

## World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018 Teleconference #6

*Teleconference #6 was held on Wednesday, 09 March 2016 at 13:00 UTC*

### **Summary:**

#### **Review of Action items**

A summary was given of the current status of the Action Items from the 13th WDS-SC Meeting and previous SC Teleconferences. Several Items were dealt with separately, and in more detail, in the Teleconference Agenda.

- Comments from SC members on the WDS Implementation Plan will be included in the final version, which will then be placed on the WDS website before the 14th Meeting of the WDS-SC (WDS-SC#14). The last step is to create a task list within the WDS Issue Tracker to help those leading each task to make progress.
- The Call is out for the 2016 WDS Data Stewardship Award. Care has been taken to standardize the nomination packages. SC members were asked to contact suitable candidates directly and to circulate the call.
- A package for health-related Webinars is being put together, with around six people identified to approach.
- A Webinar for WDS Members concerning the new Common Requirements will be discussed at WDS-SC#14. The Common Requirements will be included as an Item in the draft Agenda for the Members' Forum, but not all Members will be able to come to Denver, and exposure to the Common Requirements is considered valuable.
- The Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Review and Accreditation Processes had a second teleconference. The Biennial Report template is being redesigned based on the outcomes, but this will require further conversations. The Subcommittee is furthermore starting to think about the guidelines/rubric for reviewers.
- The Ad Hoc Subcommittee on New Membership also had a second teleconference. It has developed a contact pack that includes a 'Why to join WDS?' flyer and a guidance email template, which has been given to Subcommittee members to make initial contact with targeted candidates. The outcomes of the first round of contacts will be presented at WDS-SC#14, and SC members were invited to suggest other targets.

#### **Agenda for WDS-SC#14**

- A first draft of the WDS-SC#14 Agenda was shown to the WDS-SC. The first day mainly covers practical items—including reporting from the WDS-IPO and Working Groups—and important discussions on International Data Week (IDW) and the Members' Forum. An evaluation and update of the Implementation Plan will also take place in the evening. A brainstorming breakout on future initiatives will be held on the morning of the second day, which will also deal with the outputs of the Ad Hoc Subcommittees and an Item on future events. The Meeting will finish on the afternoon of Wednesday, 6 April with an event celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO).
- Time will be found in the Agenda to discuss the 'Trust 4Data' proposal, which will have been submitted by that point, as well as for SC members to give brief reports on data activities in their institutes/countries.
- SC members with specific ideas for discussion were requested to contact the WDS-IPO as soon as possible.

#### **Report from 7th RDA Plenary Meeting and Side Events**

- The 7th Plenary Meeting of the Research Data Alliance (RDA) and its associated events were held the week prior to the Teleconference.
- A side-event on Monday, 29 February was organized by the WDS-IPO on behalf of the RDA–WDS Publishing Data Interest Group (IG) and associated Working Groups (WGs). Those in attendance were presented with the final outputs of the WGs; emphasizing that the IG is moving to an adoption and implementation phase.
- On Wednesday, 2 March, the outputs of the WDS Data Publishing and Certification WGs (and their adoption by organizations) were presented at the RDA Plenary as a block by the Co-chairs. An introduction highlighted the success of the collaboration between WDS and RDA, and the perception is that the Data Publishing IG set a standard for how to coordinate WGs to deliver converging outputs.
- On Thursday morning, there was a breakout session of the RDA–WDS Audit and Certification IG. The session involved a number of presentations, starting with the outputs of the DSA–WDS Certification WG. Ideas for future WGs were then pitched, and covered the certification of data services, sustainability for software, and assessing fitness for purpose/quality of data.

- On Thursday afternoon, there was a side-event hosted by the Japanese Committees of ICSU-WDS and the ICSU Committee of Data for Science and Technology (CODATA). This special session presented the two initiatives launched by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – Global Science Forum (OECD-GSF), ICSU-CODATA, and ICSU-WDS on International Coordination of Data Research Infrastructure and Sustainable Business Models.
- The Belmont Forum e-Infrastructure and Data Management group is now starting to implement the recommendations included in the Community Strategy and Implementation Plan endorsed by the Belmont Forum. A number of funding agencies have committed to the three action themes: a coordination office, data management plans, and e-infrastructure and data management. The SC will be kept informed on the progress of these; especially, a Call for Proposals for the third theme will be put out in early 2017, and some time will be found at WDS-SC#14 to discuss this.

### **Data Ecology Document**

- The WDS-SC was thanked for its comments on the scoping document, which has now been updated correspondingly. A key action is to talk with ICSU-CODATA and RDA with the hope of obtaining a three-fold commitment to do the work, and then to involve ICSU to help with its funding.
- Inputs from other sources need to be incorporated into the Data Ecology Document— it must refer to and align with work already undertaken. However, the Document is targeting a nonspecialist audience, and ICSU-WDS, ICSU-CODATA, and RDA must convince people of the real need for this.
- The WDS-SC also must think about synergies with the International Coordination of Data Infrastructures activity that ICSU-WDS is launching with OECD-GSF.

### **IDW and SciDataCon 2016 Update**

- The Programme Committee for the International Data Forum is now established and is currently making progress on the format of this high-impact day. The theme of the day has been agreed and the Committee is working on identifying interesting keynote speakers and panellists to encourage highly dynamic and heated discussions around issues such as ethics. One discussion in the Committee is to ensure the ethnic and geographical diversity of invitees, and the WDS-SC was invited to help with this.
- The Programme Committee for SciDataCon 2016 is almost finalized too. This Committee will review the session proposals, build the programme for the conference, and also outreach to encourage submission of papers.
- The deadline for submitting session proposals to SciDataCon has been extended to Monday, 14 March. There has been a steady stream of submissions, and there are a number in preparation.

### **Membership Applications Update**

- The Scientific Research Development Institute of Australia applied for WDS Regular Membership. The WDS-IPO has written asking for clarification about its data activities, and the Expression of Interest (Eol) will be placed on hold until further explanation is sent.
- EOST Loading Service also sent an Eol for Regular membership. This service is a product of International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems (IERS; WDS Regular Member), and the WDS-IPO has asked IERS to confirm about EOST Loading Service's data holdings. The WDS-IPO will update the WDS-SC according to the response.
- Reviewers will be approached to assess the applications of WDC- Geophysics, Beijing and the Natural Environment Research Council's Environmental Data Centres.

### **Any Other Business**

- ICSU-WDS was represented at the DataCite Meeting in Amsterdam. DataCite decided to change its statutes to increase the types of organizations eligible to become members. These changes are positive from a WDS perspective since data services may now join DataCite and have voting rights.
- ICSU-WDS was also represented at the Group on Earth Observations Programme Board Meeting in Geneva. The WDS-SC will discuss this at WDS-SC#14.
- ICSU-WDS has requested an opportunity to update on its relevant activities at the upcoming ICSU Scientific Unions' Meeting in Paris. ICSU-WDS also hopes to provide input and feedback during an important conversation on the International Accord on Open Data at the Meeting. SC members attending the Meeting were also asked to report and comment on WDS activities. To facilitate this, the WDS-SC will examine the Meeting agenda to decide on the important points that ICSU-WDS wants to purvey.