MINUTES OF CLOUD-NET LAUNCH MEETING

21 July 2004, during 14th International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation, Bologna, Italy.
Present: Dominique Bouniol (IPSL); Gerd-Jan van Zadelhoff (KNMI); Damian Wilson (Met Office); Adrian Tomkins (ECMWF) ; Robin Hogan, Anthony Illingworth (co-ordinator.), Nicolas Gaussiat (Administrator), Ewan O'Connor (U of Reading).

1. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL REMARKS

1.1 AJI summarised the scope of the meeting: to discuss the release of version 1.0 of the CloudNET data to the community and invite participation from other modellers and those with other data sets of cloud observations; to review progress since the April 2004 meeting in Exeter, UK, and to review tasks to be completed before the next meeting in October 2004.

2. STATUS OF THE DATA SET.

2.1 Collaboration with other groups.

It was agreed that the data set should be released to the community and that participation by other operational models and observations should be encouraged. The CloudNET poster had been on display for one day, and approaches had already been made with a view to participation by those working with the Lokal Model of DWD (Germany), HIRLAM of SHMI (Sweden), and the Canadian operational global model. In principle, the incorporation of their operational model data for the grid boxes over the three CloudNET observing sites is straightforward; the data will need to be translated into the CloudNET NetCDF format.
ACTION 2.1 AJI, during the CloudNET oral presentation on 22 July, to highlight the invitation to other groups to both provide and access data for the CloudNET data base.

2.2 Data Policy.

A statement on the data policy on the web site must be posted within the next two weeks. This statement must reflect the willingness to share data with other workers, who would need to 'register' via email to gain access. It was agreed that any publications from such workers should specifically acknowledge CloudNET and the specific sites from which the observations were made and the models being used. In addition, the named originator of the algorithms should be mentioned. Clearly, the precise wording of such a statement needs some care, mentioning those involved in producing the data set, but not becoming too unwieldy. In addition it was agreed that an email newsletter be implemented so that such users would obtain important updates to the status of the CloudNET data set.
ACTION 2.2 AJI to circulate a form of words for a standard CloudNET acknowledgment which would then be posted on the web site. All to respond. A statement to be agreed within the next two weeks.
ACTION 2.3. EO, NG to set up automatic email newsletter update.

2.3 Release of Version 1 data.

Version 1 of the data set should be ready for release by the end of August. NG reported that the liquid water path (LWP) product had been improved. A new algorithm had been implemented which did not produce negative LWP and had levels close to zero when no liquid cloud was detected by the lidar; the previous version suffered from these two unrealistic features. RJH reported that the categorisation bugs had been fixed (classification of insects and clutter, difficulties over the height of the melting layer, inference of rain affecting the cloud radar from the Doppler, etc). It was decided that Version 1 should, for

the moment, have just two ice water content (IWC) products. One from the IWC = f(Z,T) algorithm which can be applied to all echoes deemed to be ice clouds and a second using the KNMI radar/lidar algorithm to produce both ice particles size and a more accurate IWC. A statement on the web site would clearly indicate the status of these two products: the first for nearly all ice clouds, and the second more accurate product for a sub-set ice clouds penetrated by both radar and lidar.
ACTION 2.4 EOC/NG to arrange these two products to be released in Version 1.

2.4 Status of SIRTA products. DB reported that before the SIRTA data could be not be released at level 1 until the following actions had been completed: a) The current ten second radar/lidar data records be converted into 30 second netCDF compatible records, b) The DRAKAR radiometer to be calibrated following the VAPIC campaign during May-June 04 and the LWP products for the brightness temperatures recorded since October 02 to be derived. Following this the categorisation code could be applied to the data. It was also necessary to implement a multiple scattering correction before the IPSL ice water content and ice particle size product could be released. Because of the lack of personnel available to work on these aspects, DB was unable to give a date for the release of the SIRTA Version 1 data.

3. Other outstanding actions.
3.1 Documentation of model updates.
DW and AT were reminded that they each need to produce a short document listing significant changes to the cloud representation within the models during the CloudNET project.
ACTION 3.1 DW, AT, J-M P – to produce above documentation.

3.2 Sampling bias problems.
DW emphasised the problems which arose due to observations of IWC being unavailable during precipitation and reminded everybody of his paper analysing model output which showed the bias this introduced when occasions of light rain were excluded. Clearly some method of matching the model pdfs of precipitation with those of the observations is needed.
ACTION 3.2 All – to report at the next meeting on methods of dealing with the observation bias introduced by excluding data during precipitation.

3.3. Reporting monthly summaries of observations and model statistics on the web
ACTION 3.3 RJH and EOC to complete by next meeting.

3.4 Radiative flux comparisons with cloud model profiles.
ACTION 3.4 DB to investigate who will be doing these studies at IPSL.

4. Date of Next Meeting, 18-19 October 2004 at TUD, Delft.

Anthony Illingworth, Reading, 26 July 2004