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ICSU World Data System (WDS)

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The ICSU World Data System (WDS) has been created through a decision of the 29th General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU) held in October 2008. WDS builds on the 50-year legacy of the ICSU World Data Centre system (WDC) and the ICSU Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data-analysis Services (FAGS), but WDS will cover wider disciplines ranging from natural sciences to social sciences. The new WDS will support the mission of ICSU and objectives, ensuring the long-term stewardship and provision of quality-assessed data and data services to the international science community and other stakeholders. Goals of WDS are (from the Constitution of WDS):

- Enable universal and equitable access to scientific data and information
- Ensure long term data stewardship for ICSU programs
- Define agreed data standards
- Establish and oversee the procedures for the review and accreditation of existing and new WDS facilities
- Facilitate better access to data
- Strive for simpler access to data
- Provide quality-assured data and information
- Reduce the digital divide

The WDS Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) has been appointed by ICSU to implement and administer the activities of the WDS. In early 2011, WDS-SC will accept applications from data centers to be members of WDS (<http://icsu-wds.org/>). The WDS International Program Office (WDS-IPO) will be established in Japan at National Institute of Communications Technology (NICT) in FY 2011. The WDS Conference, which will be the first international meeting of WDS, will be held in Kyoto, on 3-6 September 2011 (<http://wdc2.kugi.kyoto-u.ac.jp/wds2011/>).

Keywords: Data, Data Center, ICSU, WDS