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CEOS IDN Newsletter

Committee On Earth Observation Satellites
International Directory Network (IDN)
http://idn.ceos.org

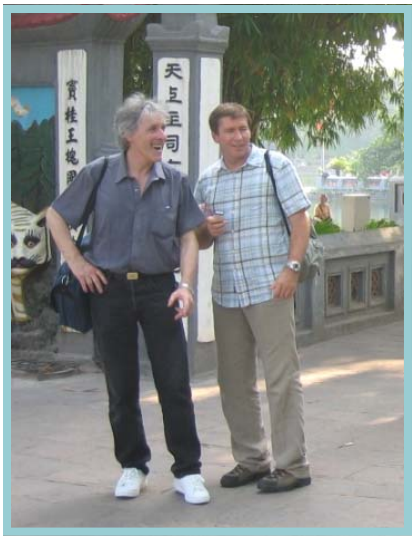
Edited by Lola Olsen
Designed by Chrissy Chiddo, Anthony Ajayi, and Monica Holland

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WGISS 24 Signals End of Petiteville Tenure

We thank Ivan Petiteville for his faithful service to WGISS and for his unwavering support of the IDN. During his tenure, he has moved the CEOS contributions to the forefront of the global GEO initiative.

George Dyke (left) has served capably as the Executive Secretariat for WGISS under Ivan Petiteville's leadership (and watchful eye).



Jean Pierre Antikidis (CNES) (left) and Ivan Petiteville (ESA) sightsee in the streets of Hanoi.

The upcoming WGISS-24 in Oberpfaffenhofen (Germany) will be my last opportunity to serve as chair of this unique and talented CEOS Working Group on Information Systems & Services. Often working on a "good will" basis, and sometimes with limited resources, the WGISS participants have done a fantastic job serving the WGISS Task Teams with exemplary enthusiasm and professionalism. In the scope of the new CEOS strategy in support of GEO, WGISS members have been highly solicited. The contribution of our working group in support of major initiatives and programmes, such as the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), has been praised by the GEO Director, Pr José Achache, who attended the last CEOS Plenary (November 2006).

In particular, the presentation of the International Directory Network (IDN), one of the greatest achievements of CEOS WGISS, has impressed all the participants to the CEOS Plenary. The growing numbers of records held and the increasing number of users worldwide are the best measurements of that successful initiative. The international benefits of the IDN have been recognized worldwide.

A worldwide, interoperable and user-friendly system perfectly matches the GEO spirit. The IDN has been identified and proposed as one of the top contributions from WGISS to GEO for several GEO Tasks. The IDN has continued to be a success story for Earth Observation, not only for its flexible and well-thought-out architecture, but also for the content and structure of the information it contains, accumulated over many years. The IDN is a unique source of information for GEO. All this has been made possible, thanks to the highly dedicated and motivated IDN team. More than ever, with all the expectations generated by the GEO initiatives, the Users of Earth Observation data will need the support and experience of the motivated IDN team.

It has been my pleasure to act as WGISS Chair, knowing that I could rely on the entire IDN Team at any time. The success of the IDN is entirely yours but it has contributed greatly to promote the image of the entire Working Group to the outside world. I am sure that my successor, Martha Maiden (NASA), will be able to count on this team as much as I have. In my other current position as Co-chair of the GEO Architecture & Data Committee, I hope to see the IDN playing a central role in the GEO System of Systems (GEOSS).

I wish the IDN Team all the best for the coming years.

IDN'ly yours,
Ivan Petiteville

CEOSS WGISS Contributes to the GCMD's Science User Working Group

Dr. Wyn Cudlip (QinetiQ) (representing CEOS WGISS) joined Chairman, Mr. Martin Ruzek (USRA), Dr. Benno Blumenthal (Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory), Mr. Eugene Burger (NOAA/Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory), Dr. Hubert Staudigel (Scripps Institution of Oceanography), Mr. Dave Toll (Hydrological Sciences Branch, GSFC), Ms. Andrea Buffam (former IDN representative from CCRS), and Ms. Vivian Hutchison (NBII) on June 19th and 20th, 2007 in Greenbelt, MD for a review of the NASA-funded Global Change Master Directory (GCMD). The GCMD is the main component of the WGISS IDN Task Team. As the main contributor to IDN activities the terms, GCMD and IDN, are sometimes used interchangeably.

A draft report has been completed and will be available at the IDN site when it is finalized. Dr. Wyn Cudlip provided valuable suggestions, particularly with regard to closer working with CEOS and GEOSS.

Dr. Wyn Cudlip converses with Tom Northcutt during a break, while Chairman Martin Ruzek (in background) prepares to restart the session.

Forefront: Dr. Hubert Staudigel sparks an enthusiastic response from Vivian Hutchison. In the background are GCMD contract Task Lead, Gene Major and Arturo Restrepo. Arturo, who represented the GCMD in Hanoi, participated in his first UWG meeting.

Tyler Stevens, GCMD/GIS Science Coordinator is still smiling after accommodating last minute presentation revisions with admirable patience.

