

The World Meteorological Organization is one of 11 Specialized Agencies linked with the United Nations through special agreements with the Economic and Social Council.

### *History*

Weather and climate move across the earth's surface without regard for national boundaries, thereby creating similar problems all over the world. Realizing that large-scale international co-operation was necessary to solve these problems, the nations of the world have made a common effort to apply the available knowledge of the weather and its evolution to the main activities of man. Canada, occupying as it does a considerable portion of the northern hemisphere, including a large part of the meteorologically-vital Arctic, became one of the earliest participants in this international exchange of weather data.

From 1853 on, efforts were made to draw up a program of meteorological observations over the oceans, based on the collaboration of the ships of most of the maritime countries. The First International Meteorological Congress, held in Vienna in 1873, marked the beginning of organized international co-operation in meteorology. In 1878, the International Meteorological Organization, composed of directors of national meteorological services, was created

during an international conference at Utrecht in the Netherlands. The Meteorological Service of Canada, established in 1839, was not represented at this meeting, but the head of the Canadian Meteorological Service, C. Carpmael, sent a full report of the state of the Canadian service to the second meeting of the International Committee, held at Copenhagen in 1882.

During the present century, the development of transport and communications (sea- and air-navigation, radiotelegraphy and, more recently, meteorological and communications satellites) and the increased requirements of modern economic activity have given rise to a large number of technical problems, as well as unprecedented opportunities for improvement. A universal appreciation of the importance of meteorology, coupled with developments in technology, has enabled this relatively young science to make rapid progress. The new developments showed that reorganization at an international level was necessary in view of the increased interest in meteorology.

Consequently, the Conference of Directors of the National Meteorological Services, which met at Washington in 1947 under the auspices of the International Meteorological Organization, adopted the World Meteorological Convention, which set up