

CHO Seok Joon
Administrator of KMA



KMA has set forth "Take a lead in the public safety and national economy by integrating climate and meteorological information, and promoting its values" as the 2012 Vision based on the international consensus that weather and climate have become ever more significant in every aspect of our lives including industry, national competitiveness and national defense due to rapidly changing global environment.

To meet emerging needs, KMA will build capacity in human resources and meteorological capability, and strengthen global partnership, thereby contributing to quality life and prosperous society.

In addition, KMA also set a special goal: "sophisticatedly, flexibly, professionally and internationally fulfill its responsibilities". To this end, internally KMA will help its employees sharpen their skills and expertise and widen the opportunity to share their ideas by strengthening communication among them.

Meanwhile, externally it will promote the meteorological industry by cooperating with pertinent partners.

In this early new year, I wish all the NMHSs around the world renew their determination to work together to promote green growth in the meteorological sector.

The 44th Typhoon Committee Meeting
(6-11 February 2012, Hangzhou, China)

The KMA delegation led by Administrator CHO Seok Joon participated in the 44th Session of the UNESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee held in Hangzhou, China, on 6-11 Feb. At the Session, participants from 11 countries including Korea, the US, China and Japan looked back on their achievements and performance in 2011; made a 2012-2016 plan; shared short and long range forecast skills, and urban-flood preventing skills; and discussed various relevant policies.



KMA, a founding member of the Committee since 1968, has tried to contribute the Committee activities by providing satellite data, technology transfer, and providing training courses. Mr. Cho was honored during the meeting by receiving the prestigious Kintanar Award. KMA expresses deep appreciation to the Committee and accepts the chairmanship of Advisory Working Group for next year.

Continued cooperation between KMA and East African NMHSs
(26-28 February 2012, Kigali, Rwanda)

Four KMA delegates including Deputy Administrator CHO Ha Man participated in the 30th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 30) held in Kigali on 27-29 Feb. During the Forum, KMA introduced its New Seasonal Forecast System, recently installed PC-cluster system at ICPAC, and KMA-Africa cooperative plans. In particular, Dr. CHO discussed measures to mitigate climate change impacts and expert training programs with ICPAC and Heads of NMHS.



This visit, part of activities developed at the Korea-Africa Symposium to Cope with Climate Change held in Seoul in Nov 2011, is expected to facilitate future cooperative projects.

Successful completion of ICPAC capability enhancement project
(6 February 2012, Nairobi, Kenya)

In line with the WMO-KOICA East Africa Climate Prediction Support Program (2009-2011), KMA assisted IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) to establish Regional Climate Centre (RCC). While working to establish Climate Prediction System on a basis of continuous cooperation with WMO and ICPAC, KMA had its partner SBIS Co., Ltd. visit Kenya and provide a training on the operation of the PC cluster and the website in ICPAC in February. Building on such achievements, KMA will strengthen its cooperation with Africa and expand its support carrying out more of its supporting activities.



Installation of TAPS to NMHS of Viet Nam
(1-3 February 2012, Hanoi, Vietnam)

Since 2010, KMA has been cooperating with the National Hydro-Meteorological Service of Vietnam for its modernization project to better cope with hazardous weather and climate change. In February, as part of such efforts, KMA installed TAPS-2 (Typhoon Analysis and Prediction System) developed by the National Typhoon Center and provided a training for local meteorologists and engineers on the operation and expansion of the system. It was confirmed that TAPS-2 English Version was properly recognized by the system. Active cooperation between two countries through joint research and technical support is anticipated.

Technical assistance for Mongolian NWP operation(6-20 February 2012, Seoul, Korea)

KMA is supporting Numerical Prediction Programs for developing Asian countries. As part of the effort, KMA has been providing NWP skills and training programs to National Agency for Meteorology and Environment Monitoring (NAMHEM), Mongolia since 2003. From Feb. 6 to 20, KMA offered a two week long training course on meso-scale NWP data assimilation and action learning for NWP and supercomputer experts from Mongolia. The training is expected to contribute to NWP capability of NAMHEM.

Two KMA observation sites are designated as important centers for WMO activities
(20 January 2012, Korea)



On January 20, the Boseong site was designated as a CIMO Testbed and the Chupuryeong site as a CIMO Lead Center after one year and four month-long evaluation process by WMO. Now Boseong became one of world's four Testbeds along with Richard Assmann of Germany, Payerne of Switzerland and Sodankylä in Finland while Chupoonryeong one of world's three Lead Centers along with Lindenberg of Germany, B. Castelli of Italy. In the future, the Boseong Testbed will serve as WMO's Centre of Excellence which is devoted to developing common observation techniques to deal with climate change and hazardous weather. The Chupungryeong Lead Center will be a reference observatory for verification and standardization of meteorological methods and instruments. KMA will contribute to standardizing world's meteorological techniques based on the two sites through various international joint studies under the leadership of WMO.

NIMR-YORK University Workshop on Meteorological and Space Sciences for Environmental Monitoring
(20 February 2012, Seoul, Korea)



On Feb 20, three professors in the environmental science field including Dr. McConnell at York Univ, Canada visited the National Meteorological Research Institute for bilateral cooperation. They introduced a current satellite program for weather and environment in Canada, presenting various sensors and satellites used for observing ozone, air temperature and humidity, greenhouse gasses and pollutants. Participants showed keen interest in the satellite applications for observation in the polar region. There were extensive discussions on future cooperation between the two organizations.