



World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Weather • Climate • Water  
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Our ref.: OBS/OSD/IMO/AWS\_Guidance

GENEVA, 23 April 2015

Subject: Survey on Member requirements for WMO guidance material on transitioning from manual surface observations to the use of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS)

Action required: To complete an online survey of requirements for WMO guidance material on transitioning from manual to automated surface observations

Dear Sir/Madam,

Over the last few decades, the surface observing programmes of WMO's Members, which comprise a significant component of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System, have been progressively transitioning away from being based on manual observations made by meteorological observers using simple instrumentation, to being based on networks of more complex Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) making observations automatically. Accompanying this gradual shift from the use of manual to automated technologies has been an increasing volume of requests from WMO Members for improved WMO guidance on best practice for performing the transition to, and for subsequent sustainable operation of, these AWS technologies.

A great deal of guidance material is already available in existing WMO publications such as the Guide to Meteorological Instruments and Methods of Observation (WMO No. 8, CIMO Guide) and the Guide to the Global Observing System (WMO No. 488). However, WMO is responding to the call from its Members to provide more. As part of the implementation of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System, additional guidance material will be prepared to assist Members in transitioning to and sustainably operating AWS networks, but first I would welcome your input on what is most needed.

An online survey has been prepared for this purpose, and can be accessed on-line at: <https://de.surveymonkey.com/r/3T7ZDHT>

For those who have already gone through the automation process, the survey includes an opportunity to indicate such experience and to advise of any information that could be shared in this regard, and contributions that could be made to the development of the guidance material.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for completion of the survey by one of your experts, so that the new guidance material can be tailored to the needs of all WMO Members.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Lengoasa', written over a horizontal line.

(J. Lengoasa)  
for the Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6843)