

THE FIRST GLOBAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETIES

BY WALTER F. DABBERDT

The recently established International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS) will hold its second global meeting (GM2) on 9–10 November 2011 in Xiamen, Fujian Province, China. The host is one of the charter members of IFMS, the Chinese Meteorological Society (CMS). The chair of the meeting, Qin Dahe, is CMS President and current chair of the IFMS Steering Committee.

As an informal organization facilitating interaction among the world's professional and scientific societies that focus on meteorology and related sciences, IFMS extends the international interactions that previously occurred only bilaterally and through the efforts of three regional societies: the African Meteorological Society, the European Meteorological Society (EMS), and the Latino American Federation of Meteorological Societies (FLISMET).

The International Forum of Meteorological Societies arose out of discussions within the Council of the AMS. In January 2009, the AMS convened a planning meeting (Dabberdt 2009a,b) at which representatives from 18 societies and organizations from around the world, including the WMO and the U.S. National Weather Service, unanimously agreed to establish the IFMS.

The upcoming GM2 follows a productive first global meeting (GM1) of IFMS that took place 18–19 January 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia, in conjunction with the 90th Annual Meeting of the AMS. The GM1 was hosted by the AMS and organized by the IFMS Steering Committee (Table 1). Twenty-nine societies and organizations participated in the two-day meeting (Table 2 and Figure 1; a detailed



FIG. 1. Participants of the First Global Meeting of the International Forum of Meteorological Societies, 18–19 January 2010, Atlanta, Georgia.

agenda is available at the IFMS website, www.ifms.org). Session themes included the activities and challenges of regional and national meteorological societies; the role of meteorological societies in climate change research, education, and outreach; and the role of meteorological societies in fostering international scientific and professional cooperation and education. Several working groups have been addressing action items identified at the meeting, including

- enhancement of the IFMS Web site;
- creation of a list of member societies and links to their Web sites;

TABLE 1. IFMS Steering Committee.

Ramesh BHATIA, Indian Meteorological Society
Walter DABBERDT (Past Chair, 2009–10), American Meteorological Society
QIN Dahe (Chair, 2010–present), Chinese Meteorological Society
Workneh DEGEFU, Ethiopian Meteorological Society (EMIBAMA)
Juan Manuel HORLER, Federación Latinoamericana e Ibérica de Sociedades Meteorológicas (FLISMET)
Fritz NEUWIRTH, European Meteorological Society
Ian WATTERSON, Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society

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- creating an inventory of sharable resources at the various societies;
- electronic sharing of all societies' bulletins and newsletters;
- identifying potential new IFMS member societies;
- providing assistance in establishment of new societies;
- identifying best practices for supporting the needs of societies in developing countries;
- developing guidance for issuing accreditations and certifications to individuals;
- identifying IFMS benefits to member societies; and
- sharing of educational and outreach resources.

All meteorological and related societies and organizations are welcome to attend and participate in the upcoming meeting in China.

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FOR FURTHER READING

Dabberdt, Walter F., 2009a: Formation of the first-ever International Forum of Meteorological Societies. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, **90**, 1068–1069.

—, 2009b: A motion to establish an International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS)—Supplement to “Formation of the first-ever International Forum of Meteorological Societies.” *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, **90**, S28.

TABLE 2. Societies and organizations participating in GM1.

Country/Region	Society/Organization
Argentina	Centro Argentino de Meteorólogos (CAM)
Australia	Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (AMOS)
Canada	Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS)
China	Chinese Meteorological Society (CMS)
Czech Republic	Czech Meteorological Society (CMES)
East Africa	East African Meteorological Society
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Meteorological Society (EMIBAMA)
Europe	European Meteorological Society (EMS)
Finland	Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Meteorological Society
Hungary	Hungarian Meteorological Society
India	Indian Meteorological Society (IMS)
International	International Association for Urban Climate (IAUC)
International	International Association of Broadcast Meteorology (IABM)
International	International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS)
International	International Society of Biometeorology (ISB)
International	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Kenya	Kenya Meteorological Society (KMS)
Latin America	Federación Latinoamericana e Ibérica de Sociedades de Meteorología (FLISMET)
New Zealand	Meteorological Society of New Zealand (MSNZ)
Philippines	Philippine Meteorological Society (MSP)
Portugal	Associação Portuguesa de Meteorologia e Geofísica (APMG)
South Korea	Korean Meteorological Society (KMS)
Taiwan	Meteorological Society of Chinese Taipei
Tanzania	Tanzanian Meteorological Society
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Royal Meteorological Society (RMetS)
United States of America	American Geophysical Union (AGU)
United States of America	American Meteorological Society (AMS)
United States of America	National Council of Industrial Meteorologists (NCIM)