

- (3) to promote standardization of meteorological observations and to ensure the uniform publication of observations and statistics;
- (4) to further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, agriculture, and other human activities;
- (5) to encourage research and training in meteorology and to assist in co-ordinating the international aspects of such research and training.

Structure and Activities

WMO's administrative and technical machinery consists of:

- (1) a World Meteorological Congress in which 86 member countries are represented by the heads of their meteorological services. It meets once every four years to adopt technical regulations on meteorological practices and procedures and to determine general policy;
- (2) an Executive Committee which supervises the carrying out of resolutions of the Congress, initiates studies, and makes recommendations on matters requiring international action. It provides members with technical information, advice, and assistance. Meeting at least once a year, its membership includes the President and Vice-President of WMO, the President of WMO's six Regional Meteorological Associations, and six elected members;
- (3) six Regional Meteorological Associations (Africa, Asia, South America, North and Central America, Europe, and the Southwest Pacific) composed of member countries whose meteorological networks lie in or extend into the Region.
- (4) Technical Commissions established by the Congress to study and make recommendations on technical subjects.
- (5) A Secretariat under the direction of a Secretary-General.

It is necessary, for the practical use and the comparison of observations made at weather stations throughout the world, to standardize and co-ordinate them. Today, all stations make their observations at the same time in all countries of the world with instruments standardized and compared with international standard instruments. Reports from over 200 Canadian stations are included in the international exchange.

However, WMO does not merely draw up regulations and standardize. In 1953, the Organization's programme included the preparation of world thunderstorm maps and the publication of an international cloud atlas. WMO also takes part in arid zone research and contributes to the development of arid land by studying climatic conditions. The Organization actively collaborates in planning "World days" during the International Geophysical Year to study, on a world-wide basis, the properties of the upper air. Locust control and the protection of crops from this pest is a collective undertaking to which WMO contributes. Another important activity of the Organization is to encourage scientific research and instruction in meteorology by all possible means. The WMO collects and makes available to all national meteorological services information on the regional and international organization of meteorological activity. It may be said that the role of WMO is to provide technical assistance in order to facilitate technical progress within the general field of economic