Update on the status of the CPACC Regional Network Coordinator (RNC) and Regional Archiving Center (RAC)

As was announced at the last meeting with the CPACC focal points held in Guyana in July 2000, significant progress is being made with the institutionalization of two key functions of the CPACC, namely: (1) looking after the good performance of the network of sea-level and climate sensors installed in 18 sites throughout the twelve CPACC countries; and, (2) ensuring that the data streams produced by the sensors are reliable and useable for practical applications.

The first function is that of **the Regional Network Coordinator (RNC)**. As you know, for the first two years of the project Lee Chapin was the Acting RNC, during which time the network was being installed, and staff were being trained at CIMH and in each of the national Meteorological Offices that received the equipment. The RNC function is now handed over formally to the CIMH, and you must have received a letter from the CIMH Principal Dr. Colin Depradine making that announcement.

The CIMH is responsible for coordinating the maintenance, repair and calibration of the network. Mr. Ronald Leslie, Technician at CIMH, has been trained in all technical aspects of the system sensors, and will be able to work with the National Technical Officers on maintaining the proper functioning of the sensors. Operational procedures are in place for the CIMH Technician and the National technical Officers to make decisions on repair, replacement, and periodic verification of the calibration of the instruments. Instruments that are defective, or for which the calibration needs to be verified, will be shipped to CIMH to be replaced by a reconditioned one. (see **Operational Procedures for Problem Resolution, and for Sensor Rotation,** attached to Dr. Depradine's letter). CIMH has established pre-paid shipping arrangements to cover all costs related to this transaction. CIMH also has a Sea-Level and Climate Monitoring Replacement Fund which will kick in to replace sensors that have exceeded their useful life.

The second function deals with verifying the quality of the data produces by the sensors, and with promoting the use and developing applications of these data. These responsibilities are being assumed by the **Regional Archiving Center (RAC)** which has been established by CPACC at the Center for Geospatial Studies at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. The Technical Coordinator of the RAC is Ms. Shelley-Ann Jules, who previously worked with the Institute for Marine Affairs with responsibility for the CPACC sea-level data.

The satellite download and data server, until now operated by Vitel Inc.-- vendor of the sensor equipment, will be installed at the RAC in St. Augustine in early 2001. The Technical Coordinator of the RAC will perform the necessary Quality Assurance/Quality Control on the data stream, and post the data to the CPACC Component 1 Data Web Site. The RAC will work in close coordination with CIMH to resolve data problems that can be traced to sensor malfunction or data communications problems, as outlined in the **Operational Procedures for Problem Resolution.** The CPACC Component 1 Data Web Site is designed to be user-friendly and will facilitate queries of single sensors, as well as systematic data downloading by location and time period. Finally, the RAC and the CIMH will also collaborate in assisting the countries and the wider CPACC community to develop applications of the data streams.

As you may know, CPACC is coming to an end in December 2001, and the follow-up to CPACC is already shaping up. The Heads of Government of CARICOM have endorsed the establishment of a Caribbean Climate Change Center. All is on track for this Center to be ready for operations by mid 2001. The consortium of international agencies and countries involved in CPACC are also preparing for a follow-up project to CPACC, which will be called "Implementing Adaptation to Global Climate Change in the Caribbean (IMPACC). A proposal is being submitted to the GEF for a Project Development Facility grant (PDF-B) to carry out the necessary consultations with countries and regional agencies for the preparation of the IMPACC project document.

The network of sea-level and climate sensors, and the data they produce, are a critical to the Caribbean region's ability to assess the impact of climate change, and to formulate policy instruments and programs for effective adaptation to the threats. The quality and continuity of the network and data stream will be high on the agenda of the Caribbean Climate Change Center, and will be supported by the IMPACC project. But in order to ensure its sustainability beyond the project time frame, and its usefulness to the development issues facing the countries, the RNC and RAC will need to be able to count on your continued cooperation and support.

We are looking forward to a challenging and productive 2001 for CPACC, and wish you all the best for the New Year.

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