



## Summary of ICM-25

*Uniting NMSocs of the world to make the whole much bigger than its parts!*



www.ifms.org

*Building Capacity around the world by strengthening National Meteorological Societies & Regional Meteorological Societies and creating Collaborations*

---

### **Summary of meeting held on November 4, 2022 at 8:00 AM NYT**

**Attendees:** Richard Clark, Stella Kafka, Keith Seitter, Charles Ichoku, Harinder Ahluwalia, Buruhani Nyenzi and Workneh Degefu.

#### 1 Introduction

This meeting was held to discuss the preparation for various events planned by IFMS/AfMS up to and including the AMS Conference in January, 2022. Thanks to those who could attend the meeting today.

For some reason, the attendance was sparse. Normally at least 9 to 10 of the 11 CMs attend. Today, it was only Keith and Harinder. For some reason, Buruhani and Workneh had problem joining the Zoom Meeting and joined towards the very end. Looks like there was some confusion about time for others.

#### 2 Agenda Items

The “Agenda” is provided on slides 2 & 3 of the attached presentation which formed the basis of this meeting. We went through the slides. We discussed the important topics discussed below.

#### 3 AfMS Inauguration

AfMS was created in 2021 and is under development. It has its own website ([www.africanmetsociety.org](http://www.africanmetsociety.org)). Out of the 11 existing NMSocs in Africa, 8 have already become members. The holdouts are the NMSocs of Egypt, South Africa and Mauritius. We fail to understand why they are holding out.

Harinder then presented slides 4 & 5 which outline the Inauguration Ceremony of the AfMS which is slated to be a 3-hour Affair. This is due to the fact that we plan to give a number of people opportunity to speak at this momentous occasion and we hope that they will get involved in helping IFMS/AfMS activities to make them grow. There was a suggestion to reduce it to 2 hours but that would mean reducing the number of speakers which is quite hard to do without ignoring some important people. People can remain engaged in the ceremony as long as they wish.

#### 4 Commemorative IFMS Newsletter (INL)

We then discussed the special IFMS Newsletter (INL) (see slides 6 and 7), which is being produced to commemorate the Inauguration of the AfMS.

We are putting ads in the INL to create some finances for AfMS/IFMS and give opportunity to private sector and other organizations to promote themselves through this INL with a very large circulation. **Harinder requested attendees to help in attracting ads.** He stated that he will be putting one-page ad for his company to prove the utility of the ad in this INL because of its long retention due to being a Souvenir Edition (people will keep it for a long time) and wide circulation as outlined in the attached document – Invitation to Advertise.



## Summary of ICM-25

---

Stella asked whether we will be advertising our participation in AMS in our INL. Harinder said we can do that. Richard asked some questions related to ads in the special INL #9. Please see attachment #3 for answers. Richard stated that he will speak with some people for the ads for which IFMS will be very thankful. Others should do the same.

### 5 IFMS Events at the AMS Conference in January 2023

Harinder then presented the two events in which IFMS will be participating in the 103<sup>rd</sup> AMS Annual Meeting which will take place from 8 to 12 January, 2023 in Denver, Colorado. IFMS will be participating in 2 events at that meeting which are outlined below.

#### 5.1 Half a Day IFMS Session on January 12, 2023

Please see Slides 8 and 9 for the overall plan of the half a day event organized by IFMS and supported by AMS at the AMS Conference. Its details will be worked out in the next few weeks.

Harinder stated that it will be a hybrid meeting in the sense that, in addition to the in-person attendance, people can also join the meeting through Zoom facility which is being arranged by AMS. Stella informed us that the whole conference will be hybrid.

#### 5.2 Presentation of IFMS in SDG Session of IAC-AMS

IFMS has been asked to participate in the event organized by the International Affairs Committee (IAC) of AMS. Harinder will make a presentation in that session related to the UN-SDGs related to Goal 13: **Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**. Harinder's presentation will describe the actions IFMS is taking to create capacity around the world. Collaboration between strong societies will result in sharing of work load so that they can achieve more with their limited resources. Assistance by IFMS will be in the form of coordination of collaboration. IFMS' major goal is to create a National Meteorological Society (NMSoc) in all countries and also Regional Meteorological Societies (RMS) in all continents/regions. Through this infrastructure IFMS is creating capacity in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Developing Countries (DCs). There will be an article in INL#9 on this topic.

### 6 Funding of IFMS and AfMS – “Money makes the mare go”

Harinder showed slide 11 related to funding. We are trying to strengthen IFMS and make it most useful, but right now financing is our Achilles' heel. Harinder asked attendees to assist in coming up with ideas about funding IFMS/AfMS. *Only money can make mare go*. We need to finance IFMS and through IFMS, NMSocs and RMSs.

