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04–07 November 2014, Bali-Indonesia DEVELOPMENT OF METHOD FOR EXTRACTING LOW-LEVEL

TROPOSPHERIC MOISTURE CONTENT FROM GROUND BASED GPS DERIVED PRECIPITABLE WATER VAPOR

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Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering, Faculty of Earth Sciences and Technology, Bandung Institute of Technology,

Indonesia \*)E-mail: ariesmed@yahoo.com ABSTRACT Water vapor in the lower troposphere (low-level moisture)

plays an important role in the development of deep convection over tropical region. The vertical profile of atmospheric

moisture has been conventionally observed using radiosonde but the temporal and spatial

resolutions are very low. On the other hand, recent development Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite data

processing makes it possible to estimate the total moisture content in an atmospheric column as Precipitable Water

Vapor (PWV) with far better temporal and horizontal resolution. However, for tropical meteorological studies, close

monitoring of the changes in low-level moisture is more important. We developed a simple but effective technique to

extract low-level (from surface up to 700 mb level) tropospheric moisture content from ground based GPS derived

PWV. In this method, the upper-level PWV is estimated from global data and then subtracted from the total PWV.

First, we analyze GPS data observed on July 27 – August 2, 2010 at GPS-BAKO station (6.4910 S - 106.8490 E)

during which radiosondes were also launched at 6-hour interval. Upper-level PWV was calculated from three global

data, i.e. gridded GPS Radio Occultation (RO), NCEP and ECMWF data and compared with those estimated from

radiosonde. The results show that ECMWF data provide best estimate of upper-level PWV for extracting lower-level

moisture from GPS derived PWV. We applied the method to analyze GPS data observed during January through

December 2009. It is of interest to note that the composite diurnal variation of low-level PWV at GPS-BAKO station

is quite consistent with the characteristics of sea-

breeze intrusion over Jakarta area as revealed by previous study. Moreover, it is also found

that an increase in low-level moisture tends to be followed by convective activity. These results demonstrate that,

combined with the use of global model data, ground based GPS observations are quite effective for monitoring low-level moisture variations in tropical region.

Keywords : PWV, troposphere, low level moisture, GPS, GPS-RO, NCEP, ECMWF

1. INTRODUCTION becomes important to know its role in determining regional weather and climate. The deep convection will only occur if the patterns. The characteristics of atmospheric rising air parcels originating near the surface dynamics over tropical region specially in of the layer (Holton, 2004). Hadi et al. (2002) Indonesian maritime continent had a strong showed that an inversion layer can isolate the diurnal convective activity (Johnson et al. humidity in the planetary boundary layer, 1987; Nuryanto, 2011). Thus, below an altitude of 3 km. The horizontal observations of low level moisture is needed movement of water vapor in the lower layer 549