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ICSU World Data System: Hosting International Programme Office in Japan

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World Data System (WDS) of ICSU (International Council for Science) was decided to be newly established at the ICSU General Assembly in 2008, incorporating legacy of WDS (World Data Center) system and FAGS (Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data-analysis Services) services. The new system aims at creation of a common globally interoperable distributed data system, or a system of data systems. NICT (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology) of Japan offered hosting International Programme Office (IPO) of WDS in response to ICSU's announcement to call for a institute hosting WDS-IPO. The ICSU Executive Board decided to accept the offer at its meeting in the end of 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. Also NICT is proposing a technical contribution to WDS, incorporating NICT's potential of network and information system technology, as well as legacy of data archiving activities including NICT's original atmospheric, ionospheric, and other radio science/space physics databases. In the paper NICT's perspective will be reviewed to targeting cooperation with Japanese science data community as well as the world wide community of WDS and related bodies.

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