

NOTES & NEWS

INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION : REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA.

The first Conference of the International Meteorological Organisation Regional Commission for Asia was held at New Delhi between the 10th and the 20th November, 1948. The Government of India became the official host of the Conference through the intermediary of the India Meteorological Department. The Conference was opened by the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Delegates from 13 member-countries and Observers from Japan, Iran, Australia, the U. K., the U.S.A. and the representatives of the International Meteorological Organisation and the International Civil Aviation Organisation took part in the proceedings. At the first meeting of the Conference, the following were unanimously elected as the Office-bearers of the Regional Commission for Asia :—

<i>President :</i>	Dr. S. K. Banerji (India).
<i>Vice-Presidents :</i>	Academician V. V. Shuleykin (U.S.S.R.).
	Dr. H. P. Berlage (Indonesia).

The object of the Conference was to discuss and determine regional actions on various resolutions of the I.M.O. Directors' Conference (Washington, 1947) and to reach agreement on certain matters which were referred to regions for regional decision, action or co-ordination. In all 18 plenary sessions of the Conference were held in which 25 items of the agenda were discussed and 45 resolutions and recommendations were passed. Some of the main items discussed in the Conference are stated below :—

- (1) Improvements to networks of various types of meteorological observatories (Surface, Upper Air, radio-electric, aircraft, etc.) in Asia.
- (2) Establishment of three Sub-Continental Met. Broadcast Stations at New Delhi, Tokyo and Khabarovsk; Co-ordination of national and sub-continental met broadcasts.
- (3) Adoption of new international meteorological codes in Asia; adoption of the regional specifications for the supplementary groups in the surface code.
- (4) Adoption of 0000, 0600, 1200 and 1800 hrs. G.M.T. as the times of surface observations, 0300, 0900, 1500 and 2100 hrs. G.M.T. as the times of pilot balloon observations and 0300 and 1500 hrs. G.M.T. as the times of radio-sonde observations.
- (5) Adoption of the new international (five-figures) index numbers of meteorological stations in Asia.
- (6) Refixation of the areas of responsibility of different countries in Asia for the collection of ships' weather messages and the issue of shipping forecasts.
- (7) Standardisation of meteorological instruments in the region.
- (8) Edition and exchange of meteorological publications.
- (9) Meteorological research.

Four Standing Sub-Commissions for (i) Agricultural Meteorology, (ii) Machine Methods, (iii) Hydrology and (iv) Meteorological Transmissions were constituted. It was also decided to build up a 'study group' in the Asiatic Region for studying tropical clouds.

The Conference worked with the highest degree of harmony and all the resolutions and recommendations passed by it were adopted unanimously without voting. The Commission has paved the way for increased co-operation between the different Meteorological Services in Asia.