

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration **PAGASA awarded German Ocean Radar System WERA** for their Nationwide Network of High Frequency Radars for Remote Sensing Observation of Coastal Sea-State

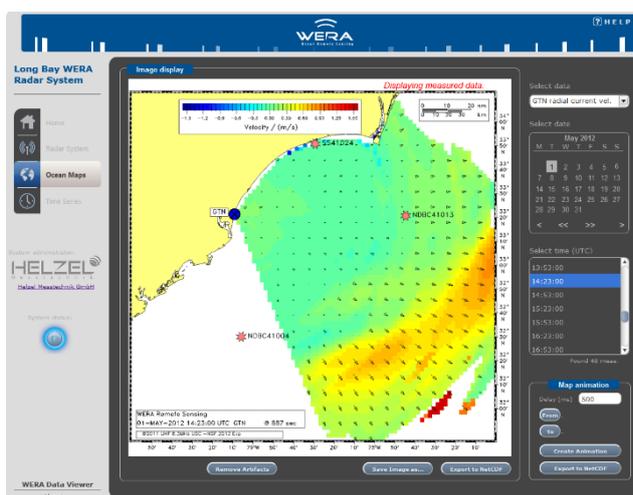


The Philippines, being an archipelagic country, has an insistent need of a sea-state observation network. Various incidents at sea are common, ranging from relatively benign fishermen getting lost at sea due to motor failure to wide ranging disasters such as storm surges and ship accidents due to powerful typhoon-driven waves

The establishment of a nationwide High Frequency Radar Network will enable the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to make real time observations via remote sensing of the sea state, and use such observations to improve regional forecasts of the ocean weather using numerical models. Accurate marine forecasts will contribute to a better disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation both at sea and along coastal communities.

The German ocean radar system type WERA assures high quality data and reliability. The variety of application fields of these land-based ocean radar systems are wide; from simply monitoring the ocean currents and waves over coast guard search and rescue to hazardous materials spill response, water quality monitoring, monitoring harmful algal bloom, fisheries management and marine navigation up to the support of the ocean energy sector.

The radar can measure currents and waves over a large region of the coastal ocean. It can be configured for short ranges with highest resolution or largest ranges up to 300 km. It can operate under any weather conditions without in-water components. The real-time met-ocean data delivered by the systems will contribute to a sustainable decision making support system for the Philippine archipelago.



WERA Data Viewer Example

Together with its Philippine partner EAST ASIA Solutions Technologies Corporation from Quezon City <http://www.eastasia-tech.com/>, Helzel Messtechnik will install 8 WERA systems within the upcoming year to deliver reliable data on ocean currents, waves and wind. Site investigation work has been completed and the first systems will leave Germany in summer.

The Central Data Processing stations for Ocean Weather prediction and Search-and-Rescue will be located at PAGASA Central Office in Quezon City.

The Ocean Radar data stream and all required interfaces and archives will be integrated into the existing forecasters workstations system.

The user interface will be extended to allow remote monitoring of the status of the WERA stations and the related data links. The modern web-based WERA Data Management and viewing system allows easy access to all real-time data as well as to archived data. A dedicated "Hazard Management" Interface will be provided on a separate data server which can be accessed by local disaster managers.



Close cooperation and meetings between local government units, East Asia and Helzel are essential for the site planning phase to guarantee a successful project management.

From left to right:

Dr. Alan Pineda (Consultant, PAGASA)

Thomas Helzel (CEO, Helzel Messtechnik)

Mayor Simplicia P. Bacol (San Francisco, Surigao del Norte)

Renito B. Paciente (Assistant Weather Services Chief, PAGASA)



Stakeholder meeting at San Juan, Siquijor:

Engr Rolymer Canillo (ICT, PAGASA)

Engr Bernadette Camilo (Municipal Engineer, San Juan)

Mayor Wilfredo Capundag, Jr. (San Juan, Siquijor)

Thomas Helzel (CEO, Helzel Messtechnik)

Renren Gabas (Project Manager, East Asia)

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