Establishment of World Data System (WDS) of ICSU (International Council for Science) was decided at the ICSU General Assembly in 2008. The WDS was discussed in context of existing stand-alone WDCs (World Data Centers) and individual FAGS (Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data-analysis Services) services, and now, its concept is to incorporating WDS facilities which ICSU-WDS is open for, and is to review, proposals from data centers, data archives, data services who wish to join the WDS system. The new system aims at creation of a common globally interoperable distributed data system, or a system of data systems, incorporating emerging technologies and new scientific data activities. WDS is designed to set up the WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO).

NICT (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology) of Japan submitted a proposal that NICT will host IPO, and the ICSU Executive Board decided to accept the offer at its meeting (29-30 October 2010). The WDS-IPO will manage and coordinate the establishment and operations of the WDS, and take responsibility for outreach and promotion activities. The IPO will act under the guidance of the ICSU World Data System Scientific Committee.

Keywords: ICSU, WDC, WDS, science information, data