

Key Messages

High-Level Forum of the OCP for Regional Associations II & V

Opportunities:

1. The booming private sector, while presenting challenges to the traditional meteorological community, also brings new opportunities to it at the same time.
2. There are great opportunities for public private collaboration and partnership in the modernization of NMHS funded by various sources, including those funded by donors. But there are also challenges or gaps, such as lack of masterplan for the development of meteorological service, compatibility of systems obtained under different projects, unsustainable funding and increasing needs of training for maintenance of infrastructure, and renewal of system license, etc.
3. Through improved engagement with private sector and other public sectors, the NMHSs will be able to enhance efficiency in decision-making services through easier access to data collected and generated by other government departments, ministries and private companies. The associated benefits will include the strengthened agility and responsiveness of NMHSs to meet changing needs, and more efficient use of public funding through reduction in repetition of tasks associated with data collection and management.
4. Improved PPE like improve access to public data will increase business opportunities to commercial sector. PPE can also help to enhance transparency in government functioning and increase optimization of public spending .
5. Efficient PPE can bring multiple benefits: timely dissemination of more accurate information and warnings, increasing accuracy of data and information with cutting edge, new added value generated from the meteorological information.

Challenges:

1. Private sector conducts commercial service with the data exchanged for free by NMHS but does not share revenue and information accordingly is still a concern to NMHSs in some countries. The misinformation of weather and climate created and disseminated by some private channels and social media sometimes end up as problems or public dissatisfaction with NMHSs. The trust deficit that comes along will hinder the free data policy and PPE.
2. The meteorological legislation, categorization of the products and socio-economic benefits assessment to value the meteorological products, and development of fit-for-purpose business models are among the key challenges in the developing countries. Regional and international cooperation and assistance is required to fill the relevant capacity gaps.
3. To private sector, one challenge is the lack of predictability of government policy or plan. Predictability, such as steady legislation and policy stability, longer term contracting vehicles will help all involved - (1) the met community could count on companies for continuous and reliable delivery of commercial data and (2) companies could appropriately do operational planning to support the longer term plan and ensure seamless delivery to the community.
4. A key challenge faced by NMHSs of many countries in PPE is how to ensure reciprocal partnership, and mutually beneficial collaborative activities.

Legal framework and other enabling strategies:

1. Legislation is needed for the development of meteorological service, but there is no one-size-fit-all solution. The capabilities and services of the private sector are constantly evolving, and therefore, the suitable business model for the meteorological services is also changing. External expertise from other

stakeholders than NMHSs should be consulted in modifying the relevant legislation and also in updating business model, in order to respond to rapidly changing environment. In the face of increasing risks of meteorological hazards due to climate change, legal provision for the NMHSs' authoritative status of warning services is becoming even more important for NMHSs to fulfill its mandate to protect lives and properties.

2. It is important to have clear vision and mission statements of an NMHS. While roles of Director-General of an NMHS as a leader in the meteorological field is becoming more important, it's also indispensable for all employees of the NMHS to have a shared vision which encompasses the development of meteorological services as a whole, including those by private sector.
3. Quality and sustainable public infrastructure and free and unrestricted data are fundamental for the growth of private meteorological services. However, this requires the government fully funds an NMHS for its public services. To that end, an NMHS should continue to provide best-quality public services, meeting user needs. Users can recognize and value the public infrastructure/services, encouraging the government to fully fund the NMHS.
4. It's necessary for the NMHS to attract and retain a diverse and talented workforce with a variety of expertise, not limited to meteorology.
5. An important enabler of PPE is the clearly defined roles and responsibilities of public and private sectors based on the mutual trust. It is important for NMHSs to clarify their most important core functions and necessary expertise. Every effort should be made to fulfill this mandate, meeting the expectations of the people.
6. An environment enabling the growth of private weather services, such as public basic observation infrastructure and free and unrestricted data, can be created if the NMHS gains public trust by fulfilling its mandate and is allocated necessary resources.
7. Industrial association can play a bridging role in PPE at national level, functioning as a platform to facilitate information exchange,

collaboration on research, trading of meteorological data, and private companies' bidding for government sponsored projects.