

OPENING ADDRESS

by
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Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished participants from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the Asian region and the distinguished expert from the WMO Regional Instrument Centre (RIC)-Beijing.

It is a great honor and privilege for me to deliver the opening address on the occasion of the Training Workshop on Calibration and Maintenance of Meteorological instruments in RAI (Asia). The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) is very much proud and extremely delighted to host the important workshop jointly with the World Meteorological Organization, here in Tokyo and Tsukuba, this week, for the first time in 15 years since the Training Workshop for Instrument Specialist, which was held in 1998 in our country.

On behalf of the Japan Meteorological Agency, I would like to offer my cordial and warmest welcome to all the participants in the training workshop. Also, I wish to extend my hearty welcome to Mr. Bian Zeqiang, the meteorological instrument expert from the Regional Instruments Centre-Beijing, China. Equally, I feel my deep gratitude toward the Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization for the continuing support.

Needless to say, meteorological observations play a vital role in the meteorological services ranging from daily operational forecasts to long-term climate monitoring, and therefore, it is crucially important to adopt quality management procedures in meteorological observations. For this reason, the fourteenth session of Regional Association II (Asia), held in Uzbekistan in 2008, established the Pilot Project to Enhance the Availability and Quality Management Support for NMHSs in Surface, Climate and Upper-air Observations, and appointed Japan as the Coordinator of the Pilot Project.

In this context, a workshop was held in Japan in 2010 and a questionnaire survey was conducted in 2010 and 2011 under the framework of the Pilot Project to identify problems and key issues in this field. The resultant findings are that insufficient or inadequate instrument calibration and maintenance are primary factors adversely affecting data quality in RA II, and that a main problem is a lack of measurement traceability to international standards and calibration facilities.

These findings highlight the need for enhancing education and training activities in the field of maintenance and calibration of meteorological instruments, and indicate the critical importance of RICs' leading roles in the improvement of observation data quality among RA II Members.

For the coordination of capacity development at the regional level, RA II Members require technical support for the calibration and maintenance of meteorological instruments. To meet such emerging requirements, Regional Instrument Centres are expected to take more active roles in the provision of technical support for instrument maintenance and calibration and in the enhancement of capacity building.

In this circumstance, JMA, in collaboration with WMO, is holding this Training Workshop aiming to improve understanding of and skills in traceability of measurements, for the member countries in RAI, as a follow-up activity by RIC-Tsukuba. I believe that the workshop will contribute also to the implementation of the WMO Integrated Global Observation System (WIGOS) in RA II,

I look forward to witnessing productive discussion in and valuable outcomes from this workshop in the coming four days. In this connection, our staff will provide you with necessary lectures and practical exercises for the fruitful success of the workshop.

Finally, I wish this Training Workshop will contribute to improving calibration and maintenance for meteorological instruments in Member countries in RA-II, and I expect all of you will have a comfortable and pleasant stay in Japan.

This concludes my opening address, appreciating your kind attention.
Thank you very much.