

In brief, it can be stated that the WWW is a basic program that provides support for and benefits from the WMO Research Program and the WMO Program on the Interaction of Man and his Environment, and that these three programs are complemented by the WMO Technical Co-operation Program and the WMO activities in education and training. The intent of the WWW is to establish throughout the world facilities meeting minimum standards for weather observations, data-processing, communications, education, training and research. The program is based on the following principles:

- (1) All activities under the WWW on the territory of individual members are in principle the responsibility of the countries themselves.
- (2) Where national resources are inadequate, financing from outside is arranged by bilateral or multilateral agreements, through the United Nations Program or, where necessary, through a WMO Voluntary Assistance Program (VAP);
- (3) WWW implementation in regions outside national sovereignty (oceans, Antarctica, outer space) is based on voluntary participation of members.

The WWW is a system by which co-operation and efficiency are fully exploited. Three World Meteorological Centres -- at Washington, Moscow and Melbourne -- are responsible for providing global analyses of weather patterns and large-scale, long-range forecasts of the basic processes taking place. Regional meteorological centres serve many of the common needs of countries and avoid much duplication of effort within a region, and national meteorological centres, operated by individual nations, in turn provide the full range and number of weather services appropriate to the needs and the developing resources of each country.

The WMO does not merely draw up regulations. It also carries through projects of interest to all states, calling for action on more than a national scale. The Organization's program includes assistance to member countries in developing their water resources, participation in tropical research, assistance in overcoming serious world-wide or regional deficiencies in meteorology. Weather forecasting for agriculture, international comparison of meteorological instruments and publication of a wide variety of international manuals and technical studies are other examples of the Organization's work. In recent years, the WMO has been giving close attention to such matters as air-quality, the meteorological aspects of ocean affairs and operational hydrology.