



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Bolivia

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GENEVA, 14 January 2010

Subject: The acceptance of the Chacaltaya station as a GAW Regional station

Dear Dr Zaratti,

With this letter I would like to confirm that we have considered your project entitled “The implementation of a regional GAW station at Chacaltaya (5320 m., Bolivia)” and obtained an official letter of support for this project from the Permanent Representative of Bolivia with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

It is a great pleasure for us that the Bolivia together with research institutes and universities from different countries took an initiative to develop and operate a station in the South American subcontinent with a special focus on aerosols, reactive and greenhouse gas measurements, in particular in the free troposphere. Measurements at high elevation locations are very limited in South America in the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) programme of WMO.

The station at Chacaltaya (16.2°S, 68.1°W, 5320 m., Bolivia) is important in filling a gap in the global air chemistry observations in the tropical zone. Due to its high altitude location in Bolivia’s Cordillera Real, the Chacaltaya station is ideally located to provide information on the free tropical troposphere. The station is placed in a region allowing assessment of several important issues of atmospheric chemistry, including variability of the baseline conditions, the monitoring of regionally influenced air, affected mainly by forested lands, but to a lesser extent, air having a small urban influence.

The Chacaltaya station is planned to provide the measurements of three of the six GAW focal areas, namely, greenhouse gases, reactive gases and aerosols. At the moment the station is at the stage of broadening its programme in collaboration with a strong international team composed of seven partners with extensive experience in the measurements of greenhouse and reactive gases and aerosols. This international collaboration is crucial for success of atmospheric chemistry observations and will surely lead to the development of a reliable operational facility of high quality.

The facilities planned at the site, measurement and research programmes and confirmed long-term funding allow the Chacaltaya station to be considered as a *Regional GAW station*.

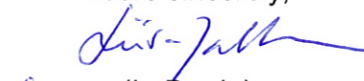
Please note the requirements for Regional GAW stations summarised in the GAW strategic plan: 2008-2015 (GAW report No. 172, p. 23, box 9), which is available online at <http://www.wmo.int/gaw/>. I would like to draw your attention in particular to points 5 and 6 in Box 9. They are related to the Quality Assurance framework in the GAW programme (5) and the regular data submission to the appropriate World Data Centre (6). The deadline for submission is no later than one year after the measurements are performed. Please, make sure that the data are submitted within this time limit.

Please also note that the station must be registered in the GAW Station Information System (GAW SIS) via <http://gaw.empa.ch/gawsis/>.

We are pleased to confirm the acceptance of the Chacaltaya station as a GAW Regional station.

We hope that the raised status of the Chacaltaya station through its recognition as a part of WMO-GAW (the only existing long-term international global programme providing a framework for observing and assessing the state and development of environmental issues related to atmospheric chemical composition) will help to ensure further international support and funding for this unique facility. We also hope for further fruitful collaboration within the GAW programme.

Yours sincerely,



for (L. Barrie)
Co-Director
Research Department and
Director

Atmospheric Research and Environment Branch

cc: Ing. Carlos DIAZ ESCOBAR , Permanent Representative of Bolivia with WMO