

Report on WMO's 13th World Meteorological Congress



Professor Obasi (left), Secretary-General of WMO, discussing with Mr. Pekka Ketonen, President and CEO of Vaisala.

The 13th World Meteorological Congress was in session in Geneva during 4–26 May 1999. About five hundred participants from member countries took part in the Congress which was opened by Dr. John W. Zillman, President of WMO. Vaisala showcased its newest products at the METEOHYDEX-99 exhibition, arranged in conjunction with the Congress.

Spotline on Vaisala products at WMO's technical exhibition

The world's meteorological community gathered at the METEOHYDEX-99 exhibition which was held in Geneva from 11 to 13 May, 1999. The exhibition of meteorological and hydrological instruments and equipment took place in conjunction with the thirteenth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

At METEOHYDEX-99, more than 50 manufacturers from various parts of the world showcased their products. Vaisala exhibits included the DigiCORA III new-generation sounding system, the RS90 radiosondes, the Tethersonde®, the AUTOSONDE System, the MAWS Automatic Weather Station, and the MIDAS IV automated weather observing system.

Inauguration of the new WMO headquarters and elections

The opening of the Thirteenth WMO Congress coincided with the inauguration of the new WMO headquarters on Avenue de la Paix, Geneva. During the Congress, several elections took place. Representatives of WMO members cast their votes in a ballot to appoint one of three candidates for the post of Secretary-General of the WMO. As a result, Professor Godwin P. Obasi was given a new mandate to serve as Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization for a period of four years starting 1 January, 2000. The Thirteenth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization elected a new Executive Council and re-elected Dr John W. Zillman as President for a second term.

The World Meteorological Congress ended its session with the adoption of a universal declaration, the Geneva Declaration, which outlines the mission of the world meteorological community and emphasizes the need to take measures to reduce human and economic losses caused by natural disasters and to protect the environment and the global climate.

The declaration stresses the importance of maintaining a unique and integrated international system for obtaining and exchanging meteorological and related data and products. The Congress also discussed the Year 2000 problem and urged the necessary actions to be taken at the national level to ensure that all systems will operate without interruption at the turn of the millennium. ■



Ritva Siikamäki, M.A.
Advertising Editor
Vaisala Helsinki
Finland