

CONNECT
2023/2024 report
EC-CDP-10

CONNECT INITIATIVE – Where it comes from

- Participants of SYMET-14 strongly endorsed the “Board of Education and Training Collaborating Partners” as a formal mechanism to achieve the goals of the WMO Global Campus initiative.
- The Secretariat further developed the concept under a newly proposed name:
“Consortium of WMO Education and Training Collaborating Partners (CONNECT)”

What is the Consortium of WMO Education and Training Collaborating Partners?

- Consortium of WMO Education and Training Collaborating Partners (CONNECT) is an entity that will:
 - be a formal mechanism to achieve the goals of the WMO Global Campus initiative
 - complement the work of the WMO Capacity Development Panel
 - assist in building critical mass of support for ensuring technically sound, coherent, consistent and timely input of stakeholders towards the provision of desirable strategic direction for education and training activities.
 - constitute a viable ground for minimization of duplication, to complement efforts, maximize impacts, and enhancing cost-effective use of resources

CONNECT Plenary meetings

- CONNECT-1 was held on:
- 17 – 19 April 2023
- Hybrid with the face to face at
- WMO headquarters
- CONNECT-2 was held on:
- 22-24 October 2024
- Hybrid with face to face at
- CMATC, Beijing

In between there were Management Group meetings to kick-start the activities.

18 Members elected by WMO RAs to form CONNECT Management Group

- Mohamed Tawfik Abdeldayem, Egypt (Male)
- Winifred Jordaan, South Africa (Female) **Chair**
- DIAKARIA KONE, Niger (Male)
- Valerii Micheev, Russian Federation (Male)
- Gaurishankar Kallappa Sawaisarje, India (Male)
- YU Yubin, China (Male)
- Solangelita Edit Sánchez Cuevas, Chile (Female)
- Vagner Anabor, Brazil (Male) **Vice-Chair**
- Romina Nahir Mezher, Argentina (Female)

ARPITA MANDAL, Jamaica (Female)

Michelle Hardy, Canada (Female)

Replaced by Stepher Kerr Canada (Male)

Bernadette Connell, USA (Female)

Mick Pope, Australia (Male) Vice-Chair

Nelly Florida Riama, Indonesia (Female)

Michael S. Bala, Phillipines (Male)

Steven Callaghan, United Kingdom (Male) **Vice-Chair**

Waiting for conformation who will take over.

Barbara BOURDELLES, France (Female)

Marina Baldi, Italy (Female)

Specialized Working Groups (WGs) of CONECT

- Five Working Groups have been defined for initial activities of CONECT:
- **Group 1: Promoting Basic Instruction Packages (BIPs) and competency frameworks implementation**
- Main topics to address: Promote the adoption of BIPs, discuss challenges on implementation, and share success stories.

Chair: *Mohammed Tawfik*

Vice-chair *Barbara Bourdelles*

- **Group 2: Training Resources**
- Main topics to address: Promote sharing of training resources and co-development, discuss copyright standards, minimum metadata, and related challenges that can facilitate re-use, and check for major gaps in resources already shared through Global Campus Collection of Learning Resources.

Chair: *Mick Pope*

Vice-chair *Romina Mezher*

- **Group 3: Communications and outreach of CONECT and Global Campus initiative**
- Main topics to address: Develop a communication strategy and plan for CONECT and Global Campus.

Chair: *Marina Baldi*

Vice-chair *Nelly Florida, and Vagner Anabor*

Specialized Working Groups (WGs) of CONECT

- Five Working Groups have been defined for initial activities of CONECT:
- **Group 4: Work force/Human Resources**
- Main topics to address: Discuss education and training outreach initiatives, succession challenges, promote WMO gender policy, explore resource mobilization and benefits of belonging to CONECT.

Chair: *Valerii Micheev*

Vice-chair Bernie Connell

- **Group 5: Approaches to consistent adoption of certificates and microcredentials in training**
- Main topics to address: Discuss approaches and national requirements for issuing and accepting certificates of training, share good practices and develop guidance to promote wider recognition of certificates, and explore the benefits and challenges of using and sharing microcredentials.
- Chair: *YU Yubin*

Decisions from CONECT-1

- **Decision 1 (CONECT-1):** The period of work of elected members of CONECT Management Group is 4 years (Add to Structure and working procedures).
- **Decision 2 (CONECT-1):** New nominations can be proposed by plenary and by PRs, based on criteria: a) representatives from institutions working with education and training in meteorology, hydrology, and climate. (Add to Structure and working procedures).
- **Decision 3 (CONECT-1):** Reports of CONECT activities will be shared with all partners interested in CONECT, PRs and hydrological advisors, and bodies of WMO.
- **Decision 4 (CONECT-1):** Use the WMO ETRP Moodle platform to keep information about meetings of CONECT and assist the work of the Management Group.

