

Q&A for Webinar on WMO's PPE Initiative & OCP - Held on October 8, 2020 at 12:00 UTC & 8:00 AM New York Time

#	Question/Answer	Asker Name
1	Will you be sharing the presentations after the webinar?	Brian Day
	Yes. They will be uploaded to the IFMS website.	
2	What are the challenges that COVID-19 may have on the PPE strategy?	Liz Bentley
	During COVID-19 outbreak period, it would be difficult to organize and hold structured dialogues (not online) among stakeholders from all sectors, which dialogues are very important to build trust and to explore new partnerships that will leverage resources of other sectors. Also, economic impacts to private sector could hamper multisectoral collaboration. Still, there are a lot of things we can do and WMO will continue facilitating Public-Private Engagement.	
3	Would appreciate if the presentation can be shared.	Andi Eka SAKYA
	Yes. They will be uploaded to the IFMS website.	
4	I suspect there is the possibility of misunderstanding of what the phrase "the authoritative voice of NMHS's" means and what it doesn't mean. For example, presumably it doesn't mean that only NMHS's can provide high quality weather information? Do the panellists have a comment on this?	Alan Thorpe
	The current situation in the majority of the WMO Members is that the NMHS is the agency mandated with issuance of warnings for hydrometeorological hazards. In addition, the national DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) arrangements include different public and non-public entities, each one with defined mandates and responsibility, with the understanding that the success of the DRR actions (from preparedness and prevention to response) depends on the strong interaction between these agencies with a non-ambiguous information flow for decision-making. In this construct, the WMO position for the role of NMHSs is that they should provide authoritative information in support of DRR. This has been spelled out in <i>The Role and Operation of NMHSs – A Statement by WMO for Decision-Makers</i> adopted at Cg-17 in 2015, which includes a sentence “NMHSs are the official authoritative source, and in most countries, a single voice, on weather warnings in their respective countries, and, in many, they are also responsible for climate, hydrology, air quality, seismic and tsunami warnings and for space weather.” However, each Member State decides exactly how the DRR services are organized and the respective responsibilities. In some cases, other agencies are also engaged (e.g., in UK, the flood warnings are issued by the environmental agency) and, in any case, the coordination and cooperation between such bodies is of paramount importance. What we think should be avoided is to send to decision-making (independently) warning information from different sources which may create confusion in situations when decisions need to be taken under extreme time pressure. An important consideration in this discussion is what to do when the NMHS does not have the capacity to issue high-quality warning information. This is in the focus of the capacity development actions through	

	various development assistance, but since such actions usually take long time, it would be highly desirable to make temporary partnership arrangements, i.e., 'delegation of authority' which could be with other countries or with other entities, including from the private sector. In all such cases, it should be well understood that the ultimate responsibility for the effectiveness of the DRR actions is still with the government.	
5	p.s. in the USA I believe that the phrase "authoritative voice" cannot be used (by law).	Alan Thorpe
	That's true, the terminology varies from country to country, but the main responsibility of the NMHSs as the main providers of warning services within their portfolio of services is almost universal. E.g., NWS in USA has a clear responsibility assigned on warnings. In some countries where recently the NMHSs portfolio of services has been reduced and more space for services by private sector has been opened, the NMHSs still carry the main responsibility for 'official' or 'authoritative' public warnings (e.g., Germany, Netherlands and others).	
6	Kindly share the presentations since they can assist many NMHSs which intend to formulate legislative framework to operate as Agencies/Authorities...	Peter Masika
	Yes. They will be uploaded to the IFMS website.	
7	Can IFMS play a key role in framing the policy for the calibration of instruments for making measurement of a particular parameter in the global context? And can such calibrated instruments from various manufacturers become part of the global network on similar measurements? As this will play a key role in data sharing at global scale.	Narendra Singh
	The standard and recommended practices for calibration and maintenance of instruments have been established by the WMO for many decades (and before the WMO was established in 1950, this was done by the IMO). The main goal is the assurance of quality, traceability and interoperability. The Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observations (CIMO) has been the main body dealing with these standards, and since 2019, it is in the portfolio of the new WMO Infrastructure Commission (INFCOM). As part of the activities, international inter-comparison studies have been conducted for many types of instruments and the results from such studies have been published in WMO series of publications. IFMS can help by promoting these practices and enhance the compliance with them by the respective stakeholders.	
8	Hi Tatsuya, Seems to me that legislation could recognise the role of professional society in determining individual's credibility. Government might not be the best place to do that. May be relevant in particular to accreditation and licensing aspect of your talk?	Peter Degorski
	Hi, Peter. I understand what you mean. However, in some countries, professional societies or academic societies may not be able to handle licensing or accreditation especially because of its cost and human resources. This is	

