

RESOLUTION
TO ESTABLISH AFRICAN CENTER
FOR LIGHTNING INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

We, the scientists, academics, professionals, engineers, scientific managers, social awareness promoters and government officials of 17 countries, including those from the African region (The Gambia, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe), Arab and Middle Eastern regions (Iraq, Turkey, UAE) and other countries (Bangladesh, Belgium, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, USA);

PARTICIPATING IN the African Regional Training Program on Lightning Protection held in Kampala, Uganda, from 4th to 8th February 2013;

THANKING The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and Aviation Authority, the State House of Uganda, Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda, Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST) of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Meteorology of Uganda, Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) and Civil Aviation Authority of the Government of the Republic of Uganda for jointly hosting the African Regional Training Program on Lightning Protection;

PLACING ON RECORD their appreciation to the Department of Meteorology of Uganda for providing the interactive platform, excellent ambience for the meeting, fine arrangements and kind hospitality;

And

APPRECIATING the respective governments and sponsors that facilitated their participation in this highly significant African Regional Training Program on Lightning Protection;

REALIZING THAT

- A marked increase in documented lightning related deaths and injuries in Africa has been reported during the last few years of which the majority has been in rural areas,
- An unacceptably high occurrence of property / equipment damage, data / information losses, failure of vital systems at critical operational cycles and downtime cause negative economic impact in Africa at all levels,
- A proliferation of misinformation and unsafe lightning related products / technologies in many countries in Africa is causing significant safety risks,

EMPHASIZING the need for scientific and technological advancement, proper engineering and technical practices, dissemination of knowledge and public awareness with respect to lightning safety and protection;

NOTING the urgent need for collaborating with African governments in the adoption of scientifically recognised international lightning protection standards;

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVE with the intent to minimize injury, loss of life, and property damage from lightning strikes in Africa to establish an African Centre for Lightning Information and Research (ACLIR).

The goals of ACLIR are proposed to be as follows:

Short-Term Goals:

- To officially establish ACLIR in a recognized institute such as a public university;
- To constitute a Regional Administrative Board that manages and executes the proposed work plans of ACLIR;
- To constitute an International Advisory Committee to advise, guide and mentor ACLIR on achieving its goals and planned milestones;
- To draw up a road map for achieving excellence in research, promoting lightning awareness and offering policy and technical advice with the intent to minimize injury and property damage;
- To support countries of the region in their efforts to promote the establishment of national centres for lightning information and research.

Long-Term Goals

- To establish a strong research team to work on meteorological, physics, engineering, health, societal and other aspects of lightning with scientific output of international standing;
- To develop a robust African regional lightning safety awareness promotion network penetrating into remote rural areas;
- To train engineers and technical personnel in scientifically accepted lightning protection systems with emphasis on low-cost solutions and form a regional network of experts ;
- To develop a lightning database including information on fatalities and statistics in the region;
- To support national centres in Africa in capacity building by transfer of knowledge, development of skills, training of educators, exchange of students and experts, channelling of possible funding, and providing required technical facilities and other assistance;
- To commit itself to fulfil various other objectives included in the Colombo Declaration, dated 24th May 2007 signed at Colombo, Sri Lanka, and the Kathmandu Resolution, dated 14th October 2011 signed at Kathmandu, Nepal, on Lightning Protection and Safety that were endorsed by participating international stakeholders.

In recognition of the strength, dedication and vision of the Ugandan organizing team of the African Regional Training Program on Lightning Protection, the participants strongly endorse the creation of the ACLIR within a suitable university in Uganda.

Done, this day on Thursday, the 7th of February 2013 at Kampala, Uganda.