

World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) Teleconference #19

Teleconference #19 was held on Wednesday, 10 September 2014 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

ICSU General Assembly

- The SC Chair and WDS Executive Director attended the ICSU General Assembly held on 30 August–4 September in Auckland, New Zealand. The SC Chair gave a well-received report during the plenary, and the Assembly agreed that ICSU-WDS should continue with the work it is doing. A decision offered to thank Japan for hosting and funding the WDS International Programme Office (IPO) was accepted unanimously.
- ICSU-WDS expressed its views during the many discussions on open access at the meeting. Moreover, the Assembly endorsed a set of open access principles. The latter is of utmost interest to ICSU-WDS since it will aid the SC in defining and revising the WDS Data Policy and in clarifying the legitimate restrictions to open access.
- The notion of metrics to gauge scientific activities was another big topic at the meeting, and the Assembly will come back to SC for additional exchanges on this subject.

DataCite Annual Meeting 2014

- The WDS Executive Director was invited to give a presentation at this meeting. The presentation covered: (1) possible collaborations between ICSU-WDS and DataCite, (2) addressing the question of the quality of data providers and the metadata DataCite serves, and (3) DataCite's crucial role in the WDS Knowledge Network.
- The IPO received the final Memorandum of Understanding between DataCite and ICSU-WDS, signed by the President of DataCite. Once countersigned by the SC Chair, an official announcement will be given on this collaborative agreement by the two organizations.

Collaboration between SCOSTEP/VarSITI and ICSU-WDS

- To move forward the proposed collaboration between the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP) and ICSU-WDS, a provisional survey was produced of WDS Members who might be interested in/of interest to SCOSTEP's Variability of the Sun and Its Terrestrial Impact (VarSITI) activity. A list of around 20 Regular and Network Members was generated, the majority of which are former World Data Centres—which is natural considering the historical connection between SCOSTEP and these entities from the International Geophysical Year. Several meteorological and atmospheric science organizations have been included since the World Meteorological Organization is to become involved in a space weather project.
- The proposal is to initially create an internal network of these WDS Members to share information on the VarSITI activity and to discuss SCOSTEP collaboration. The SC gave permission for the IPO to start contacting the Representatives of the listed Members to ask about their involvement.
- Data will be a central element of VarSITI, and there are several data and metadata exchange networks already connected with SCOSTEP. A three-day workshop is planned during September–November 2015 in Japan (in conjunction with the WDS-SC Meeting) to stimulate collaboration among data providers from the SCOSTEP and WDS communities, as well as data scientists and data-oriented researchers of solar-terrestrial physics. This workshop will be discussed at the SCOSTEP General Assembly in mid-October in Xi'an, China.
- The proceedings of the International Polar Data Forum are now under the final editorial procedure of the Data Science Journal. It is hoped that preprints of all papers will be posted online in October, with the special issue published by the end of the year.

SciDataCon 2014 + WDS Members' Forum + WDS-SC Meeting #11

a. Update on SciDataCon 2014

- The final stages of preparation are in progress for SciDataCon 2014. Acceptance notifications have been sent for session and oral/poster presentation proposals. Although many of the sessions are yet to be finalized, a draft programme of the Conference has been published on the [SciDataCon 2014 website](#).

- b. WDS Data Stewardship Award
 - The list of candidates for the Award was circulated to the SC, and members were urged to submit their choices in order to allow the IPO adequate time to notify the winner and organize their travel arrangements.
- c. Oral Presentations at Members' Forum
 - The IPO received seven abstracts for oral presentations by the deadline. However, this is too many to fit into the available timeframe. The SC recommended to include all of submitted presentations, but to reduce the duration of each to around 10–15 minutes (including questions).
 - Several talks will also be given by the SC on WDS activities.
 - The Members' Forum is not a closed meeting, and outreach is needed to potential WDS Members in India and to organizations attending SciDataCon in order to attract them to the Forum.
- d. Biennial Report Template
 - The latest draft template for Member Organizations to report on their previous two year's activities was presented to the SC for comments. Since there will be a considerable number of reports to deal with, the SC examined their exact purpose in detail; providing information must be worthwhile for both the Member Organization and the SC. In particular, to obtain Member information that can be utilized effectively by ICSU-WDS, questions need to be posed so that the answers are fairly uniform.
 - Since the Report is brief, the SC considered it reasonable to request its completion by all WDS Regular and Network Members. This will be relatively straightforward if Members are asked to cover similar aspects to the Report in their poster presentations at the Forum.
 - In the future, the Reports might be linked to the Membership Management Tool, and specifically each Member's Profile.
- e. WDS-SC Meeting #11
 - The 11th WDS-SC Meeting will take place on 6–7 November at the Jaypee Vasant Continental Hotel. SC members were invited to electronically submit areas of focus to be included in the Meeting Agenda such that a first draft can be generated by the IPO.
 - An important Agenda Item is a discussion on updating the WDS Data Policy. A revised draft will be prepared for the face-to-face Meeting, and will ideally be sent in advance such that the SC can review it. One possible solution is to have a simple but explicit policy where the details (explanations, justifications, etc.) are linked in separate, supplementary documents.

Membership Applications Update

- An Expression of Interest was approved from TRY– Plant Trait Database for WDS Regular membership.
- The Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN) is a large data collection initiative of the Australian government that is bringing together multiple types of environmental data. The SC will contact this programme about potential WDS membership since a huge number of data are being collected by this programme, and these are accessible not only to Australia but worldwide.
- The SC agreed to send feedback on the Canadian Cryospheric Information Network-Polar Data Catalogue's application in light of Reviewer's comments.