind, the goals of the symposium are to:

- Identify the key issues for international, regional, and national actions in future education and training, particularly in response to the rapid changes we are experiencing
- Apprise WMO RTC's and training partners of the goals and status of the WMO strategic plan and programmes
- Further the work of the WMO Global Campus initiative to aid Members in responding to needs for developing and delivering education and training to meet growing and evolving needs
- Recommend collaborative platforms for coordination of education and training activities between stakeholders

The draft symposium Programme Outline and themes ([Annex I](#)) and the Provisional Agenda for SYMET-14 ([Annex II](#)), which have been proposed after consultation with the International Advisory Committee (IAC), illustrate the key areas for discussion. Several prominent experts are being invited to present keynote addresses. A panel session and working group discussions (including core-session groups and regional groups in extended sessions at convenient times) will allow as many participants as possible to share their thoughts on critical issues. The outputs of the working group discussions will lead to the SYMET-14 Statement, as well as to action plans for follow-up after the symposium. Several virtual poster sessions will provide all participants the opportunity to share their own challenges and strategies for confronting rapid change and discuss these with participants. Plenary presentations will be accompanied by simultaneous interpretation to six official WMO languages, but English will be the working language in many breakout group interactions. Due to the limited time available for live discussion during the symposium, discussions on the symposium website and the poster session site will offer additional venues for sharing ideas and discussing them.

The [SYMET-14 website](#) has an online registration form (see [Annex III](#) for instructions) and a poster abstract submission form (see [Annex IV](#) for instructions) and several resources available, but these will be increased as the symposium approaches, including updated information on the SYMET-14 programme and meeting logistics.

I also take this opportunity to inform you that in conjunction with SYMET-14, a one-day WMO RTC Directors Meeting will be held on 26 November 2021. This meeting will focus on the business of RTCs, development goals specific to the WMO RTC network, and other work and decisions for increasing the visibility and capacity of this network. The RTC Directors are expected to be key participants in SYMET-14 as well. This meeting will be designed to build upon the results of SYMET-14 by developing actions specifically for the RTC network. Attendance at the WMO RTC Directors meeting can also include non-RTC participants of SYMET-14.

I should be grateful if you could give this symposium the widest possible publicity to eligible participants in your country. Representatives of all education and training institutions of WMO Members are free to contribute and benefit from the SYMET-14. However, participants should have the support of their permanent representatives and institutional directors before making commitments to the action plans that result from the working groups during the symposium. Therefore, participation in those working groups should be allocated appropriately by each institution.

Finally, I invite all prospective participants to register to attend the SYMET-14 by submitting the online registration form (see [Annex III](#)) not later than **17 November 2021**.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General

Fourteenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training (SYMET-14)
Education and Training in a Period of Rapid Change
(Online, 22–25 November 2021)

Programme Outline

The provisional agenda calls for an approximate start and closing times from 1045 to 1615 UTC every day. Regional working group discussions will be held outside core hours, one pre-session and one post-session, to allow for time zone and language differences. Simultaneous interpretation into six WMO official languages will be provided during the plenary sessions.

General Schedule:

- Day 1: Keynote Addresses and WMO Global Campus Panel Session
- Day 2: Thematic Working Group discussions, Western Regional Working Group discussion
- Day 3: Eastern Regional Working Group discussion, and reports to plenary of all working groups
- Day 4: Development of the SYMET-14 Statement, discussion and approval

All days will also contain Poster Sessions.

Keynote Addresses:

- Keynote 1: *Preparing the Earth System Scientist of 2040*
Dr Louis Uccellini, Permanent Representative of United States
- Keynote 2: *The increasing importance of education and training in promoting the paradigm shift to multi-hazard early warning systems for NMHSs*
Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati, Permanent Representative of Indonesia
- Keynote 3: *A Look at the Future of International Meteorological and Hydrological Education*
Acad. Markku Kulmala, University of Helsinki
- Keynote 4: *Preparing for the rapid changes required in the operations of hydrological and climate services*
Prof. Komi Sélom Klassou, Former Prime-Minister of Togo

Global Campus Panel Session:

WMO Global Campus: Next Collaborative Directions, Dr Andrew Charlton-Perez (University of Reading), Dottoressa Marina Baldi (IBE, RTC Italy), Marínés Campos (SMN, RTC Argentina), Prof. Tingua Ma (NUIST, RTC China)

Working Group Themes:

Note: Working language for these groups will be English only during the plenary. Regional working groups are also planned, and can be conducted in other languages, but without simultaneous translation.

1. Securing institutional commitment to share learning resources;
 2. Newly proposed WMO ETR Education and Training Board;
 3. Microcredentials and credit transfer, how could we proceed;
 4. Considering new pedagogical approaches and assessment methods, including the future uses of blended learning;
 5. Technological barriers to online learning, and using partnerships between online education providers to overcome them;
 6. Supporting the lifecycle of professionals: From the decision to enter the discipline, to continuous learning, to maintaining job satisfaction and competency;
 7. Where are the content area expertise gaps within our academic teaching staff members? How do we identify and fill these?
 8. Review and input on the new Capacity Development Strategy draft developed by the Capacity Development Panel;
 9. How do we identify the critical regional needs for the professional development of operational staff? How do we ensure that appropriately qualified participants who need to apply the planned training attend our training events?
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Fourteenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training (SYMET-14)

Education and Training in a Period of Rapid Change

(Online, 22–25 November 2021)

