

# UNIVERSITY CORPORATION FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH • UCAR OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training

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23 September 2003

Professor G.O.P. Obasi  
Secretary-General  
World Meteorological Organization  
7 Bis Avenue de la Paix, Case Postale No. 2300  
CH-1211 Geneva 2 Switzerland

Dear Professor Obasi,

The MeteForum project is a UCAR sponsored effort to work with the five RMTCs in RA III and RA IV. The goal of the program is to enhance the capabilities of the RTMCs through improved access to the Internet and to real-time meteorological data. The project is a joint effort between two UCAR projects, the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training (COMET®) and Unidata. We have had some significant successes in the last year:

The RTMC in Belem, Brazil is able to receive free real-time data via the Internet using the "Local Data Manager" software package installed by Unidata. This major effort by Unidata now provides free real-time data to several universities in Brazil, and will allow Unidata to distribute free real-time data to other universities in South America. Unidata is funded by the United States' National Science Foundation (NSF).

The RTMC at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) has received two grants through UCAR/MeteForum. The first grant provided a new network router while the second with additional funding from the NSF provided enhanced networking capabilities and a video projector. Using data from the Belem, Brazil installation, we believe that UBA will soon be able to access and utilize the Internet to receive real-time data, and access distance learning materials. We are also working to fund some translations of COMET distance learning materials from English to Spanish using a small grant from the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS).

The RTMC at the University of Costa Rica has this month received funding from MeteForum, the NWS, and the Meteorological Service of Canada (MSC) to install a satellite receiver to ingest real-time meteorological data. Dr. Vilma Castro

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University of Arizona • Arizona State University • California Institute of Technology • University of California, Davis • University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles • University of Chicago • Colorado State University • University of Colorado • Cornell University  
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Plymouth State College • Rhodes College • San Francisco State University • San Jose State University • South Dakota School of Mines and  
Technology • St. Cloud State University • State University of New York at Brockport • U.S. Naval Academy

is working closely with us to get this system installed which will provide an enhanced source of real-time data for teaching and research. Dr Castro is also working with us to develop the first MeteoForum "webcast" covering the weather in Costa Rica.

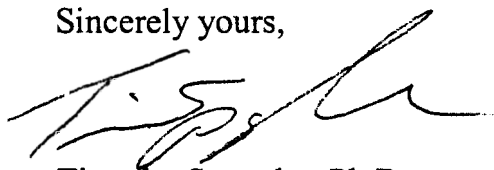
We have begun discussions with the RMTC in Caracas, Venezuela, about how we can work to enhance their capabilities. A meeting was held in Boulder, Colorado, with the RMTC Director, Abraham Salecedo, and with Professor Marco Polo Rivero, Director of the Civil Engineering School at the Central University of Venezuela.

We have offered to work with the RMTC in Barbados and will visit their facility when an appropriate meeting date can be arranged.

The MeteoForum project was begun 20 months ago with a meeting in Orlando, Florida, during the American Meteorological Society's (AMS) annual meeting. This meeting was attended by a representative from all five RTMCs, and the WMO was a co-sponsor providing some local expenses for the directors. Dr. Necco attended the meeting on behalf of the WMO.

We are planning a second meeting of the MeteoForum project 11 January 2004, in Seattle, Washington, again during the AMS annual meeting. We intend to invite one representative from each RMTC and provide airfare to Seattle. Could you please consider supporting this meeting in the same way as the Orlando meeting by providing local support for the representatives and also support one WMO Secretariat representative? The RMTC representatives will attend an all day MeteoForum meeting on Sunday 11 January 2004, and I hope they will stay for the following two days in order to attend the AMS Educational Symposium, departing then on 14 January 2004. We will cover any local expenses that are outstanding beyond what WMO is able to provide.

Sincerely yours,



Timothy Spangler, Ph.D.

Director

Cooperative Program for Operational  
Meteorology, Education and Training

cc Kaliba Konare, WMO  
Ion Draghici, WMO