

Quality Assurance and Data Management in the World Meteorological Organization Global Atmosphere Watch Precipitation Chemistry Program

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The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) program is a partnership involving the members of the WMO, contributing networks, and collaborating organizations and bodies, which provides reliable scientific data and information on the chemical composition of the atmosphere, its natural and anthropogenic change, and helps to improve the understanding of interactions between the atmosphere, the oceans, and the biosphere. Precipitation chemistry is one of the GAW focal areas.

For approximately the past fifteen years, the GAW precipitation chemistry program has been driven by a Science Advisory Group (SAG) consisting of a small group of scientists representing the world's established monitoring networks, and interested emerging countries. The SAG seeks to harmonize measurement standards and methodologies in support of scientific assessments and modeling studies and to make data widely available. The SAG oversees a quality assurance center as well as the official data center. The Quality Assurance/Science Activity Centre – Americas seeks to document and help improve the quality of precipitation chemistry measurements from around the world. It conducts semi-annual laboratory intercomparison studies and presents graphical and tabular results of past studies. The World Data Center for Precipitation Chemistry receives, archives, and makes available precipitation chemistry data and complementary information from stations around the world and links to the web sites of major regional and national programs.

This presentation will provide an overview of the GAW precipitation chemistry program quality assurance and data archival functions.

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