Recommendations from CONECT 1

- **Recommendation 1 (CONECT-1):** Members of CONECT to work together to reach the common goals identified by the CONECT Plenary.
- **Recommendation 2 (CONECT-1):** CONECT to encourage co-design and co-creation of training materials.
- **Recommendation 3 (CONECT-1):** CONECT participants to write short case studies to illustrate their national models of engagement between universities and NMHSs. The case studies should contain a brief explanation of how the engagements work, celebrate the successes (what works well), present the challenges (where improvement is needed).
- **Recommendation 4 (CONECT-1):** WMO Secretariat and CONECT partners to collaborate to promote exchange of human resources between institutions to move the Consortium forward.
- **Recommendation 5 (CONECT-1):** CONECT to contribute to promoting sharing of education and training resources and events, in all languages, by using the WMO Global Campus tools.
- **Recommendation 6 (CONECT-1):** CONECT to encourage education and training partners to use clear and objective language in the development of training materials to enhance the ability of translation.

CONNECT-2

In General

- This was a hybrid meeting, hosted by CMATC in Beijing, China. The meeting was attended by 47 participants from 22 countries (19 in person, 26 online).
- It must be noted that the official report of CONNECT-2 has not been finalized as yet.
- This presentation only will give an overview of the major outcomes of CONNECT-2 meeting.

Draft Actions from CONECT 2

- **Action 1 (CONECT-2):** WG-1 to finalize plans for a webinar about using the "Guide to the Implementation of Education and Training Standards in Meteorology and Hydrology" (WMO-No. 1083) and share them with CONECT-MG for feedback and support.
Actionee(s): CONECT WG-1 Chair and Vice-Chair
- **Action 2 (CONECT-2):** WG-3 to propose a design for the CONECT logo. To be presented to CONECT-MG for feedback and approval at the next meeting in January 2025.
Actionee (s): CONECT WG-3 Chair and Vice-Chairs
- **Action 3 (CONECT-2):** CONECT-MG to develop a strategy to improve information sharing among CONECT members, leveraging platforms like the WMO Global Campus and promoting multilingual educational resources.
Actionee (s): All members of CONECT-MG

Draft Actions from CONECT 2

- **Action 4 (CONECT-2):** WG-5 to share the questions for a planned survey on certification for feedback from CONECT-MG before opening it for responses.
Actionee(s): CONECT WG-5 Chair and Vice-Chairs
- **Action 5 (CONECT-2):** Terms of Reference of CONECT to be revised to formally incorporate decisions regarding the approval of new members.
Actionee(s): Secretariat and Chairs of CONECT
- **Action 6 (CONECT-2):** A list of institutions that are CONECT Plenary members will be added to the CONECT website for transparency and visibility.
Actionee(s): Secretariat
- **Action 7 (CONECT-2):** CONECT-MG will discuss and establish the minimum time commitment required from MG members, with agreed guidelines to be incorporated into the ToR.
Actionee(s): All members of CONECT-MG

Draft Recommendations from CONECT 2

- **Recommendation 1 (CONECT-2):** CONECT Plenary members should actively promote collaborations between Regional Training Centers (RTCs) and universities to develop region-specific, innovative training programs.
- **Recommendation 2 (CONECT-2):** CONECT Plenary members should continue sharing education and training opportunities, such as courses and conferences, through the WMO Global Campus Calendar (<https://learningevents.wmo.int>).
- **Recommendation 3 (CONECT-2):** Members should consider documenting their cooperation in capacity development using the WMO Capacity Development Framework, highlighting best practices and lessons learned. Case study templates and additional guidance are available on the [Capacity Development Panel Website](#).
- **Recommendation 4 (CONECT-2):** The CONECT Management Group should explore the coordination of future CONECT Plenary meetings with major education and training conferences, such as CALMet, to enhance participation and optimize resource use. The hybrid format should be retained to facilitate broader participation of CONECT Plenary members.

Some management outcomes:

- Replacement of general members: Institution to replace members.
- Replacement of MG members: The region represented to vote who will sit on the MG
- Replacement of chairs: The MG to vote
- Nomination of new members to MG - then to chair for noting.
- Proposal needs to include how the new member can contribute to WMO global campus
- Regional MG members to inspect the proposal and make recommendations
- At MG meeting – voting

Final word

- Thank you to all that contributed, especially the MG and vice-chairs
 - Thank you to the secretariat for your full support
- Thank you to our host, CMATC for excellent organization and support

Activities in 2025

- The first online meeting of CONECT MG took place last week (29 January).
- The first version of the logo was proposed as part of the strategy for increasing visibility and communications of CONECT.
- The decision of the host for the next meeting of CONECT Plenary members was made: WMO RTC in Italy, Florence.
- The CONECT Plenary meeting will take place back-to-back with a conference on education and training jointly organized by CONECT and CALMet.

Thank you
Merci