

São Paulo, November 16 2012

Dear ALINE members,

First of all thank you for all the effort in establishing the LIDAR network. This is a tentative status letter of the recent actions towards officially registering ALINE within WMO/GALION program. Also I intend to show some issues concerning the implementation of a measurement protocol which should be followed by the network stations much alike the one used by the EARLINET members in Europe.

Regarding our official GALION membership after the signature of all station representatives the agreement document was sent to Dr. Deon Terblanche for appreciation (September 2012) and to take further actions in registering ALINE in the GALION network – after some time I contacted WMO to check the agreement status and discovered WMO representatives were still preparing a final document for WMO director to sign and send to us – I believe we will have a document issued by WMO by end of this year. One point was raised during this process that usually the terms ALINE and LALINET are being used interchangeably and perhaps we should decide which one to officially employ and this will also influence our official website, provisionally setup as ***lalinet.no-ip.org***.

Last September, during a week a series of measurements were carried on by several stations in order to try to coordinate a short campaign and experience the difficulties and aspects of this campaign. Following these measurements we will have to upload the station data in the repository setup by Henrique Barbosa. The next step should be analysing these data and take the opportunity to compare the different analysis softwares of the different groups – also in this frame recently we acquired a set of synthetic data from EARLINET that will be shortly distributed among the stations for data analysis comparison.

The next step should be to establish a measurement protocol, a suggestion would be to try to synchronize the network measurements with those made by EARLINET currently taking two measurements every week for a two hour period every Monday and Thursday at a preset time. Since in South America most of the aerosol measurements are carried on in the dry season (June – September) we still have time to think about that.

At last we will have to search for funding mechanisms to carry technical meetings throughout 2013 and 2014.

That's all for the moment.

Saludos

Eduardo