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Bolivia

17 October 2022

Subject: Upgrade of GAW Regional station Chacaltaya, Bolivia to GAW Global station status

Dear Dr Andrade,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your official application for the reclassification of the GAW station Chacaltaya, Bolivia, from a Regional (WIGOS ID: 0-20008-0-CHC) to a Global station within the WMO Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme. GAW is the only existing long-term international global programme providing a framework for long-term observations and analysis of the chemical composition and selected physical characteristics of the atmosphere and for assessment of the state of the atmosphere in support of environmental policy.

The Chacaltaya Regional GAW station is located at Mount Chacaltaya. This mountain is part of the Cordillera Real mountain range in the Central Andes. The observatory lies at 5240 masl (16.350553°S, 68.131589°W) on the northwest-facing slope of the mountain approximately 140 m below the summit (5380 masl, 16.33645°S, 68.1283°W). Almost a decade of observations at CHC has greatly helped our understanding of atmospheric composition in an area where observations are scarce. Chacaltaya observatory is now an established sentinel for monitoring changes occurring in the tropical Andes documenting changes occurring at a regional and local scale. CHC is extremely well located to monitor changes affecting the impact of human activities on key ecosystems. The impact of the growing urban area of La Paz/EI Alto is also regularly observed at the CHC, driven by diurnal developments of thermal winds that are efficient in vertically advecting trace gases and aerosol particles up in the free troposphere. The measurement programme is very extensive at the station, covering greenhouse gases (2 variables), reactive gases (3 variables), and atmospheric aerosols (6 variables). The observations are conducted following recommendations of the GAW Programme summarized in respective measurement guidelines. Once a year, all aerosol particle data and metadata are submitted to GAW-WDCA hosted by EBAS coordinating with NILU staff ensuring the traceability to the original data.

cc: Mr Hugo Cristóbal Mamani Ticona, Permanent Representative of Bolivia with WMO  
Prof. Greg Carmichael, Chair, Environmental Pollution and Atmospheric Chemistry Scientific  
Steering Committee

The application for reclassification was carefully evaluated by the GAW Scientific Advisory Groups and the Environmental Pollution and Atmospheric Chemistry Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). The review was very positive, hence the SSC decided to upgrade the status of Chacaltaya station, Bolivia, from a GAW Regional to a GAW Global station. SSC appreciated long-term efforts and the dedicated work of the station personnel in supporting high-quality of observations. CHC is recognized as a unique knowledge hub and a centre for fostering regional research in the atmospheric composition. Please ensure that the data collected to date are timely submitted to the respective data centres and the station information is to be regularly updated in the GAW Station Information System (GAW SIS) via <https://gawsis.meteoswiss.ch>.

We hope that the raised importance of the Chacaltaya station through its recognition as a WMO/GAW Global station will help to ensure further international support and long-term funding for this important facility.

We look forward to continuing this fruitful collaboration in the GAW Programme.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Jürg Luterbacher  
Director  
Science and Innovation Department