

Summary Report of the 7th Meeting of the World Data System Scientific Committee

Academy of Sciences located in Taipei
1–2 November 2012

Goals of the Meeting:

The goals of this meeting were captured in following four points:

- (a) Define how to operationalize WDS
- (b) Engage Members into common activities
- (c) Formulate a new recruitment strategy
- (d) Raise the profile of ICSU-WDS

The WDS-IPO is to communicate its outcomes to WDS Members.

Operationalizing WDS and engaging WDS Members:

- WDS will provide
 - (1) An **International Coordination Forum** for data centres/service providers to document common practices and standards for data publication and interoperability.
 - (2.1) A **WDS Open Metadata Catalogue** that will become the unified WDS resource by aggregating WDS Members published metadata and ensuring the discovery of, and access to, their datasets.
 - (2.2) A searchable **WDS Scalable Knowledge Network** consisting of an enriched data and information catalogue. As the lead source of information on global capability with respect to scientific data centre/service providers, this can be used by scientific projects, funders, and other stakeholders.
 - (3) Community-based **Data Publication and Curation Services** by encouraging WDS members to adopt data publication and citation frameworks. This will be a practical implementation of the data publication concept at the level of WDS Members.

WDS will set up Working Groups involving WDS Members and external experts to realize (2) and (3), and charters are to be written for these Working Groups. Moreover, the Data Publication Working Group should ideally merge with other initiatives already working in this area, such as the ICSTI/CODATA Task Group on data citation.

- The next WDS Conference is provisionally scheduled for September 2014 (co-located with the CODATA Conference) with the proposed theme '**A Science-Driven Global Framework for Multidisciplinary Data Integration**'. The WDS-IPO is to announce the exact date and location no later than May 2013 and will attempt to involve as many WDS Regular and Network members as possible. With no WDS event currently scheduled for next year, the IPO will also poll WDS Members to get suggestions for potential workshops in 2013.

- Bylaws for ICSU-WDS must be established and WDS Members engaged in defining them. These bylaws will be based on those already developed by WDS partner Networks, and need to address topics such as the participation of Members in WDS Fora/Groups and the mechanisms for interaction with the WDS-SC. They must be communicated to Members for agreement at least one year before the next WDS Conference.
- WDS Members (and external experts) will be asked to conduct reviews of candidate membership applications, as appropriate. To ensure privacy and fairness, these reviewers are to sign a letter drafted by the WDS-IPO agreeing to confidentiality and disclosure of any possible conflict of interest.
- The WDS-SC approved a proposed policy for WDS letters of support. The WDS-IPO is to finalize this into an official WDS document.

Membership strategy:

- WDS will promote network building by
 - (i) Concentrating on recruitment of Network members.
 - (ii) Continuing to provide a **global accreditation framework and service** for scientific data centres and data service providers, which can be used to align existing networks.
 - (iii) Encouraging WDS Regular members in the same fields to collaborate.
 - (iv) Working with communities where networks do not exist.

For example, WDS will work with polar data management communities in both Arctic and Antarctic regions, strengthen and establish networks, and bring them under the ICSU umbrella. As part of this, the IPO will help to transition IPY datasets from the PIC cloud to a permanent WDS repository.

- An 'Organizing and Broadening Disciplinary and Geographic Base' Subcommittee was created with a charge to propose actions to increase recruitment of Network Members in targeted disciplines and geographic regions. The basis for organizing and expanding WDS membership is to be formed on the information and links provided by a scoping document on potential WDS Members in the health, social sciences and humanities, and engineering fields. The Subcommittee is to maintain and improve this list of potential members. In addition, the WDS-SC decided to
 - Approach CLARIN-ERIC and DARIAH-EU about becoming Network members, as a first step in expanding WDS into social sciences and humanities.
 - Initially focus on the specific disciplines of oceanography and geology to promote ICSU-WDS and recruit members in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
- The 'Membership and Accreditation' Subcommittee was renewed with a charge to provide guidance to the WDS-IPO in relation to membership management. In parallel with the above point, they are also to confirm that the Regular and Network membership application forms do not unintentionally exclude candidates from disciplines or geographic regions. To this end, when conducting reviews, SC members are to provide feedback and suggestions for improvements to the applications (e.g., clarity or quantitative guidance). The Subcommittee will subsequently appraise and revise the forms for inclusion on the new website, as well as propose a template for WDS Members' biennial reports.

- The WDS-SC Chair will confer with ICSU regarding the nomination for the 13th SC position of Claudia Emerson as a data expert in the health sciences.

Raising the profile of ICSU-WDS:

- A Strategic Plan will be developed by the WDS Executive Committee and WDS-IPO Executive Director. This plan is to position ICSU-WDS in the data management landscape as the **premium global multidisciplinary network for quality-assessed scientific data**; certifying accessibility and long-term preservation, promoting interoperability, and providing community-based services such as data publication through its Members.
- The WDS-IPO will start proactive fundraising activities to support the building of basic WDS virtual infrastructure, commencing with participation in the planned Belmont Forum call for proposal on e-Infrastructure and data management in 2013. Moreover, the WDS-SC will attempt to involve WDS Members in global scientific projects where funding opportunities exist and will promote the WDS with science funders. To facilitate the use of received grant funds, the WDS-SC will permit the IPO to establish a Nonprofit Organization in Japan, at the same time ensuring that our Japanese stakeholders are informed of this initiative.
- WDS will strengthen links with partners by
 - Working on a joint CODATA-WDS Science conference in 2014.
 - Contributing to GEOSS as a single entity by registering aggregated WDS Members' metadata through the developed catalogue.
 - Reporting to organizations with a similar ethos on ICSU-WDS position and scope, in addition to WDS willingness to collaborate and the seeking of formal contacts.
 - Renewing ICSU-WDS interest in working with Future Earth.

WDS administrative matters:

- Francoise Genova and Michael Diepenbroek were unanimously elected as WDS-SC Vice-chairs.
- The plans for the new WDS website were agreed and the WDS-IPO should proceed as intended.
- The WDS-IPO is to draft a 'Policy on Establishing WDS-WGs' document.
- Dormant Subcommittees are disbanded with immediate effect.
- The 8th WDS-SC Meeting to take place on 17–19 April 2013, arranged back-to-back with CODATA's meeting.
- The 9th WDS-SC Meeting will take place at the IPO in Tokyo in September 2013, back-to-back with that of SCAR's Standing Committee on Arctic Data Management. A joint international forum on 'Polar Data Activities in Global Data System' will be organized and held between these two meetings.