



METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND ARUBA

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Press Release

29th Session of the Regional Hurricane Committee of the World Meteorological Organization in Curaçao from March 27 until April 3, 2007

Recently, between March 27 and April 3, the Government of the Netherlands Antilles hosted the 29th session of the Regional Association IV (RA IV) Hurricane Committee of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The WMO is one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations with 188 member states, of which the Netherlands Antilles have been an autonomous member since 1950. This annual session of the WMO RA IV Regional Hurricane Committee was mainly attended by directors and advisors of national meteorological services in the following WMO member states: Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom (Bermuda), Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean States, the Central American countries, Venezuela and Colombia (27 countries all together). In addition representatives of international organizations like WMO, the Red Cross, CDERA CEPREDENAC, OFDA, USAID also participated in this session. The 29th session took place in Super Club Breezes Hotel.



From left to right on this picture: Paulo Manso, vice president of RA-IV, Herbert Domacassé, Governor of Bonaire, Omayra Leeflang, Minister of Traffic and Transport, Emily de Jongh-Elhage, Prime-Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Bill Proenza, Director of the NHC, Koji Kuroiwa and Oscar Orango, WMO Secretariat and Arthur Dania, Director of the Meteorological Service during the official opening of the Regional Hurricane Committee Conference

Dr. Bill Proenza, the new Director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, presided the WMO RA IV Regional Hurricane Committee for the first time and did so successfully. The committee met to discuss topics concerning the regional and operational coordination between the national meteorological services. On top of that, several technical and scientific aspects on this terrain were discussed as well. As such, it was a meeting of decision makers concerning all aspects of Tropical Cyclones in the Atlantic Basin.

The official inauguration of the 29th session of the WMO RA IV Regional Hurricane Committee was performed by the Secretary of Traffic and Transportation of the Netherlands Antilles, Ms. Omayra Leeflang. It took place in the Super Club Breezes Hotel on March 27 and a press conference was held afterwards.

Dr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the WMO, also attended this Conference between March 29 and 30. He met during his stay with the Governor and Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles and pledged to the attendants of the conference the continued support of the WMO in their efforts to deal with both tropical cyclones and possible tsunamis.

A couple of workshops about respectively “Tropical Cyclones and the tourist industry” and “Insurance aspects of Tropical Cyclones” were held on March 30, 2007. Both of these workshops were attended by the members of the committee and invited local professionals in both the tourism and insurance branches. Dr. Max Mayfield, until recently director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, presided the workshops.
