

Increasing the Socio-Economic Benefits through Public-Private-Academic Collaboration and Partnership

Issues Discussed

Not excluding other issues, NMHSs commonly face these inter-linked challenges at varied level:

- [Funds] Public budget to operate and maintain hydromet infrastructure and services are suboptimal and decreasing, and co-funding by/with private sector could be sensitive under some legislative frameworks;
- [Technology] Limited access to and opportunities to use state-of-art equipment and technologies sustainably, which often limit further improvement of hydromet services;
- [People] Finding, engaging and maintaining skilful personnel in the work of NMHS.

Where Public-Private sector engagement may offer help

In line with the past and ongoing debates, panellists' general view was converged into the benefit of partnerships among public, private, academic and other sectors, to address NMHSs' challenges including:

- Raising visibility within the government, and convincing of NMHS's critical value within the national decisions
- Enhancing fundamental observations and data production
- Amplifying and expanding distribution of NMHS's authoritative voice for public safety information

The dialogue reaffirmed strong willingness of private sector to engage with and support NMHSs to tackle these challenges together, and some success cases were shared with audience.

The role of academic sector was again highlighted; not only as rich source of R&D, but also as the sustaining pillar for skills and human resources for the entire Global Weather Enterprise.

Starting down the engagement path

The discussion among the panellists and audience largely devoted to identifying practical approaches to enhance engagement of all sector partners, and means to lower the existing barriers:

- A new look to help mutual understanding
 - Increase mutual understanding on the ways of doing business, to build beneficial partnership.
 - *"Never waste a good crisis."* – Global health crisis, climate extremes and financial challenges have raised attention to critical infrastructure for safety, and to the need for synergized partnership.
- Focus on creating virtuous cycle to grow the market for hydromet services
 - Develop strategies for efficient use of available resources, both in public and private domains – decide priorities, share responsibilities, and extend areas for co-creation with other sector partners.
 - Make fundamental data available for innovation, to maximise return to the entire value chain.
 - *Start small, demonstrating success, and expand:* pilot projects and clearly defined/focused collaboration are highly recommended for starting points.
- Building trust
 - National and regional setting is important, especially to ensure a space for "safe" dialogue on practical issues such as procurement. An agreed procedure like Chatham house rule could be adopted.

- In addition to the fora such as GWE Forum and OCP, broad societies like AMS would provide open and inclusive environment for overarching discussions.

Issues for further deliberation

The discussion remains open, looking to participation of all engaged in the GWE Forum. Two questions may be dealt with in coming discussions:

- New ways of doing business in developing countries
 - Effort to solidify legal frameworks to strengthen partnerships – transparency, accountability
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Chat Digest

- from Leonard S. to Everyone: 6:41 PM
Can we engage in the risk of new business models?
- from Ashish Raval to Everyone: 6:42 PM
There needs to be very transparent and clear acceptance models, clear financial milestone and deadlines for payment.
- from Nabansu Chattopadhyay to Everyone: 6:43 PM
Is there any changes in perception in Public-Private understanding during on-going pandemic situation in relation to pre-pandemic situation?
- from Leonard S. to Everyone: 6:46 PM
I expect that there are people in all camps that still feel/fear that Jonathan's "old way", even as there are many open-minded people. how do we address reasonable hesitation (on all sides).
- from Rodney Martinez to Everyone: 6:48 PM
More dialogue is needed sharing good practices in other regions and inviting key regional partners and institutions
- from Frank Annor TAHMO to Everyone: 6:48 PM
Working together requires 3 main ingredients: Trust, Transparency and Accountability. If we could provide these for shared/common interests and benefits we may be able to solve this hard puzzle of PPAP. Where can we start?
- from Alan to Everyone: 6:53 PM
The phrase of "authoritative voice" has a negative connotation in the sense that the government agency is the only organisation that can have a credible view and speak with authority. Private sector organisations can also speak with authority and credibly when they issue forecasts. What is really meant is that the NMHS is the designated voice to issue warnings. If so, then let's say designated. Alan Thorpe
- from Brian Day to Everyone: 6:58 PM
Jerry - is the open Consultative Platform that is sponsored by WMO a place to have those safe conversations?
- from Leonard S. to Everyone: 7:03 PM
There are many different players on the private side, it is a big ask to suggest anyone trust them all. (this is not just a decades-ago issue).

from Leonard S. to Everyone: 7:04 PM

That said i agree with your general statement!

from Karl Gutbrod to Everyone: 7:04 PM

I think we need to tackle 3 major issues in the industry.

1. NHMS having sufficient capabilities. We have 3 situations

1.1. Well funded : in most developed countries: support

1.2. underfunded and Capable: we need to improve funding.