We know about the capability of IFMS to draw expert professionals and youngsters who are starting their careers. IFMS/RMSs can attract professionals who are active, who are retired persons, diaspora members and professionals from other countries. It can attract professionals from Public/Private/Academic (PPA) sectors. We need to strengthen our financial capability to make use of all these resources to the best of their capability. Therefore, we had a discussion on financing aspect for these societies.

Harinder stated that we have been thinking of various funding mechanisms. Some Q&A ensued.

**Richard Clark** asked why we are not getting member NMSocs to contribute. Harinder responded that even before incorporating IFMS, we suggested at the first meeting in New Orleans that each NMSoc should contribute 2% of its membership fee to IFMS. ***NMSocs from developed countries have not offered to do that despite having agreed to do it in the very first meeting.*** We do understand that most NMSocs in developing countries are hard of funds, hence, we do not want to burden them with extra pressure. *We again urge those societies which can, to send 2% of their membership fee to IFMS.*

**Charles Ichoku** suggested that we ask NMSocs to add a line in the membership dues form asking for donation for IFMS, if a member wishes. Harinder responded that this has also been suggested but member



## Summary of ICM-25

---

societies have not obliged us by doing that. We will try again and see whether thinking has changed. Through this summary which will be distributed to all member societies, we urge all NMSoc to add a line in their Membership Application and Renewal Application stating: *If interested in helping IFMS in funding for its activities, please add \$5 for that. Developing NMSocs can choose another figure.*

Harinder also registered IFMS for “Crowd Funding” with “Classy”. “Classy” handles collection of funds and remittance to IFMS for a reasonable fee. It also issues the Tax receipts. The success of such a mechanism for collecting funds is dependent upon letting as many people as possible know about IFMS activities and encouraging people to use this mechanism for funding. We can inform not only professionals but also general public to contribute. Member Societies were asked to send such a message to their members, none obliged. It appears that some societies think that asking for funds for IFMS will cut into their funding which according to Harinder is a false supposition. After sumptuous meal, even knowing tommy is full, we have desert – it goes in different part of the belly 😊. **Member societies are urged to send the above stated info to their members.** We can update info on “Classy” site to be more convincing as to why people should fund IFMS. Here is the site address you can use for donations:

<https://www.classy.org/campaign/IFMS-Funding-2019/c244490>.

Please also see the attached document listing various ways of making contributions to IFMS.

Harinder also stated that the real way of funding is through governments, the Aid Agencies and Philanthropic agencies of the affluent countries. He gave the example of affluent countries contributing to a green fund of \$100 B a part of which - a fair percentage - should go for capacity building through an organization like IFMS which can have a strong Financing Committee to manage these funds.

The Finance Committee of IFMS should define the funding criteria for projects proposed by the Regional and National Meteorological Societies and determine how they will help Capacity Building. Based on that, IFMS can fund such projects.

### 7 IFMS Participation in COP27 in Egypt

IFMS is being represented in the Climate Change Conference COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt by Liz Bentley and Cam Chao – the two members of the IFMS Council – who are assisting us in addition to assisting their primary organizations which are financing their participation.

A Team created by IFMS with the assistance of RMetS under the leadership of Dr. Robert Varley to help AfMS in Professional Training has created a portal (<https://ifms.org/index.cfm/ifms/afms-learning-portal/>) to assist African countries in training of professionals – in fact it is good for all professionals around the world. This portal will be unveiled at COP27. It will be unveiled in COP27.

### 8 E&T and S&T Collaboration

In addition to creating NMSocs and RMSs, IFMS is creating capacity by promoting Education and Training (E&T) courses and Science and Technology (S&T) Collaboration. The professional training Program of IFMS is outlined in Section 7 above. In addition, we believe that real capacity can be developed only by educating youngsters, public and politicians. We have started a Pilot Project in 9 countries in the horn of Africa and East Africa (Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda). Under this project, we will introduce quality curriculum in schools, colleges and universities of these 9 countries and based on the success of the pilot, in rest of Africa, and eventually rest of the world.

We also have an S&T collaboration program in which not only locals, but also diaspora and experts from rest of the world community are also participating. We are also collaborating with the International Partnership Program of the AMS for S&T collaboration.



### 9 Conclusion

We would like to thank Richard Clark, Stella Kafka and Charles Ichoku for joining the meeting and supporting our efforts by asking questions and for their readiness to help this important capacity building program.

IFMS is a very important organization for building capacity around the world by creating NMSocs and RMSs. In addition, its E&T Programs and S&T Collaboration are sure means of creating capacity all over the world, and especially in LDCs and DCs. We have recently assisted Africans to create the African Meteorological Society (AfMS) which we are operationalizing and will be inaugurating on November 30, 2022. We plan to assist Asian countries including the ASEAN countries to create Asian Meteorological Society.

We need substantial financing to create strong capacity around the world. We are working hard to organize those finances and have discussed various ways we will be exploring to finance IFMS and NMSocs and RMSs.