

# Virtual International Satellite Training Experiences for weather, marine, climate, and environmental applications

National Environmental Satellite, Data,  
and Information Service (NESDIS)

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# Who are the Partners?

- Federal agencies
  - NOAA: National Weather Service (NWS), Weather Prediction Center (WPC), International Affairs (IAA), CoastWatch, Center for Satellite Applications and Research (STAR), Office of Satellite and Product Operations (OSPO)
  - NOAA/NASA: GOES-R and JPSS Satellite Joint Program Offices
- Cooperative Institutes: CIRA and CIMSS
- Key partners: COMET, Subject Matter Experts (SME), instructors
- International partners: hosts for the workshops, Satellite Data Requirements Working Group, WMO-CGMS VLab Centres of Excellence, WMO Regional Training Centers



# Training and User Engagement Sessions

In-person training pivoted to virtual in 2020 and provided over 15,000 hours of user training, in English and Spanish, to participants in more than 50 countries

- Joint Satellite Short Courses
- GOES-R Hackathon
- Special topic sessions
- SatMOC Virtual Summer Series
- Monthly Regional Focus Group sessions
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Association (RA) III and RA IV Multi Day workshops



# Training and User Engagement Sessions

- GOES-R/JPSS Joint Satellite Short Courses - 7 hour sessions focused on a specific topic coordinated through AMS
- [GOES-R Hackathon](#) for undergraduate student to inspire innovative solutions to environmental challenges

The first-place team developed an app to allow users to use GOES-R satellite data to 3D print images of storms, hurricanes and other natural phenomena



# Training and User Engagement Sessions

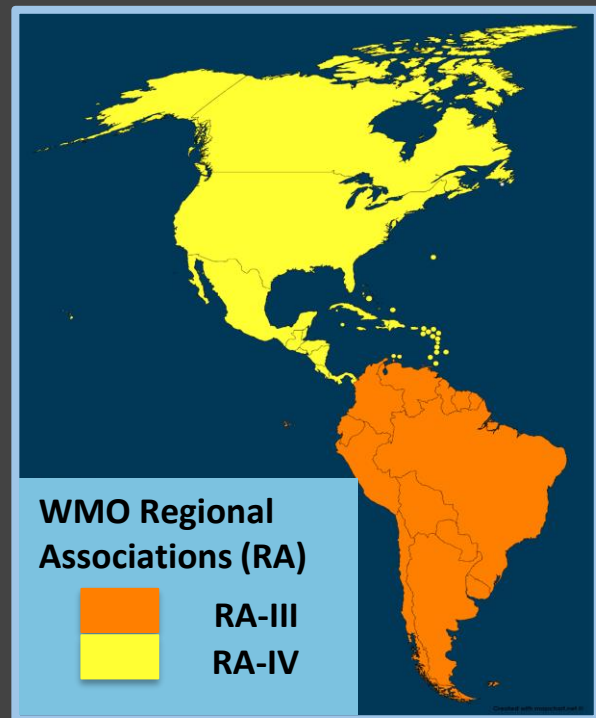
- Special topic sessions, such as Amazon Web Services Education Seminar “[Using the cloud to monitor the weather and environment in near-real time](#)”
- SatMOC Virtual Summer Series - Four 2-hour sessions geared towards students and early career on a wide range of topics
- [Monthly Regional Focus Group \(RFG\) sessions](#) to view satellite and other imagery, and share information on global, regional, and local weather patterns, hurricanes, severe weather, flooding, and other interesting phenomena



# Satellite International Training Working Group (SITWG)

Members across Federal agencies, line offices, and Cooperative Institutes coordinate international training for the GOES-R and JPSS series satellites

WMO international partners use case studies and regional events to guide agenda topics based on in-country needs and staff skill sets



# SITWG WMO RA III & RA IV Workshops



WMO RA-III Ecuador Virtual Training on Satellite Applications  
November 10, 12, and 17, 18, 19, 2020  
Draft Agenda