1.3. not or barely existent : we need to build them.

The PPE project must ensure we develop funding and capacity building mechanisms for it.

We cannot address PPE in situations 1.2 and 1.3 before fixing the fundamentals.

2. Level playing field - we must ensure NHMS provide base supply and leaves the commercial fields to private players. (We need to improve those models)

3. New technologies and challenges

Climate change, renewable energies, extreme weather need new approaches.

PPE should focus around these areas, and address them specifically.

from Leonard S. to Everyone: 7:05 PM

"leaves the commercial field to private players"

from Xianfu Lu (internal) to Everyone: 7:05 PM

Do the panel have positive experience of collaborating with the academia to share?

from Leonard S. to Everyone: 7:06 PM

Looking at how this field has evolved in the past (expanded), is there not a serious concern it will in fact grow without limit?

from Adriaan Perrels to Everyone: 7:06 PM

1. The upstream capital intensive (and partly natural monopoly like) segment of the weather/hydro/climate value chain needs somehow ensured resourcing to support continuity and renewal. This could involve (internationalized) fees from the private sector. The downstream part of the value chain makes sense to be served to a significant extent by private firms, but for key public tasks by the NHMS. Furthermore, NHMSs can participate in private sector R&D (next to public R&D) and be paid for that (and for assistance in updating later on).

2. Due to technical development in observation and information sharing as well as the emergence of climate services in addition to weather services means that the current private sector weather sector may face new entrants basing their business models on broad scoped risk management (e.g for real estate portfolios, or food chain logistics mgt., etc.). The first signs of these new entrants can already be witnessed.

3. New organisation of upstream resourcing is sensible and potentially efficiency raising development. Yet, crucial point is prioritization of upstream investment domains, where e.g. equity issues come forward.

from william hooke to Everyone: 7:06 PM

<https://www.livingontherealworld.org/?s=%24100+trillion>

how can we make this case to world leaders as they consider their food, water, and energy critical infrastructure investments?

from Bryce Ford to Everyone:

7:09 PM

Kevin is absolutely right. In any partnership both sides need to be sustainable. Sustainability is not just an issue for an NMHS.

from Alan to Everyone:

7:10 PM

In the UK there is very good collaboration between the universities and research centres and the Met Office (and ECMWF). The links of both academia and NMHS to the private sector is less developed. Alan Thorpe

from Karl Gutbrod to Everyone:

7:17 PM

I want to bring the resourcing issue back to the center:

It is not realistic - in my view - to expect that an impoverished NHMS operating on 10% of the necessary budget will operate a reliable surface or radio sound network. Fact. Is they will simply drop the less cost effective (remote and expensive) observations.

This is "economical " but detrimental to the global observation, and (in the end) to the entire capability of the value chain to evolve.

Private economics will not solve the problem.

from Gerrit Hiemstra to Everyone:

7:19 PM

I'm Gerrit Hiemstra, ceo of Weather Impact in The Netherlands, a consulting company on meteorology and climate change. We do a lot of work in developing countries, especially in Eastern Africa.

I would like to make a suggestion. My suggestion is to focus on output. Mr. Jerry Lengoasa mentioned the WMO's SOFF project and that is a good example. If there are countries where there are gaps in the observing network, pay them to provide good quality data. The same can be thought of for weather warnings, forecasts for the agricultural sector, aviation, etc.

Pay them when they deliver. The private sector can help the national weather service to do that, with technology, knowledge, training employees, etc.

That is a different approach, but in this way you leave the responsibility with the national weather services, the desired result will be achieved and the private sector can make a useful contribution and will be paid for it.

WMO can co-ordinate this, World Bank can be the organisation

from Gerrit Hiemstra to Everyone:

7:20 PM

to finance this. At weather Impact we would be happy to be part of this development as a private company.

from Karl Gutbrod to Everyone:

7:22 PM

I agree : the SOFF approach should be expanded. funding a global network using a global funding is an excellent basis for ensuring a consistent stream of data to a global observation system, would make the country organisations more independent from local policy, reward organisations providing "good data" and be one of the best investments in global sustainable development

from Leonard S. to Everyone: 7:24 PM

The Chatham House idea is excellent.

from Alan to Everyone: 7:38 PM

Great suggestion from Jerry to position the weather enterprise as a critical infrastructure post pandemic.

from Jonathan Porter to Everyone: 7:41 PM

Yes it is, that is a great idea and one that I believe would be very impactful.

from Patrick BENICHOU to Everyone: 7:44 PM

Fully agree with Vladimir, PPE is one way for succeeding together in developing / emerging countries