	because, from my experience, at least a couple of permanent staff members must be hired for qualification-related jobs, such as (i) preparing questions for examination involving a large number of people who make questions and who mark examination papers, (ii) organizing training seminars and courses. I understand that US and UK Meteorological Society handles accreditation, while in my country, Japan, the Meteorological Society or Certified Weather Forecasters' Association are too small to handle licensing. The Japanese Meteorological Agency does recognize that the said Certified Weather Forecasters' Association of Japan has voluntarily held training courses for their original accreditation for Certified Weather Forecasters, but unfortunately not recognized by its legislation. (Please see some comments by Harinder Ahluwalia, President of IFMS below this Table).	
9	We have a following proposal: We are kindly asking WMO Secretariat to spread/share among WMO Members the examples of effective Public Private Partnership.	Mykola Kulbida
	Thank you so much for your proposal. WMO Secretariat has shared examples of effective Public-Private Engagement through its web site (https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/how-we-do-it/ppe/resources), its Newsletters, and Webinars and will enhance those activities. You can subscribe for the Newsletter from the above URL. Please take a look.	
10	is there any guidance/methodology for assessment of the current level of the national PPA Collaboration that would clearly define gaps and show the way forward?	Suzana Alcinova Monevska
	The latest Guidelines for Public-Private Engagement (edition 2020) adopted at the 72nd WMO's Executive Council will provide you viewpoints to assess current level of the national Public-Private-Academic collaboration. The Guidelines describe and explain evolving potential of the Public-Private Engagement, and outline and promote following basic principles aimed at maximizing the benefits of an inclusive weather enterprise approach. The Guidelines also urge WMO Members and their designated agencies such as NMHS to take national-level action in line with the above basic principles.	
11	Are there any good practices concerning PPE (Public-Private Engagement) to be shared with others?	Ammar Gaber
	WMO Secretariat has shared examples of effective Public-Private Engagement through its web site (https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/how-we-do-it/ppe/resources), its Newsletters, and Webinars and will enhance those activities. You can subscribe for the Newsletter from the above URL. Please take a look.	
12	Any consideration to include media communities within the PPA to bridge us in translating our highly eclectic and technical terminology and language into the one that can be easily understood by the society at large?	Andi Eka SAKYA
	It would be a nice idea to involve media communities in translating terminology, etc. in each country as a part of Public-Private Engagement. Please provide good practice to the WMO Secretariat.	

13	<p>Rephrasing the result of the GP-19, it was agreed that the development of PPE is in fact to give better result on bridging the gap by transforming the last resort in the first, including their training to embrace or adopt the new system, as well as putting community understanding or literacy as one of strategic indicators in measuring the success of project aid or KPI</p>	Andi Eka SAKYA
	Very good point!	
14	<p>Will you be sharing the presentation?</p>	Kyaw Moe Oo
	Yes. They will be uploaded to the IFMS website.	
15	<p>I would like to thank the organisers for bringing to us this important meeting. I really enjoyed the talks; however, the issue of data sharing has been always complicated. Again, there is cost sharing which was earlier difficult for most customers. Of course, now to my country, society has understood and it seems that number of customers has increased in the past three years. I wish if next meeting could include some presentations from NMHS who will share the experiences including their data policy?</p>	SARAH OSIMA
	That would be very helpful. In addition, we will be happy to share the progress in updating the WMO data policy (i.e., resolution 40) which will be discussed by the Congress in 2021.	
16	<p>How are the National Meteorological Services (NMS) with Commercial Wing, dealing with the Proposal of data sharing free of charge.</p>	Harinder Ahluwalia
	<p>Here's one good example towards open data. Some of WMO Members that are EU Contracting States will be moving towards open data. The latest EU directive adopted and entered into force in 2019 at European Commission, so called Open Data Directive, will be transposed to national laws of EU Member States by July 2021. Once fully transposed on the national level, the new rules will limit the exceptions which currently allow public bodies to charge more than the marginal costs of dissemination for the re-use of their data.</p> <p>WMO is urging its Member countries to foster and maintain fair and transparent arrangements, adhere to quality and service standards, to advance collective objectives in delivering public goods, and take into account specific stakeholder needs, such as: Ensuring that access to commercial data with use restrictions is treated equally by and between public and private sector entities; Committing to comply with relevant national and international legislation and policies with respect to both data provision and avoidance of anti-competitive behaviour.</p>	

17	How can IFMS assist WMO in the PPE Initiative?	Harinder Ahluwalia
	This webinar was a very good example of how IFMS can help the PPE activities. A major task in the WMO PPE actions is raising awareness in all stakeholders about the opportunities for PPE and related benefits. IFMS can help in this through the outreach among their membership.	
18	If we were to ask you to recommend three or four examples of NMSs, which are implementing PPE Collaboration well, to convey their experience through Webinar, which ones would you suggest? Probably NWS/AMS is the topmost example, which others.	Harinder Ahluwalia
	There are good examples in each region – e.g., Switzerland, Norway, South Africa, Nigeria, USA (of course), Japan, China, and many others.	
19	Have private sector companies agreed to share data - if yes, at what cost?	Harinder Ahluwalia
	This is a too big question to answer here. WMO encourages developing innovative data exchange mechanisms and incentives to increase data availability, resolve existing data gaps, promote greater data sharing and avoid fragmentation. The new data policy will address those issues in more detail. The data sharing discussion will have to go hand-in-hand with the discussion on suitable business models since these models are very different for the public and private sector. Nevertheless, it is now clear that the data sharing between the sectors is now absolutely necessary if we wish, as an enterprise, to bring the desired benefits to the society. A long way to go, though.	
20	Thank you very much, for all presenters	SARAH OSIMA

Comment of Dr. Harinder Ahluwalia on the issue of Certification and Accreditation

Accreditation/Certification is an important activity to ensure that those calling themselves meteorologists or technicians, or broadcasters, etc. meet certain minimum qualifications and related ethics standards of the profession to deserve the title to fulfill those positions.

Such a Program is normally implemented by the National Meteorological Societies. We know of three which have implemented such Program: American Meteorological Society (**AMS**), Royal Meteorological Society (**RMetS**) and the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (**CMOS**).

IFMS offers assistance and training through these members who have implemented Certification and Accreditation in their own society.

There is no doubt that without sufficient number of candidates to be certified, this Program might not be viable for smaller societies. However, in such cases the Regional Meteorological Society might be able to implement such a Program and certify the candidates in their region. There might be other innovative means of implementing this program.