



## **Barbados to host international meeting on new high-resolution weather satellites and their role in monitoring climate change**

May 5, 2016 (Bridgetown, Barbados) – Next week, the world’s leading meteorological satellite training experts will meet in Barbados (May 9 – 13, 2016) to discuss how the Next Generation of high-resolution satellites will help countries and regions, including Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), improve how they track extreme weather and monitor climate change.

Officially called the Eighth Virtual Laboratory for Training and Education in Satellite Meteorology (VLab) Management Group Meeting (VLMG-8), the week-long event will be hosted at the [Husbands, St. James campus of the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology \(CIMH\)](#). Participating VLab members will represent Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Morocco, South Africa and the United States.

The focus of VLMG-8 will be a new generation of meteorological and environmental satellites that will be put into service over the next five years. These new satellites will revolutionize how meteorological offices inform and prepare the communities they serve: from day-to-day forecasts to decadal climate predictions. The system offers high-resolution imagery that will improve the tracking of storms, the monitoring of floods and drought, and the mitigation of disasters at community, national and regional levels.

“This Next Generation of high-resolution meteorological satellites will help meteorological services in the Caribbean gain access to more data and detailed satellite imagery that will inform products that have and continue to improve short term weather forecasts and long term climate forecasts,” explains Kathy-Ann Caesar, Chief of Meteorology at CIMH and VLMG-8 Chair. “VLMG-8 addresses most importantly training in the utilization of the new technology. Through these enhancements, Caribbean SIDS can better identify weather and climate trends to build resilience to climate variability and change.”

As a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Training Centre, a VLab Centre of Excellence in Satellite Meteorology and Regional Climate Centre, among others, CIMH is well-positioned to host this international meeting.

“CIMH has been a significant contributor to the growth of VLab over the last 15 years. The VLMG-8 meeting offers a key opportunity for CIMH, and by extension the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), to extend their support for this essential activity that will allow the VLab to continue to provide critical leadership for the meteorological satellite community,” says Dr. David Farrell, Principal of CIMH.

[The WMO Caribbean Regional Climate Centre \(RCC\)](#) for the Caribbean managed by CIMH also supports the development and implementation of the WMO’s Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) in the region by providing several user-defined climate products and services that inform risk-based decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors in across the Caribbean.

Thanks to new high-resolution imagery and data, VLab has put in place a new strategy for 2015 - 2019 , all toward a goal to enhance the development and delivery of these climate services through training, observations and monitoring; one of the five pillars of the GFCS.

Dr. Farrell further noted that, “the hosting of the VLab next week is timely given that the representatives from several National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) from Member States of the CMO are currently undergoing training at the CIMH campus on how to improve their skills to better integrate satellite products into their national programmes.”

The VLab VLMG is a joint effort between the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS). Members represent a global network of specialized training centres and meteorological satellite operators working together to improve the utilisation of data and products from meteorological and environmental satellites. This year VLab celebrated its fifteenth anniversary as a WMO educational facility.

VLMG-8 is made possible through the Programme for Building Regional Climate Capacity in the Caribbean (BRCCC Programme), which is implemented by CIMH and funded by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

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