

Report on the Existing and Planned Ozone Research and Monitoring Activities in the Cook Islands.

Introduction

The Cook Islands does not have an existing ozone research. What it has though is a monitoring activity that contributes to the scientific community via the basic meteorological parameters that contribute to the forecasting and climate database of the globe that can be used for decision makers in implementing policies.

Status Quo

The Cook Islands operate 7 RBSN and GSN stations that monitor wind speed, wind direction, ambient temperature, dew point, relative humidity, barometric pressure and rainfall. These are collected every synoptic hour (3 hourly) and are disseminated to appropriate meteorological centres that use the data for research and forecasting purposes.

The Cook Islands also operate a GUAN Station that releases a radiosonde flight every day to monitor the temperature, humidity and atmospheric pressure at different altitudes.

Planned Ozone Research

Although the Cook Islands does not have plans in place to monitor ozone, the closeness of the country to Australia and New Zealand, where the ozone layer is a hazard, could be an incentive for the committee to consider the Cook Islands to be a monitoring station. Passed experiments have included the Cook Islands in the monitoring of ozone but nothing has been established permanently to cater for that need.

The report of the 7th session highlights the importance of the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere and I feel that this is well we could be contributing to the task facing the committee and also in enhancing the capability to monitor this phenomenon in this part of the world.

Monitoring Activities

Considering that a close-by nation of the Independent State of Samoa is a Member of this committee and is monitoring ozone, what are the chances that this can be extended to the Cook Islands. A good example of this would be to piggy-back on the current GUAN station that releases a flight every day and maybe with some assistance from the committee, this can complement the work of the committee in monitoring ozone in this part of the world.

Recommendations

I look forward in taking part in this upcoming workshop and to contribute effectively to the goals and objectives of the committee.