

Nineteenth session of Regional Association III (South America) (RA III-19)

Name:

Reinaldo Alex Gutiérrez Cisterna

Involvement in WMO bodies:

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Summary of Professional Qualifications:

Meteorologist with over 47 years of experience in various fields of meteorology, beginning as a forecaster and advancing to his current managerial role as Director of the Chilean Meteorological Directorate (DMC), a position he has held since 2019. His career has been characterized by significant achievements that have propelled him to this leadership role.

He demonstrates positive and approachable leadership, maintaining close ties with his team while managing the demands and responsibilities of his roles. He prioritizes the development of proactive, goal-oriented teams and implements rigorous management control across all meteorological operations, including Regional Meteorological Centers throughout Chile. Additionally, he is adept at conflict resolution and generates clear, innovative ideas supported by his superiors and team.

Since January 10, 1977, he has served in various roles within the Civil Aeronautics Directorate (DGAC) and the Chilean Meteorological Directorate (DMC), including:

- Dec. 2019 – Present: Director, Chilean Meteorological Directorate (DMC).
- 2013 – 2019: Chief, Forecasting Subdepartment; Acting Director, DMC.
- 2003 – 2013: Chief, Aeronautical Meteorology Section, DMC.
- 2000 – 2003: Chief, Administrative Department, Aeronautical Technical School.
- 1999 – 2000: Chief, Programming and Control Section, DMC.
- 1997 – 1998: Chief, Projects Office, DMC.
- 1996 – 1997: Chief, National Analysis and Forecasting Center, DMC.
- 1987 – 1993: Chief, Pacific Regional Meteorological Center, DGAC-DMC, Easter Island; Acting Chief of Mataverí Airport.

Summary of Education:

Undergraduate Studies:

- 1983: Meteorologist, Aeronautical Technical School (8 semesters).
- 1976: Class IV Meteorologist, Aeronautical Technical School (2 semesters).

Postgraduate Studies:

- 2008: Master's in Public Management, University of Santiago, Chile (4 semesters).

Diplomas and Certificates:

- Fundamentals of Strategic Direction in Meteorological Services, CEDDET Foundation, Spain (3 months).
- Diploma in Strategic Direction and Organizational Leadership, University of Santiago.
- Postgraduate Certificate in Public Administration, University of Santiago.
- Diploma in Operational Public Management, University of Santiago.
- Diploma in Aeronautical Management, Santo Tomás University.
- Postgraduate Certificate in Numerical Weather Prediction and Forecasting in South America, NOAA, USA.
- Diploma in Meteorology, University of Valparaíso.
- Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Political and Strategic Studies, ANEPE.

Key Achievements:

- Implemented tools to optimize the Early Warning System, including the European model and a storm detection system.
- Secured governmental and organizational support for implementing the DMC's Meteorological Early Warning System technology.
- Led a team in 2008 to successfully pass an ICAO audit with no observations, earning Chile an excellent safety rating.
- Achieved ISO 9001:2008 certification for all meteorology processes and later advised other countries in the region.
- Developed an integrated satellite network for meteorological centers nationwide, incorporating real-time satellite images with numerical prediction models.
- Created a business model fostering government collaboration to improve meteorological services through technology implementation.
- Digitized aeronautical meteorology services, enabling operators and pilots to prepare digital flight dossiers.
- In 1996, introduced PCRIDDS for numerical prediction visualization, extending forecast validity from 24 hours to five days, later supporting other countries in its adoption.

Other Roles and Contributions:

- **2009 – 2014:** Member of ICAO's International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG) and IVATF Task Force to optimize volcanic ash forecasting and mitigate aviation risks.
- **2003 – 2013:** Chilean representative at ICAO international meetings on aeronautical meteorology (AERMET and COM/MET) under the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS).

- **1997:** Founding member and President of the Chilean Meteorologists' Association, serving until 2002.
- **2008 – 2014:** Chile's Focal Point to WMO's Aeronautical Meteorology Commission.