Left to right (around table): Benno Blumenthal, Dave Toll, Andrea Buffam (standing), Eugene Berger, Martin Ruzek, Chair, Wyn Cudlip, Steve Wharton (GCDC), Vivian Hutchison, and Hubert Staudigel.

Sensor Webs and CEOS

By Karen Moe, NASA Earth Science Technology Office

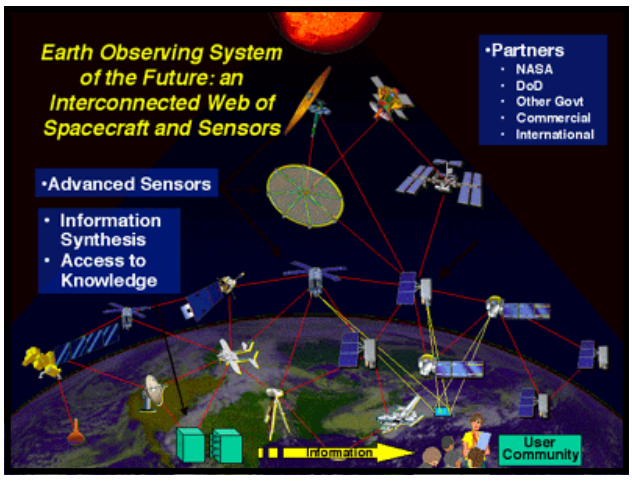
In October 2007, Karen Moe, a program manager in the NASA Earth Science Technology Office will be joining the CEOS WGISS. Karen will be helping to define the NASA role within the WGISS response to the GEOSS Sensor Web Enablement Task. She has been instrumental in establishing and managing the Advanced Information Systems Technology (AIST) program on sensor webs, a 3-year program that started in the fall of 2006. The AIST sensor web program was initiated in response to a renewed emphasis on the sensor web concepts. In 2004, NASA proposed an Earth science vision for a more robust Earth observing system, coupled with remote sensing data analysis tools and advances in Earth system models. The AIST program is conducting the research and developing components to explore the technology infrastructure, which will enable the visionary goals.

A working statement for a NASA Earth science sensor web vision is the following: On-demand sensing of a broad array of environmental and ecological phenomena across a wide range of spatial and temporal scales, from a heterogeneous suite of sensors both in-situ and in orbit. Sensor webs will be dynamically organized to collect data, extract information from it, accept input from other sensor / forecast / tasking systems, interact with the environment based on what they detect or are tasked to perform, and communicate observations and results in real time.

The focus on sensor webs seeks to develop the technology and prototypes to demonstrate the evolving sensor web capabilities. There are 35 AIST projects ranging from 1 to 3 years in duration addressing various aspects of sensor webs involving NASA missions, most notably the Earth Observing-1 (EO-1) satellite, in situ sensor networks, such as the southern California earthquake network, and various modeling and forecasting systems. Some of these projects are building on proof-of-concept demonstrations of sensor web capabilities like the EO-1 rapid fire response - initially implemented in 2003. Other projects will simulate future sensor web configurations to evaluate the effectiveness of sensor-model interactions for producing improved science predictions. Still other projects are maturing technology to support autonomous operations, communications and system interoperability. More information is available at http://esto.nasa.gov/sensorwebmeeting/

In her new role, Karen will contribute to the CEOS strategies to advance sensor web technologies in support of the GEOSS objectives. It is hoped that pilot demonstrations will be developed to showcase remote sensing and in situ data acquisition systems, data assimilation and forecasting systems, and decision support portals to illustrate the power of the sensor web concepts in supporting the objectives of GEOSS.

Source: http://is.arc.nasa.gov/index.html



A representation of the Earth Observing System of the Future with an interconnected web of spacecrafts and sensors.

Update on the World Data Center System: Planning for the Future

By David M. Clark, ICSU WDC Panel and CEOS member, NOAA

David M. Clark from the ICSU WDC Panel.

I. Introduction

Originally established by the International Council for Science (ICSU) during the International Geophysical Year in 1957-58 in the United States, Europe, Russia, and Japan, the original WDC system of 27 centers has since expanded to other countries and to new scientific disciplines. The WDC system now encompasses 51 Centers in 12 countries. Its holdings include a wide range of solar, geophysical, environmental, and human dimensions data. WDCs are funded and maintained by their host countries on behalf of the international science community. All data held in WDCs are available *on a full and open access basis for no more than the cost of copying and sending the requested information*. In many cases, the data are available online at no cost.

The Panel on World Data Centers was established in 1968 at the 12th General Assembly of ICSU, to advise the Officers of ICSU on the management of the World Data Centers. Today the Panel oversees all 51 WDCs. Through its varied activities and initiatives, the Panel promotes the use of common standards and new technologies, enabling good science to be conducted from new and old data by the scientists of many nations.

