

ECMWF address to the Beijing Ministerial Summit

Dear . . .

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (in short: ECMWF) is an independent intergovernmental organisation supported by 33 States. ECMWF is renowned worldwide as providing the most accurate medium-range global weather forecasts to 15 days and monthly to seasonal forecasts.

ECMWF has been a Participating Organization in GEO since the initiative was started in 2003. Since then, it contributed to the activities of the User Interface Committee and the Science and Technology Committee. The Centre hosted the 14th session of the User Interface Committee in March 2010.

The Centre has contributed and will continue to contribute to several tasks of the GEO Work Plan in the societal benefit areas ‘Weather’, ‘Climate’, ‘Health’, ‘Energy’, and ‘Water’, mainly through contributions based on reanalysis data, through its long-standing expertise in numerical weather prediction and data assimilation, and through its TIGGE activities.

The theme of this summit is “*Observe, Share, Inform*”. ECMWF does play a major role in this context:

As part of its strategic objective of further improving medium-range forecasts, ECMWF has developed a very powerful data assimilation system. ECMWF pioneered the development of operational four-dimensional data assimilation, called 4D-var, which is now used by most numerical weather prediction systems worldwide and is particularly suited for satellite observations. Such a system enables the possibility to evaluate the respective benefits of the various components of the

observing system. It also allows the evaluation of the benefit of future systems through Observing System Simulation Experiments. It is an important tool for States, space agencies and National Meteorological Services, in charge of maintaining and developing Earth Observations, as it enables them to optimize future investments in the Global Observing System.

ECMWF has established strong worldwide partnerships with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services as well as with several space organisations (being in Beijing, I wish to acknowledge in particular our fruitful collaboration with the Chinese Meteorological Administration, CMA). Exchanging and sharing observational data is essential for being able to forecast the weather, above all extreme events such as storms, floods, and heat waves.

Let me conclude by ensuring you that ECMWF will remain fully committed to the GEO process and continue being a reliable global partner.

Thank you for your attention.