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## WMO, SACEP sign MOU for mutual co-operation

Pursuant to the proposal made at the 9th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) held on August 26 SACEP and the 3rd Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP), will be signing an MOU with the World Meteorology Organisation (WMO) on November 22 at the SACE Secretariat.

The WMO is an inter-governmental organisation with a membership of 187 Member States and Territories. It originated from the WMO which was founded in 1873. Established in 1950, WMO became the specialised agency of the

United Nations in 1951 for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.

As weather, climate and water cycle knows no national boundaries, international cooperation at a global scale is essential for the development of meteorology and operational hydrology as well as to reap the benefits from their applications. WMO provides the framework for such international cooperation.

Since its establishment the organisation has played a unique and powerful role in contributing to the safety and welfare of humanity. Under WMO leadership and within the framework of WMO pro-

grammes, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services contribute substantially to the protection of life and property against natural disasters, to safeguarding the environment and to enhancing the economic and social well-being of all sectors of society in areas such as food security, water resources and transport.

The need for framework of co-operation between the two organisations for maximum utilisation of resources for the benefit of the people of South Asia by avoiding duplication was under discussion through the years.

The signing of the MOU is therefore a significant

achievement in this direction to cooperate with a view to achieving their shared objectives, in particular with regard to the promotion of sciences of meteorology, climatology and hydrology for the safety of human life and property, disaster reduction and mitigation including tsunami early warning, environment monitoring and management, sustainable economic and social development, and education and training in disaster reduction field.

The MOU will be signed by Secretary General Michael Jarraud on behalf of WMO and Director General, Dr. Arvind Boaz on behalf of SACEP

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