

5.088 Global Atmosphere Watch Training & Education Centre (GAWTEC) - Quality Assurance since 2001.

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Abstract:

The Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) program is a worldwide network of measurement stations and related facilities coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The purpose of GAW is to determine the physical and chemical state of the atmosphere in respect to the state of the global climate and its future change as well as to provide reliable and precise scientific data and information for national and international policy makers. The GAW community has set up high data quality objectives (DQOs) that should be met by all participating stations. Therefore, training and education for GAW station personnel are an integral part of the GAW program and critical to the long-term success of the GAW program. As a part of the WMO's capacity building strategy, the German Quality Assurance/ Science Activity Centre (QA/SAC Germany) has established in 2001 the GAW Training and Education Centre. Since the first training course in 2001, we had 34 training sessions with more than 380 trainees from 72 different countries. Courses are offered twice a year and cover measurement techniques, lab courses, theoretical background of atmospheric physics and chemistry and data handling and interpretation. Each course deals with two or three major topics, covering all relevant parameters in the GAW measurement program: Physical Properties of Aerosols and Aerosol Optical Depth, UV Radiation, Reactive Gases, Precipitation Chemistry, Greenhouse Gases and Data Evaluation and Quality Control.