

World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) Teleconference #18

Teleconference #18 was held on Tuesday, 12 August 2014 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Collaboration between SCOSTEP/VarSITI and ICSU-WDS

- The Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP) is seeking collaboration with ICSU-WDS for its Variability of the Sun and Its Terrestrial Impact (VarSITI) programme in the form of (1) identifying WDS Members that can manage data resulting from the programme and (2) promoting joint workshops/symposia. A list will be created of all WDS Members with an interest in this activity, and these organizations will then be approached such that they can be named in the Letter of Cooperation with SCOSTEP. A joint SCOSTEP–WDS workshop may also be held in Japan in 2015.

GEO Data Management Principles Task Force

- The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Data Management Principles Task Force (DMP TF) aligns with the advocacy given by ICSU-WDS that GEO should not only ask for contributions towards its Global Earth Observation System of Systems but also take responsibility for managing data that are registered within it. This additional role was acknowledged at the last GEO Plenary, and the first step has been to set up this TF to draft the DMP. The WDS Executive Director (ED) has also urged the GEO Secretariat Director that the WDS certification be a contribution to GEO implementing its DMP, which has been positively received.
- The GEO Secretariat has sent ICSU-WDS a consultation document on the first draft of the DMP. These principles incorporate 12 sets of DMP already adopted by other projects. ICSU-WDS has previously submitted input, including the WDS accreditation criteria, and these have already been taken into consideration when drafting the principles. The SC has now been asked to give feedback on the completed first draft, and it was invited to provide the International Programme Office (IPO) with comments electronically.

WDS Working Groups

- a. WDS Presence at Fourth RDA Plenary
 - The Fourth Research Data Alliance (RDA) Plenary will take place on 22–25 September in Amsterdam. Most of the joint RDA–WDS Interest Groups (IGs) and Working Groups (WGs) will hold breakout sessions, with those for the WGs being predominantly working sessions, whereas those for the IGs will involve more open-ended discussions with the RDA community. The Legal Interoperability IG will also have several breakout sessions.
- b. Certification
 - The WG held two teleconferences since Teleconference #17; one by WDS WG members to examine the mappings between the Data Seal of Approval (DSA) and WDS catalogues of criteria from an ICSU- WDS perspective, and a joint DSA–WDS teleconference to continue this comparison and to look at the next steps.
- c. Global Registry and Knowledge Network
 - The main members of the nascent Global Registry WG had a teleconference in July. However, the WG has run into difficulties owing to one of the Co-chairs indicating that he will put his efforts into another RDA IG. In the meantime, work on the Global Registry will continue in coordination with that set out by the Knowledge Network (KN) WG—since the Registry is part of the KN implementation. Members of the KN WG had a discussion before Teleconference #18, and decided that ICSU-WDS will offer its view to DataCite on how the organizations can collaborate at its Annual Meeting (25–26 August; Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy).

Membership Applications Update

- Environment Climate Data Sweden was accredited as a WDS Regular Member.
- The SC agreed on Reviewers to assess the WDS Regular Member application of Canadian Cryospheric Information Network– Polar Data Catalogue.

SciDataCon 2014

- A number of reviews of SciDataCon abstracts for oral presentations and session proposals are yet to be completed; slightly delaying drafting the conference programme and accepting sessions. A reminder will be sent out to ensure both can be started within the next few days.
- A first meeting among members of the International Scientific Programme Committee and the National Organizing Committee will occur the day after Teleconference #18, and will cover practical details of hosting the Conference.

Other Business

- The SC was presented with streamlined language for describing WDS Regular, Network, and Partner Members since the Partner Member definition (in particular) was not as inclusive as it should be. SC members were satisfied with the revised text.
- The SC had a discussion on the WDS certification process. The new Membership Management Tool will automatically notify WDS Members after three years—the minimum period for review, as stated in the WDS Bylaws—to complete the current incarnation of the application form. During reassessment, Reviewers will be asked to ensure that all information given by a Member is still current and that it has addressed any shortcomings highlighted in its previous review. The SC must then decide whether to reaccredit the organization. It was proposed that it is the WDS Member's responsibility to reapply, and that this topic be brought up at the WDS Member's Forum.