Ecuador time (EST) 9am - 1405 UTC	Day 1 Tuesday 10 Nov	Day 2 Thursday 12 Nov	Day 3 Tuesday 17 Nov	Day 4 Wednesday 18 Nov	Day 5 Thursday 19 Nov
900 - 915	<b>Introductions</b> Presenters: Monica Martinez (Ecuador's Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Cecilia Paredes (Rector ESPOL)	<b>Overview of GOES and POES</b> Satellite products and tools and introduction to access, including GEONETcast Presenters: Diego Souza (INPE) Marcial Garbanzo (UCR)	<b>Reflection</b> Presenters: Bernie Connell (CIRA) and José Gálvez (SRG/NOAA)	<b>Reflection</b> Presenters: Bernie Connell (CIRA) and José Gálvez (SRG/NOAA)	<b>Reflection</b> Presenters: Bernie Connell (CIRA) and José Gálvez (SRG/NOAA)
915 - 930			<b>Geostationary Lightbulb Mapper (GLM)</b> Introduction to GLM and application example: Severe Weather in Costa Rica on February 25, 2019 Presenters: Bernie Connell (CIRA) and José Gálvez (SRG/NOAA) Authors: Jonathan Smith (UMD/NOAA) y Joseph Patton (UMD)	<b>Nowcasting in Brazil and Peru</b> Fortracc/ Nowcasting methods Presenters: Daniel Vila (INPE, Brazil) y Joao Huanán (SENAMHI, Peru) Kellita Quispe (SENAMHI, Peru)	<b>Disaster Management Using Satellite Information for Decision Making Process</b> Presenter: Ricardo Quiroga (NASA)
930 - 1010	<b>NOAA's Role in improving the use of satellite information</b> Presenter: Mitch Goldberg (NOAA) Translator: Jose Galvez (SRG/NOAA)				
1010 - 1015	<b>WMO's Role in improving the use of satellite information</b>				
1015-10:30					<b>Satellite Data and the detection of Oil Spills</b> Presenter: Juan Velasco (NOAA/SAB)
1030-1040		<b>20 min BREAK</b>	<b>20 min BREAK</b>	<b>20 min BREAK</b>	
1040 - 1050	<b>20 min BREAK</b>				
1050 - 1100					
1100-11:15	<b>AmeriGEO Introduction</b> Presenter: Maria del Pilar Comejo	<b>Image Interpretation and Applications</b> cloud and surface differentiation and RGB	<b>EL NINO: Large Scale Processes</b> Eastern Pacific Processes, El Niño, Large Scale Rainfall Variability	<b>Nowcasting in Ecuador: Methodologies and thresholds for issuing warnings</b> Levels of warnings	<b>15 min BREAK</b>

Workshops were presented in Spanish

- Four workshops hosted by Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile / Peru - many other partners, including Brazil and Argentina had active roles
- Agenda developed based on weather, marine, climate, and environmental applications requested by partners
- Regional case events identified
- User interaction
  - Hands-on exercises
  - Participant groups presenting results



# Certificates of Training

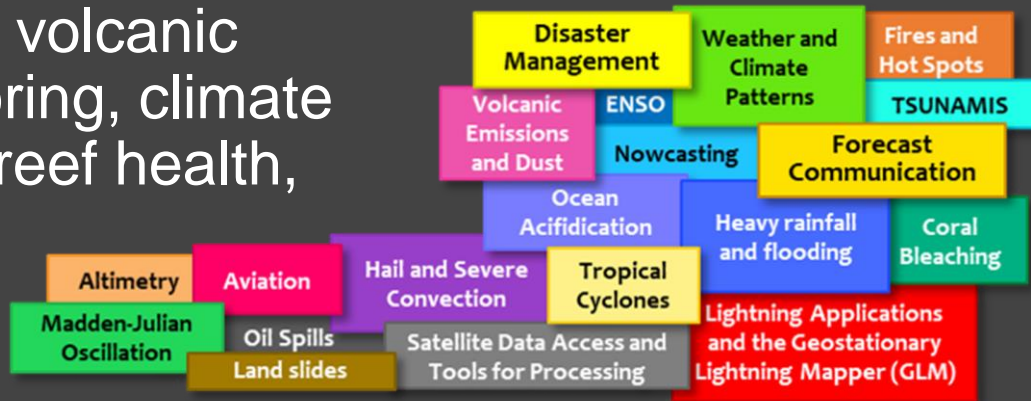
- Many organizations require proof of training
  - Certificate track: based on hours of participation and submission of homework assignments
  - Non-Certificate track: live-streamed providing access to a wider audience
    - Instructors monitor the live-stream chat and convey questions to the presenters
- The satellite skills addressed in the training are listed on the back
- Software to generate the certificate and streamline the process





