

World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015–2018 Teleconference #15

Teleconference #15 took place on Thursday, 16 February 2017 at 13:00 UTC

Summary

Review of Action items

- The WDS proposal for a town hall meeting at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2017 (EGU 2017) has been approved. It will take place at 7–8 pm on Tuesday, 25 April.
- Although the WDS Partner membership of OpenAIRE is yet to be formalized, there is strong commitment to contribute to the WDS Metadata Catalogue through the OpenAIRE Connect project.
- All WDS Data Stewardship awardees are happy to help define a roadmap for a WDS Early Career Researcher Network. The WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) will now organize a call among them.
- The WDS-IPO asked all WDS Members about training resources available for compilation into a WDS Training Guide, and used towards a WDS curriculum. The resources will be examined once a reasonable response has been received.
- The submission deadline is 20 April for session proposals for the 2017 Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union. The WDS-SC must think before then about the topic for a WDS session.
- Many interesting things are happening at the World Health Organization that ICSU-WDS should alert Members about; in particular, there are data needs where nothing is established yet to address those needs.

Subcommittees & Task Group (TG)

- a. WDS–DSA Certification Board
 - The acting common Board had its second meeting prior to the WDS-SC teleconference. At the Board's first meeting in January, it defined a number of actions lines to setup the new organization. It was decided during the second meeting that the Chair and Vice-chairs will set out a plan and timeline for how the Board will organize its work in the different activities such that everything is feasibly finished by July: the Data Seal of Approval (DSA) Board will be re-elected in November, and so the work must be finished before then.
 - The timeframe for realizing short-term alignment is tight, meaning the work is becoming more pressured. Whilst this is difficult for the acting Board, DSA and ICSU-WDS increasingly find that people are confused by the current situation. If the acting Board can achieve its goals by July, this will help make everything clearer.
 - The second meeting also included the inaugural review of an application based on the new requirements. Reviewed by a representative from each organization, there were differences of opinion as to whether the evidence presented was acceptable, and the acting Board needs to cultivate a common review culture. To assist in this, reviewers will be asked to generate a summary showing any differences so that the acting Board can then make a decision at its subsequent meeting.
- b. WDS Road Mapping Exercise
 - At its last teleconference, the Subcommittee focussed on what is currently happening within Europe, and how that fits in with some of the other things it has been discussing. Although there are several viewpoints for the work, the Subcommittee is firstly trying to stick to its initial mandate of mapping who is in charge of various entities, what stage they are at with their thinking, what they are doing, and so on. The work is on track and the plan is to now start filling in a spreadsheet of known entities.
- c. CODATA–WDS Citizen Science TG
 - This energized and engaged TG includes people from outside ICSU-WDS and the ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (ICSU-CODATA), with the big value-add that a number of them are deeply involved in citizen science and crowdsourcing, and bring a lot of expertise on issues connected with how to improve data management, curation, and validation.
 - The TG's first official telecon in late January predominantly reviewed the CODATA Executive Committee's (ExCom's) concerns about its budget request. The ExCom asked for more details about the TG's need to hire an intern for three months to chase information on how initiatives manage collected data and their value for science. The TG has written a justification for the amount requested, making it clear that this is building on existing efforts by the Citizen Science Association (CSA) and SciStarter. The latter is being used by the TG as a starting point for its work, but with SciStarter being US-centric and of limited scope, a much wider net will be cast to include developing countries and other platforms.

- The TG has a paper accepted to present its work at the CSA2017 Conference in May in Minnesota. A request has been made to fund one of the Co-chairs to attend and also to participate in co-located CSA meetings related to data management.
- The TG is trying to develop a typology of the efforts that will be addressed, making sure all domains and volunteered geographic information initiatives are well represented. The TG is looking through the literature to see how it can employ existing typologies as a filter for assessing the state of data management in the different activities.

Conferences/Workshops & SC Meetings

- a. Two-day African Workshop
 - The WDS-IPO has sent Workshop invitations to everyone recommended by the WDS-SC. ICSU-WDS is also working with the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) to ensure that representatives are present from its key African programmes dealing with data, and a request has been submitted for IRD funding to bring those people to Grenoble.
 - The Group on Earth Observations has approved travel funding to enable four people—identified with the WDS-IPO—to attend the Workshop. Even though the list of confirmed African participants is growing, many with a strong interest do not have funding, and this is a big hurdle. The WDS-IPO is trying to find funding on a case-by-case basis, but securing support of the level required has not been possible thus far.
 - The Workshop was designed for direct communication and oral presentations. However, the opportunity will be extended for people not able to attend to send a poster highlighting their project and contacts available for collaboration.
- b. Asia–Oceania Conference + 17th WDS-SC Meeting
 - It has been decided to move the 17th WDS-SC Meeting to Kyoto. The proposal is now for SC members to join the Conference on 26–28 September at Kyoto University, with the period 29 September–1 October then allocated for SC activities including the 17th Meeting. A co-located event on 25 September will be held for the Japanese branch of the Scientific Committee on Solar–Terrestrial Physics, due to links between this community and the WDS Members at Kyoto University.
 - There has been success in getting Japanese funding to invite some foreign participants to the Conference, and so the Scientific Organizing Committee will think about who it will invite as speakers.
- c. SciDataCon 2018 and IDW II
 - The Call is out for Expressions of Interest (Eols) to host the second International Data Week (IDW II; including SciDataCon 2018), and the WDS-SC was encouraged to spread the word about it. The deadline is short since an extensive proposal is not expected at this stage, rather an Eol containing key information about the host's capabilities. A second stage will then ask selected bidders to define strong proposals.
 - Bidders should have substantial financial support, and this is a difficult question to answer if people do not have time to work out how they might satisfy it. If the deadline causes anyone not to submit an Eol, then it might have to be extended. With the intention to get things started quickly, an extension would not be a positive step, and the WDS-SC will be kept abreast on submissions so that it can intervene, if needed.

CODATA 2017 Conference

- ICSU-WDS was invited by ICSU-CODATA to partner its Conference in St Petersburg, suggesting that ICSU-WDS has a representative on the Programme Committee—there is mutual benefit in having WDS-related sessions/speakers that frame key topics—as well as publicizing the conference and giving financial support.
- Considering the plans ICSU-WDS has in place for 2017—in particular, the WDS Asia–Oceania Conference just prior to the CODATA Conference—the WDS-IPO will communicate to ICSU-CODATA that: the Conference will be advertised among WDS Members, WDS Members in Russia will be polled to find a representative for the Programme Committee, but unfortunately ICSU-WDS is unable to provide financial support for the Conference.

Membership Management Update

- A second round of reviews for the Chinese National Antarctic & Arctic Data Centre's (CN-NADC's) application for WDS Regular membership were presented to the WDS-SC. The application is much improved; however, there are still some issues in accessing CN-NADC's data through its English portal. The WDS-IPO will contact CN-NADC and request that the highlighted issues are resolved before the WDS-SC makes a decision. The IPO will also contact the WDS China Secretariat and find out the status of its proposed clearinghouse, which has the remit of ensuring that data from WDS Members in China are useful for the international community.