Questions for our Togolese Colleagues:

1. Why is there a lack of consistency in the number of decimal places throughout the data?
2. What was the motivation for using averages of a variable number of prior years to estimate values in the Excel Spreadsheet?
3. How were the monthly maxima and minima computed? Did you take the minimum of all minima for the month, say, or did you take the minimum average for each day? Or did you do something else?
4. Is there any difference of quality in temperature readings between conventional and automatic machines?
5. Does each of the 10 cities in our study have both a conventional station and an automatic station? Do you continue to use both, or have the automatic measurements replaced measurements obtained by human monitoring?
6. Does each city have the same type of equipment? How much variation is there between automated and human-obtained records?
7. You indicated that rainfall is diminishing: what is the basis of that conclusion? Are there regional differences?
8. The minimum non-zero value of rainfall in the data is 0.1 mm. If zeros represent absolutely no rainfall, how do you handle the values between 0 and 0.1?
9. Was there any correction in place for defective instruments or human error before the automatic machines were put into use? How do you use the automated readings to correct human readings, or vice versa?
10. Why calculate daily means as the average of maximum and minimum values, rather than as the arithmetic average of the 24 (or more) readings in a day?
11. According to the PULSONIC website, they have been "manufacturing Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) for more than 30 years". This timeframe puts the company starting around 1988, 27 years after the start of data collection. What was used before this time? Also, we noticed a potential shift in the temperature measurements around 1990. Are these related?
12. Is it possible for us to access the daily (or even hourly) records?
13. Are all 136 automatic rain gauge stations used, and if so, how? There appear to be a lot more stations than those we have data for – how do you use that data?
14. How are locations within a given city chosen for stations? Have they moved around over the years? I.e., could data be coming from more than one location in a city, having been moved around over time?