# Training Topics

- Incorporate case studies and real-time imagery analyses, GOES-R, JPSS and other satellite capabilities, data access using GEONETCast, data display, and user applications
- Instruction and hands-on exercises emphasized the operational application of satellite observations for cross-disciplinary topics like heavy rain and hail events, aviation hazards, fire and smoke detection, volcanic eruptions and ash monitoring, climate indices, monitoring coral reef health, and in tsunami preparedness.



# Considerations for Effective Training

- Participants learn better in their native language
  - Consecutive translation alternating English followed by Spanish
  - A translator needs to have the specific technical background for the topic; weather terminology is different from oceanography terminology
- Need both staff and time commitment from partner organizations to identify case studies/specific events, organization and staff priorities, what kind of training they want, and where the gaps are in their staff skill set
- Virtual branch offices / regional pods for hybrid training
  - Have bases in different regions or countries to minimize travel
  - Have facilitators



# Virtual and now Hybrid Training

## Advantages

- Reach a larger community at the same time.
- Reduces the need for travel, reducing emissions and the need for travel funds. In some countries it may cost a year's salary to travel.
- Instructors and attendees can interact and network in a larger community, sharing lessons learned and products that work best for an event.

## Challenges

- Larger number of attendees decreases interaction with instructors and potential decrease of successful retention.
- Community capacity limitations such as limited data access (radar, internet, etc.), and computing capability.
- Need more staff to manage online and in-person components; it is like running two meetings.



*“We want more training”*

## Future Training Topics

- Surveys can ask users what they want, but they don't generally know what is available or possible
- Users ask for GLM training but do they really mean: What tools/products do I use to predict a severe event or communicate a forecast?
- Combine topics for a scenario approach, combining multiple data sources so forecasters can tap into these products based on real-time situations
- Training programs have insight on what other countries have found as useful
- Want attendees to continue to use the knowledge from the sessions to train others in their organization



# Future Satellite Training (various planning stages)

- WMO RA IV: November 2022 (English) Barbados/Trinidad and Tobago Workshop (hybrid)
  - Nov 28 – Dec 2 GEONETCastAmericas (GNC-A) SHOWCast, severe weather events, tsunamis, algal blooms, communicating the forecast, etc.
  - Dec 5-9 WMO follow up to EUREC4A- Severe Weather Forecast Programme Workshop with a Disaster Risk Reduction exercise, including applications and disaster management
- WMO RA IV El Salvador ~February/March 2023, Spanish
- WMO RA III Uruguay ~November 2023, Spanish



# Future Satellite Training (various planning stages)

- Ongoing [Monthly Regional Focus Group sessions](#)
- Joint Satellite Short Course "Making Beautiful Images of GOES-R & JPSS Satellite Data using Python"
  - Sunday, January 7, 2023 (hybrid) before AMS Meeting
  - [Registration opens early October](#)
- SatMOC Virtual Summer Series
  - Four 2-hour sessions focused on satellite lake products, jobs in industry, cryosphere, land process/drought
- 2024 Short course Satellite Data Availability in the Cloud (hybrid)
  - Three main Cloud Service Providers (CSP) / case studies



# GOES-R

# DataJam

## GOES-R DATAJAM COMING MARCH 2023!

A two-week virtual competition for **undergraduate and graduate students** to show off your best use of GOES-R Series data

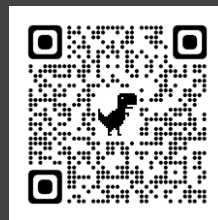
### Students interested in participating:

Send an email to [goesr.hackathon@noaa.gov](mailto:goesr.hackathon@noaa.gov) to be added to our mailing list and we will send you more information when it becomes available

### We are also looking for volunteers!

- Instructors
- Subject Matter Experts
- Mentors
- Judges

Check out last year's  
**GOES-R Hackathon**



# Thank you!!



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