Provisional Agenda for SYMET-14

Monday, 22 November 2021		
1100 – 1130 UTC	Day 1 – Welcome remarks	
1130 – 1200 UTC	Opening Keynote 1	Preparing the Earth System Scientist of 2040 Dr Louis Uccellini, Permanent Representative of United States
1200 – 1230 UTC	Keynote 2	The increasing importance of education and training in promoting the paradigm shift to multi-hazard early warning systems for NMHSs Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati, Permanent Representative of Indonesia
1230 – 1300 UTC	Keynote 3	A Look at the Future of International Meteorological and Hydrological Education Acad. Markku Kulmala, University of Helsinki
1300 – 1430 UTC	Poster Session 1	
1430 – 1500 UTC	Keynote 4	Preparing for the rapid changes required in the operations of hydrological and climate services Prof. Komi Sélom Klassou, Former Prime-Minister of Togo
1500 – 1600 UTC	WMO Global Campus Panel Session	WMO Global Campus: Next Collaborative Directions
1600 – 1615 UTC	Closing of Day 1	

Tuesday, 23 November 2021

1045 – 1100 UTC	Day 2 – Welcome	
1100 – 1230 UTC	Thematic working group discussions	First 15–20 minutes: Assigning rapporteur, setting discussion topics. Produce recommendations for plenary
1230 – 1330 UTC	Poster Session 2	
1330 – 1500 UTC	Thematic working group discussions	Identification of actions and recommendations
1500 – 1515 UTC	Closing of Day 2	
1545 – 1800 UTC	Regional working groups Western time zone groups	Identification of actions and recommendations

Wednesday, 24 November 2021

0800 – 1000 UTC	Regional working groups Eastern time zone groups	Identification of actions and recommendations
1045 – 1100 UTC	Day 3 – Welcome	
1100 – 1230 UTC	Plenary reports from thematic working groups	Report on identified of actions and recommendations
1230 – 1400 UTC	Poster Session 3	
1400 – 1530 UTC	Plenary reports from regional working groups	Report on identified of actions and recommendations
1530 – 1545 UTC	Closing of Day 3	

Thursday, 25 November 2021

1045 – 1100 UTC	Day 4 – Welcome	
1100 – 1300 UTC	Poster Session 4	Concurrent sessions
	Develop Draft of Symposium Statement by assigned working group	
1300 – 1400 UTC	Discussion of Symposium Statement	Final considerations and comments on Symposium Statement
1400 – 1530 UTC	Final approval of Symposium Statement	Identification of leads for actions and follow-up timetable
1530 – 1600 UTC	Closing remarks	

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

[Register Now](#)

Ref.: 24317/2021-17 MS/ETR

Who should attend SYMET-14?

Representatives of all education and training institutions of WMO Members are invited to contribute and benefit from the SYMET-14. Additionally, stakeholders of capacity development initiatives and goals involving education and training should also consider attending.

What is required of participants?

Participating in the SYMET-14 will include attending the keynote addresses and the question and answer periods, as well as the WMO Global Campus panel session discussion. Moreover, contributing to thematic and regional working group discussions and planning is a key part of achieving the desired SYMET-14 outcomes.

However, participants in the working groups should have the support of their permanent representatives and institutional directors before making commitments to the action plans that result from the working groups. Therefore, participation in those working groups should be allocated appropriately by each institution. Very large working groups could limit their productivity.

Participants should also be prepared to respond to the SYMET-14 Statement, which will be developed by an assigned working group made up of the symposium chairs and members of the International Advisory Committee (IAC), as well as other invited members. The statement will be based on discussions that take place during the event, and participants will ultimately approve the statement after comments and suggestions.

Participants should also contribute to the poster sessions either as contributors or by visiting and discussing presented posters (see [Annex IV](#)).

How to Register for the SYMET-14 (22–25 November 2021)

Participants will need to register for SYMET-14 in order to receive important follow-up communications, to access the symposium resources, and to participate in both live and asynchronous interactions.

Please visit [the SYMET-14 website](#) to complete and submit the registration form not later than **17 November 2021**.

How to Register for the Quadrennial Meeting of Directors of WMO Regional Training Centres (26 November 2021)

Those planning to attend the Meeting of Directors of WMO RTCs on 26 November 2021 will also be required to respond to an additional question included in the SYMET-14 registration. You need not be a Director of a WMO RTC to attend if the themes of the meeting meet your interests and you are already a SYMET-14 participant. Attendance at the WMO RTC Directors meeting can also include non-RTC participants of SYMET-14.

Note: Please contact tra@wmo.int for any clarifications needed.

POSTER SUBMISSION

All participating institutions are invited to contribute to SYMET-14 by submitting posters about local challenges and accomplishments. Posters should be proposed and prepared bearing in mind the SYMET-14 theme: *Education and Training in a Period of Rapid Change*, or the Working Group Themes, as listed in [Annex I](#).

Four virtual poster sessions of approximately 1.5 hours will provide all participants the opportunity to share and discuss their posters with the participants. WMO ETR is pursuing the opportunities for virtual poster sessions that allow the use of both live chat and asynchronous discussion forums, as well as use of recorded video presentations. Together these will allow significant interaction with poster contributors. Posters will also be available for viewing and commenting outside these dedicated times, preserved on the symposium website and cited in the proceedings.

Simultaneous translation will not be provided during the poster sessions.

Please visit [the SYMET-14 website](#) to make your proposed abstract submission, including a short abstract and title. The **deadline for the abstract submission is 5 November 2021**. Each candidate will be informed shortly after the submission of a proposal as to whether the poster has been accepted.

Please Note: Submission of a poster proposal is not a substitute for registration to the SYMET-14, which is also required (see [Annex III](#)).

Note: Please contact tra@wmo.int for any clarifications needed.