



Summary and Shared Understandings

1st ICSU World Data System Conference – Global Data for Global Science

Summary

Around 155 participants (including 86 local participants) from over 22 countries attended the 1st ICSU World Data System (WDS) Conference—Global Data for Global Science—held at the Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, from 3 to 6 September 2011. Participants included representatives of data centres and data services covering a wide range of scientific disciplines, data scientists and engineers working in a variety of fields such as natural sciences, social sciences and information technologies, as well as data publishers.

It should be noted that the conference was held a mere six months after the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, subsequent tsunamis, and failure of nuclear power plants in Fukushima Daiichi. In this exceptional context a session on disaster data was organized in collaboration with the ICSU co-sponsored Integrated Risk and Disaster Research (IRDR) programme and the Disaster Prevention Research Institute at Kyoto University.

Furthermore, the passage of typhoon Talas (T201112) forced the organizers to cancel events planned for 3 September, and re-structure the conference agenda with little warning.

The 23 invited talks, 36 contributed talks, over 70 poster papers, and 5 exhibits enabled the nascent WDS community to engage in effective scientific collaboration and provided a constructive forum for lively exchanges of views and ideas. Important feedback was also provided to the WDS Scientific Committee during a Members' and Partner's open forum, that will certainly influence and help shape the World Data System in the future.

The conference was also an opportunity to initiate a dialogue with WDS stakeholders and important partners such as the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) and the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE).

The conference was sponsored by the ICSU WDS International Program Office—WDS-IPO, hosted by the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT)—and by the Science Council of Japan and the Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University.

The conference proceedings will be published in a special issue of the CODATA Data Science Journal: <http://www.codata.org/dsj/index.html>

More details can be found on the conference website: <http://wds-kyoto-2011.org>



Shared Understandings

The ICSU World Data System—by supporting the missions and objectives of ICSU—upholds the Principle of Universality of Science. It seeks to ensure the long-term stewardship and provision of quality-assessed data and data services to the international science community and other stakeholders. The WDS should also aim at an integration of multidisciplinary scientific data and information to address the needs of ICSU programmes including the Earth System Sustainability Initiative.

Scientists are not only users but also providers of data. The WDS policy of open and full access to data will benefit the international scientific community and ultimately society at large. The concepts of data publication and data citation should be adopted and promoted by the World Data System in order to facilitate the release of data, with proper recognition of providers.

The March 2011 series of disasters in Japan, recent events in New Zealand, and other events have highlighted the importance of timely and reliable acquisition, management, quality control and dissemination of disaster-related data. Ongoing collaboration between ICSU programmes—WDS, CODATA and IRDR—will be critical for building interoperable data systems that guarantee full and open access to data in support of better disaster prediction, understanding, and mitigation, and hence of more effective response to devastating events.