

WMO 13th Education and Training Symposium (SYMET-XIII)

As a part of its Education and Training Program, WMO organizes, once every four years, a worldwide Symposium on Education and Training (SYMET), which is normally attended by educational and training experts from WMO Regional Training Centers (RTCs), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), development partners and other institutes involved in meteorological, hydrological and climatological education and training.

13th Education and Training Symposium (SYMET-XIII), held in Barbados from October 30 to November 1, 2017, met about 85 weather, climate and water experts from around the world to focus on improving the capacity of hydro-meteorological services internationally to address global challenges such as extreme weather and long-term climate change.



Fig. Dr. Iryna Bashmakova and Prof. Sergej Zilitinkevich represented the PEEEX program and University of Helsinki in the conference.

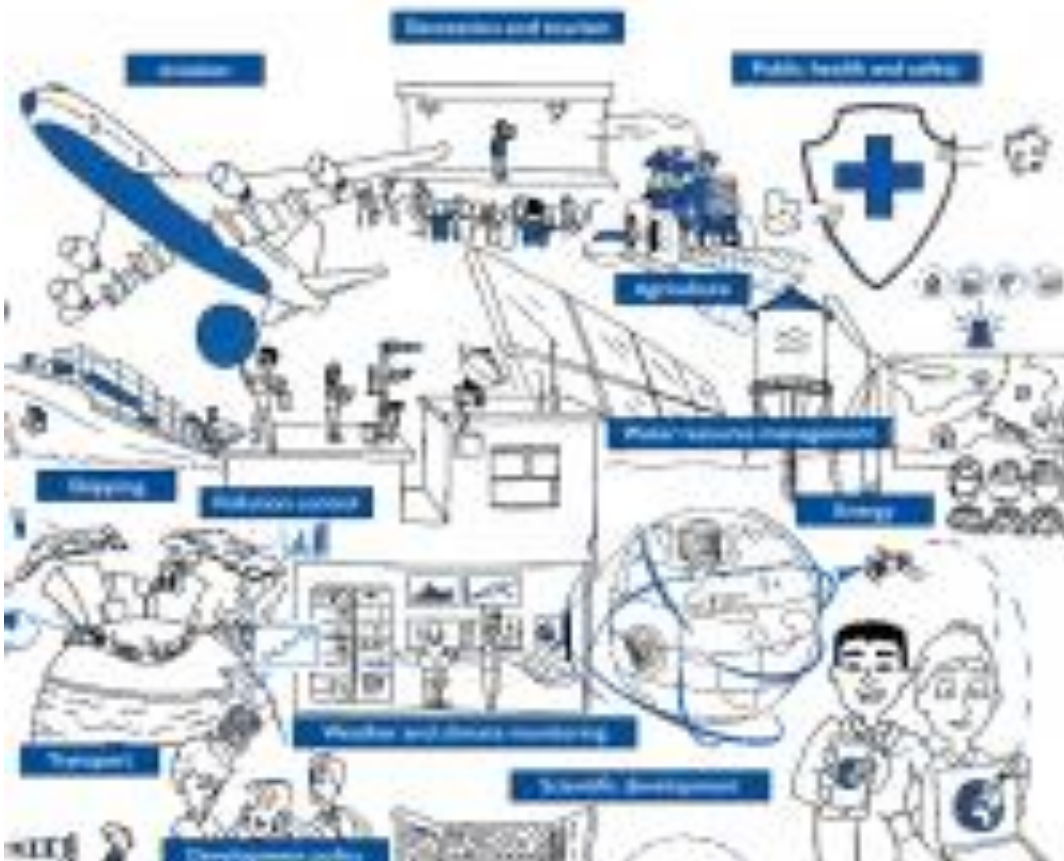
The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) hosted this event and used the SYMET framework to organize a meeting of Directors from all 26 WMO Caribbean Regional Training Centers (RTCs) worldwide and to discuss capacities and operations of these Centers.

“The need to have competent meteorological, climatological and hydrological/water resources personnel is essential given the increasing challenges posed by extreme weather, increasing climate variability, long-term climate change and associated hydrological and water resources phenomena on socio-economic development worldwide,” said Dr. David Farrell, Principal of CIMH.

During this symposium the WMO education and training community have been tasked to improve the skills, knowledge and working methods of personnel, who through improved observing networks and a better use of meteorological and hydrological information and data, are required to produce forecasts and services that will result in greater safety of life and property and contribute to sustainable socio-economic development. Consequently, the ultimate aim of SYMET is to assist the international community as a whole, in particular the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, to meet current meteorological and hydrological education and training challenges

The main theme

Education and Training for Human Resource Development in Meteorological and Hydrological Services.



(See the figure in better format in attachment)

The general goals

Stimulation and facilitation of development of a vibrant and robust education and training capacity within the worldwide meteorological and hydrological community and to recommend possible new avenues for development.

Key objectives

Enhancing Service-specific Education and Training needs; Increasing Education and Training Capacity and focusing on Partnership and Resource Mobilization.

These objectives are achieved by engaging the heads of meteorological/hydrological training institutions in discussions that address key education and training topics aimed at helping WMO Members enhance their capacity to meet needs for weather, climate, water and related environmental services and information in order to manage environmental risks.

The program outline

Theme I: Service-specific education and training needs

Focus areas

- i. Education and training needs in the context of WMO priority areas up to 2019
- ii. Capacity development on Climate Services, DRR, WIGOS, Aviation, Polar and High Mountain, Urban and other WMO priority areas
- iii. Continuous education to keep pace with developments in science and technology
- iv. Enhancement of research capability, building research competencies, and bringing science into curricula
- v. Development and implementation of appropriate competency frameworks and updating expected learning outcomes appropriately

Theme II: Increasing education and training capacity

Focus areas

- i. Enhancing the capacity of WMO RTCs to offer learning opportunities that meet regional education and training needs
- ii. Requirements for the institutional and global infrastructure to support education and training, including WMO Regional Training Centres and WMO Global Campus
- iii. Exchange of experience and competencies through exchange of human resources and dissemination of good practices promoting stronger connections to WMO technical and research programs
- iv. Development of increased opportunities for cooperation, coordination, and sharing via the WMO Global Campus
- v. New approaches to training delivery

Theme III: Partnership and Resource mobilization

Focus areas

- i. Collaboration with international organizations and partners in the implementation of multilateral agreements and initiatives, especially in the context of Article 12 of COP 22 Paris agreement, and UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development
- ii. Broadening partnerships and international collaboration for initial and continuous education
- iii. Resource mobilization in support of national education and training needs, and institutional development
- iv. Collaboration with governments and other stakeholders in fostering career development and in shaping future role of meteorologists and hydrologists
- v. Public education and outreach

The key outcome of the training will be the continued strengthening of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services globally to deliver the requisite weather, climate and hydrological services required to build weather and climate resilient societies

One of the key points of the discussion is to provide much stronger collaboration between research activities of universities and education. For this purpose, WMO starts a new program "WMO Global Campus". Commitment and partnership with this initiative can be beneficial for PEEEX, promoting the capacity of development, rapid integration of information, accessing a new competencies, etc.