

Subject: Side event “Sand and Dust Storm: Forecast Services” (17th Session of the World Meteorological Congress at the International Conference Center, Geneva, Switzerland, 8th June 2015)

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Introduction

- Objective: Presentation of the Sand and Dust Storm Forecast Services provided by the Barcelona Dust Forecast Center (BDFC, <http://dust.aemet.es>). The Center distributes daily dust predictions for Northern Africa, Middle East and Europe through internet and WMO Global Telecommunication System (GTS).
- Funding: Severo Ochoa project
- Agenda: Side event “Sand and Dust Storm: Forecast Services”, 8 June 2015 (17:45 – 18:45) in Centre International de Conférences, Geneva, Salle 4
 - Alexander Baklanov (WMO): [Transition from R&D to operational dust forecasts](#)
 - Abdoulaye Harou (WMO): [Dust forecasts for health, air quality and aviation](#)
 - Enric Terradellas (AEMET): [Barcelona Dust Forecast Center: Operational services](#)
 - Sara Basart (BSC): [Dust modelling](#)
 - Enric Terradellas (AEMET) and Sara Basart (BSC): Presentation of survey on dust-related products
 - Q&A

You can find the announcement in the BDFC website: <http://dust.aemet.es/events/sand-and-dust-storm-forecast-services>

- Attendants: Around 30 people attended the meeting. Taking into account that the side event was scheduled late in the afternoon of the last week of the [17th Session of the World Meteorological Congress](#), the number of participants was more than the expected. Among other participants there were: Paolo Ruti (Officer-in-charge of the WMO World Weather Research Program), Joy Shumake Guillemot (Officer-in-charge of the WMO-WHO Joint Office for Climate and Health), Milan Dacic (WMO Representative for Europe of the Regional Office for Europe) and the WMO Permanent Representative of the sectors 4 and 6. Francisco Espejo and Julio González (AEMET) participated from the Spanish delegation.

Results

The event was followed with great interest. The round table after the presentations extended for over an hour, when the initial estimate was 10 minutes.

During the symposium, several participants congratulated the ongoing work of the Barcelona Dust Forecast Center and the WMO SDS-WAS for Regional Centre for North Africa, Middle East and Europe (NAMEE) which are jointly managed by AEMET and BSC. The activity carried out during the last years in modelling and training activities was highlighted. Also it was emphasized that the NAMEE Regional Center should be the example to be adopted by the other regional centers. In this sense, the newly created SDS-WAS Steering Committee can be the appropriate body to share the experiences of the different regional centers.

Finally, the initiative to organize the “1st Africa/Middle East Expert Meeting and Workshop on the health impact of airborne dust”, organized by WMO, WHO, UNEP, EUMETSAT and AEMET was very well received. The workshop will be held in Amman (Jordan) on 2-5 November 2015. Joy Shumake-Guillemot, Officer-in-charge of the WMO-WHO Joint Office for Climate and Health, offered her contacts and experience to participate in the organization of the workshop.