

Establishment and Development of World Data Centers

Tohru Araki[1]

[1] PRIC

Before the beginning of IGY the Special Committee for IGY (CSAGI) decided to establish the World Data Center system. Multiple Centers were recommended to guard against catastrophic loss of data and for the regional convenience of data providers and users. Complex Centers were established in the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. as WDC-A and WDC-B and WDC-C1 and WDC-C2 in many disciplines were set up in Europe and Asia or Australia, respectively. Because of its success in IGY, the WDC system was made permanent and used for post-IGY data. In 1968 the Panel on WDCs was established by the International Council of Scientific Unions(ICSU) to supervise data activities of WDCs.

Professor N. Fukushima attended in the Meeting for establishment of WDC held in Brussell in April, 1957 and succeeded in inducing 5 WDCs (WDC C2 for Air Glow , Cosmic Ray, Geomagnetism, Ionosphere, and Nuclear Radiation) into Japan. The WDC C2 for Solar Radio Emission and WDC C2 for Solar Terrestrial Activities were added in 1969 and the WDC C2 for Aurora was established in 1981. In 1988 eight WDCs were established in China. Now 52 WDCs are operated.