

World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) Teleconference #21

Teleconference #21 was held on Thursday, 11 December 2014 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

GEO XI Plenary Report

- The Eleventh Plenary of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) took place on 12–14 November in Geneva. Two sessions of particular importance to ICSU-WDS dealt with the data sharing and data management principles of GEO.
- The original GEO data sharing principles were used to define the WDS Data Policy, and are currently being revised for the next 10-year implementation phase of GEO. Two versions of the data sharing principles are under discussion, with the associated Task Force recommending one of them to the GEO Executive Board. WDS and CODATA have provided input to the process, and the revised WDS Data Policy should align with updated principles.
- ICSU-WDS is also involved in the development of GEO's new data management principles. The related Task Force delivered a white paper to the Plenary containing the draft principles. There will be further refinement of these principles, and a recommendation will be tabled at the next Plenary to either merge the data management and sharing principles as a single comprehensive action, or continue the two separately.
- From a WDS standpoint, it is pleasing that GEO is taking data management into serious consideration and that ICSU-WDS is expected to be an important player in the implementation of the data management principles.

Revision of WDS Data Policy

- Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS) is a major data centre/service provider in the Netherlands, sponsored by the Dutch Academy of Sciences, and has approached the International Programme Office about joining ICSU-WDS as a Regular Member. In this regard, DANS has asked for feedback on the alignment of its (newly updated) data policy with that of ICSU-WDS.
- DANS has several access conditions for the datasets it serves: open access, open access for registered users, restricted access, and unavailable through its discovery portal. Restrictions on access are due to datasets containing personal data, which is restricted by law. Furthermore, DANS allows embargo periods up to a maximum of two years; after this time, the dataset must return to open access (for registered users) by default.
- DANS strongly encourages data are made open access (for registered users), but cannot enforce this. The proportion of data that are open access data is increasing, however, and restricted access will potentially become minimal in the long term since institutions in the Netherlands have a legal mandate to make datasets open access.
- The above again emphasizes the need for ICSU-WDS to clarify its Data Policy. It must be made obvious to candidate Members that restrictions—when justified—can be accepted, and what the valid justifications are. Open access must be the baseline, but as ICSU-WDS broadens to encompass data of many types, there will have to be a more complicated Policy beyond simple open access. Moreover, many WDS Members have thought carefully about their documented data policy, and these policies should be taken into consideration.

Membership Management Update

- The SC agreed on Reviewers to assess the WDS Regular Member applications of the Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center and UNAVCO Inc.

Brief Updates of WDS Working Groups

Certification

- The Working Group (WG) has almost completed Version 1.0 of its Common Requirements combining the parts of the WDS and Data Seal of Approval Catalogues concerning repository functions. It has agreed on the language, and has a glossary based on that of the Open Archival Information System reference model. The WG is now in the



process of writing guidance for the Requirements, and is considering introductory text to explain the context of the Requirements. A teleconference will be held in January to examine progress.

- The WG has requested a Breakout Session at Fifth Plenary of the Research Data Alliance (RDA), where it will present the Common Requirements, and move the work forward.

Upcoming WDS-SC Meetings

- WDS-SC#12: 07–08 March 2015; San Diego. The next face-to-face meeting of the WDS-SC will be co-located with the Fifth RDA Plenary in San Diego. The meeting will take place immediately before the Plenary: starting on the morning of Saturday and concluding by late afternoon on Sunday. It will be held at the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics at Scripps Institute of Oceanography.
- WDS-SC#13: 01–02 October 2015 (provisional); Tokyo. An initial announcement was given that the 13th Meeting will be held in early October 2015 in Tokyo, most likely at the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) Kōjimachi Office. It will take place immediately after the Workshop between the Scientific Committee on Solar–Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP) and ICSU-WDS (see below).

SCOSTEP–WDS VarSITI Workshop

- A very preliminary schedule for the Workshop has been drawn up. It will take place over three days from 28 September at NICT, which has an auditorium suitable for the anticipated 100–120 participant and the required information technology infrastructure to host planned online data analysis sessions. On the afternoon of the final day, the hope is to have a forum between the SCOSTEP and WDS communities, including participants from the SC.
- SCOSTEP has been asked to nominate members for the Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) of the Workshop, ensuring that each of the four Variability of the Sun and Its Terrestrial Impact (VarSITI) themes are represented. Three SC members have also been invited to join the SOC, as well as a WDS Member Representative, and two IPO staff. Once the SOC members are fixed, a first circular for the Workshop will be sent out to potential participants.

Review of the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

- ICSU is reviewing its Regional Office in Latin America and the Caribbean, and has asked its National Scientific Members, International Scientific Associates, Interdisciplinary Bodies (including WDS), and key stakeholders to complete a short questionnaire. The SC Chair and WDS Executive Director will respond on behalf of ICSU-WDS, based on comments/inputs provided by SC members.