

Mauritius launches Argo float

Since the initial Indian Ocean Argo Implementation meeting in June 2001, Argo has developed rapidly in the Indian Ocean with over 150 floats now operating in the region. In November 2002 the Indian Ocean GOOS (IOGOOS) alliance was established during its First Conference held in Grand Bay, Mauritius. During this conference a number of collaborations were established, in particular one between UK and Mauritius on Argo. Following the IOGOOS Conference an Apex float, funded through UK Argo, was delivered directly from Webb Research Corporation to the Mauritius Meteorological Services, to be deployed in a location of particular interest to Mauritius.

The float was delivered to Mauritius in March 2003 and on 19th June was formally handed over, on behalf of the UK Met Office, by the British High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr David Snoxell. The Permanent Secretary of the Prime Ministers Office, Mrs K. Beegun, received the float on behalf of the Mauritius Meteorological Services. The handing-over ceremony was held on the deck of the National Coast Guard Vessel "*The Guardian*" moored in Port Louis Harbour, and was attended by a number of eminent personalities including the High Commissioner of Australia. The ceremony was covered in peak time news on national television, radio and by the leading newspaper of Mauritius.



The Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Mrs. K. Beegun thanks the UK Met Office, represented by the British High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. David Snoxell on behalf of the Government of Mauritius for providing the Argo Float.



The British High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. David Snoxell addressing the official guests on board of "The Guardian".

During the afternoon the ship left Port Louis and sailed to the St. Brandon Islands where the float was launched by several technicians from the Meteorological Services. The float (WMO number 1900177, Argos ID 9412) has since reported its first profile and the data are being provided in real-time by the UK Argo Data Centre to the Mauritius Meteorological Services.



Mr. K. Issuree, Principal Electronic Technician of the Mauritius Meteorological Services and the officers of the National Coast Guard a few minutes prior to launching the float near the St. Brandon Islands.

It is hoped to build on this collaboration over the coming years with UK Argo providing further floats to the Mauritius Meteorological Services for deployment in Indian Ocean waters around Mauritius.

For further information contact:

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