

# International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS)

## Background

In 2010, leaders of nineteen of the world's regional and national meteorological societies met in Atlanta in a meeting hosted by American Meteorological Society (AMS) and unanimously agreed to form a first-ever International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS). Two additional Global Meetings were also held in Xiamen, China (3-4 November 2011) and Reading, UK (12-13 September 2013) as detailed under the Meetings tab.

“The fundamental goal of the IFMS is very basic; it is to foster and encourage communication and exchange of knowledge, ideas and resources among the world's more than sixty meteorological societies. Such exchanges occurred only on a bi-lateral basis or through the efforts of three regional meteorological societies: the African Meteorological Society (AfMS), the European Meteorological Society (EMS), and the Latin American and Iberian Federation of Meteorological Societies (FLISMET).

The IFMS was conceived to be quite distinct from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Whereas the WMO is an agency of the United Nations that deals with observations, standards, data exchange and technology transfer among its 188-member states and territories, the IFMS was meant to focus on advancing the goals and objectives of the world's professional and scientific societies. The IFMS was intended to be an informal mechanism to facilitate interactions among Societies and, as such, was not planned to have any legal or official formalism. However, this concept did not succeed and IFMS became dormant.

In August 2014, World Weather Open Science Conference (WWOSC) was organized by WMO in Montreal in which three special Panels sponsored by the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) and the American Meteorological Society (AMS) were organized to discuss the “Future of the Weather Enterprise” for public good. The global framework of climate services identified four priority areas: Health, Water, food security and disaster risk reduction.

Recognized leaders in the international Weather Enterprise from all sectors (Public, Private, University and NGO) participated in these panels and presented their views. The two main conclusions which came out of these panel discussions were:

1. No national meteorological service by itself can handle all the challenges thrown our way by the Mother Nature. In order to resolve weather related challenges, the four sectors mentioned above must work together.
2. Nations must cooperate to create a “Weather Ready Globe”.

Recognizing the importance of the above two conclusions, a meeting was organized jointly by the CMOS and AMS in New Orleans, Louisiana concurrently with the AMS' 96th Conference.

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The new Council whose term lasts till September 2018, has incorporated IFMS as a benevolent organization with well-defined value proposition and a plan to increase cooperation between the Meteorological Societies of various nations to strengthen them and help create a “Weather Ready Globe”.

### **IFMS**

The International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS) is an organization to foster and encourage communication and exchange of knowledge, ideas and resources among the world’s more than sixty meteorological societies.

The IFMS is quite distinct from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Whereas the WMO is an agency of the United Nations that deals with cooperation between Meteorological Services of various nations, the IFMS is meant to create cooperation between Meteorological Societies of the World.

The IFMS is organized exclusively for scientific, educational and charitable purposes, including, but not limited to:

1. Foster, promote, and encourage cooperation, communication, collaboration, and exchange of knowledge, ideas and resources among the meteorological societies of the world.
2. Advance the science and profession of meteorology and related sciences worldwide and to assist the development of applications of these subjects for the public welfare and benefit of the peoples of the world.
3. Develop international bridges to encourage collaboration among public, private and academic sectors as well as users.
4. Assist in developing and promoting capacity building efforts that produce effective and sustainable service capabilities in developing countries.
5. Assist all meteorological societies in developing best practices.
6. Assist developing meteorological societies to strengthen themselves.
7. Help start new meteorological societies in countries where none exists.

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8. Facilitate cooperation between meteorological societies worldwide.
9. Facilitate the sharing of relevant accreditation information, procedures, guidelines and standards and, to do any and all things permitted for a not-for-profit corporation organized under prevailing laws in the jurisdiction where IFMS is incorporated.
10. Assist National Meteorological Societies to promote collaboration among the Private/Public/University/ NGO sector social civil organizations
11. Assist Private Sector companies to facilitate international outreach especially to build infrastructure in developing countries.

### Members

American Geophysical Union  
American Meteorological Society §  
Argentina Meteorological Society  
Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society §  
Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society  
Chinese Meteorological Society §  
Czech Meteorological Society  
East African Meteorological Society  
Ethiopian Meteorological Society  
European Meteorological Society  
FRIENDS OF THE WIND Meteorology Environment Development  
Geophysical Society of Finland  
Hong Kong Meteorological Society  
Hungarian Meteorological Society  
Indian Meteorological Society §  
International Association of Urban Climate  
International Association of Broadcast Meteorology  
International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences  
International Society of Biometeorology  
Italian Meteorological Society  
Kenya Meteorological Society  
Korean Meteorological Society  
Latin American and Iberian Federation of Meteorological Societies  
Meteorological Society of Chinese Taipei  
Meteorological Society of Japan  
Meteorological Society of New Zealand  
Mexican Organization of Meteorologists

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National Council of Industrial Meteorologists  
Philippine Meteorological Society  
Portuguese Association of Meteorology and Geophysics  
Royal Meteorological Society  
Society of Hydrologists and Meteorologists-Nepal  
South African Society for Atmospheric Sciences  
Sudanese Meteorological Society  
Tanzanian Meteorological Society  
[World Meteorological Organization](#)