World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) Teleconference #17

Teleconference #17 was held on Thursday, 10 July 2014 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

SciDataCon 2014

- The International Scientific Programme Committee is in the process of reviewing session proposals, and once that is completed, it will have a better idea of the structure of the Conference programme. It will then start reviewing abstracts, and requesting sessions chairs to obtain abstracts of invited speakers yet to submit them.
- In general, everything is considered to be going well, the response from the community has been good and there has been a lot of interest, and so the event should be a success. There are some challenges still to face, however, especially as regards the logistics.
- A recurring problem for getting Citizen Scientists involved is that people in this area often have little funding. Therefore, participation via videoconference or funding streams must continue to be explored.
- The Executive Directors of WDS and the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) are working with the interim Secretariat of Future Earth to organize a high-level session, but this has yet to be finalized.

WDS Working Groups

a. Certification
  - The WG had a teleconference on 25 June, where it looked at the work done thus far on mapping the Data seal of Approval (DSA) and WDS catalogues of criteria. Whilst the WG was happy with progress—with mappings being established in both directions—it was felt useful to return to the table generated by the SC when establishing the WDS catalogue, so that the criteria of other, pre-existing organizations (that both catalogues are based on) can be referred to.

Membership Applications Update

- An Expression of Interest was approved from Land Processes Distributed Active Archive Center for WDS Regular membership.
- Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) was accredited as a WDS Regular Member.

Other Business

- The United States National Committee for CODATA has invited the Chair of the Scientific Committee to give a keynote address at a CODATA meeting in the first week of August in Nairobi. The topic of the presentation will be the 'Benefits of ICSU-WDS for Data Exchange/Data Publication in Emerging Economies'.
- A project at the Gates Foundation is developing criteria for selecting a Genomic data-hosting site. There are obviously challenges with setting up such a repository: trust issues, privacy protection, and so on. A document has thus been created that lists 13 criteria, some of which are required and others desirable. One criterion is that the host site must be an accredited WDS Member in order to instil community confidence in the facility. After receiving internal approval, the document will be sent to external stakeholders—including the WDS-SC—to provide feedback.