The World Data Center system of today is structured as a loose federation of data centers hosted mostly at governmental or academic institutions. Most of the WDCs do not have direct funding from their host, but rather are operated in conjunction with the normal activities of the hosting organization. A positive sign for the WDC system is the continuing interest by new scientific communities and countries in establishing new WDCs and WDC infrastructure. There is still a clear need for an international, nongovernmental organization to serve as a coordinating body and quality control mechanism.

II. Planning for the Future

In May 2007, the WDC Directors met at the World Data Center for Marine Environmental Sciences in Bremen, Germany, to discuss the future of the WDC system. More than 35 WDC Directors or their representatives attended the meeting as well as representatives from ICSU, International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange of Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, ICSU's Committee on Data for Science and Technology, the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services (FAGS), and the Group on Earth Observations.

Key topics of discussion at this meeting were the International Polar Year (IPY), a major international research program that has recognized the need for long-term data stewardship, and the Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS), which is looking to the WDC system for data management expertise in developing the next generation of international, interoperable Earth observing systems aimed at both scientific and practical applications. The WDCs individually, and as a system, need to demonstrate their willingness to work with the international scientific community and the Earth Observations community to make the IPY and GEOSS successful, not only in terms of current needs, but also for long-term data accessibility and usability.

The major resolutions from the meeting affecting the future of the WDC system included:

- The WDC system must respond robustly and effectively to ICSU's program data management needs.
- The WDCs must strongly and actively support the data management needs of the IPY, a major new program of ICSU.
- The WDCs must become an active partner in the planning of the GEOSS data activities.
- The WDCs must implement network links between WDCs utilizing interoperable data systems to support current scientific programs
- The WDC system and FAGS should discuss common operations and a possible merger of their activities.
- WDCs need to integrate their future IT activities with new state-of-the-art technologies like Virtual Observatories and the activities of electronic Geophysical Year.

The WDC system needs to expand its discipline structure and its geographic distribution to better serve ICSU programs—while perhaps at the same time consolidating in some areas. This includes a concerted push to expand to developing countries and the Southern Hemisphere.

While there are many challenges ahead, the concept of the WDC system developed 50 years ago is still viable. This assertion is widely recognized by the WDC community to be correct. An active and energetic implementation of this concept is needed now more than ever. However, it is widely acknowledged that the WDC system must evolve to meet today's needs of ICSU and the scientific community. This makes the future bright for the WDC system.

IDN Activities at the WGISS 23 in Vietnam

By Arturo Restrepo, GCMD's Ecological Informatics Coordinator

The Working Group on Information Systems Services (WGISS) 23 met May 21st – 25th, 2007 in Hanoi, Vietnam. Hanoi is a vivid and very prismatic city. Along its gorgeous lakes are boat restaurants, serving Vietnamese dishes with the highest biodiversity index ever seen. The WGISS members meet biannually, and this year the Vietnam Remote Sensing Centre (VNRSC) had the pleasure to host the WGISS 23. This year, I was delighted to be invited to represent Lola Olsen as the IDN task team representative.

The workgroup began with a review of the WGISS 22 minutes in Annapolis, MD on September 11-15, 2006. After reading the minutes, the IDN representative presented the following topics: statistical information about IDN usage and trends, the new release of MD 9.7 (see IDN Newsletter, Issue 22, 2007 for new features), and the evolution of metadata standards. In response to a CEOS/GEOSS request, the IDN created and registered the following portals: Ocean Climate; Global Climate Observing System (GCOS); PODAAC Data Center; Tsunamis and Ecosystems; and GEOSS Data/Data Services in the GEOSS Registry.

The JAXA delegation: (from left to right) Kengo Aizawa (JAXA), Satoko Miura (JAXA), Kazuko Misawa (RESTEC), Osamu Ochiai (GEO), and Hiromichi Fukui (Prof. of KEIO University).

After the IDN representative presented the improved platforms and instruments displayed in the MD 9.7, the team member, Terence van Zyl from the Meraka Institute in South Africa, stated that the Sensor-ML standard (OGC) may be of use for the IDN. Therefore, it is recommended that whenever a sensor is described using Sensor-ML, the Sensor-ML should be included (or linked) in the IDN description of the instrument.

Following the presentation of the MD 9.7 software release, the IDN representative announced that the MD 9.8 (future software version) will migrate to MySQL as its database package. Also, the future software version, MD10, will represent the GCMD vocabulary in the Simple Knowledge Organization System and include multilingual capabilities. MD10 will also empower data providers to manage their own metadata, through their own workspaces.

Another WGISS 23 team member, Bernd Ritschel, from the Information Systems and Data Center (GFZ ISDC) in Potsdam, Germany presented a summary of the institute's involvement in the following satellite missions: CHAMP, GRACE, GGP (Global Geodynamic Project), GNSS (Galileo testbed), GPS-PDR (Potsdam-Dresden-Reprocessing). GFZ ISDC also uses the DIF format to disseminate data. Currently, IDN and GFZ ISDC are in the process of drafting a letter of intention for future activities.

Next, Paul Kopp, the Technology and Services Chairperson for WGISS, presented an overview of the current status of the Interoperability Handbook. The IDN representative agreed to provide a "Lessons Learned" section to help translate different metadata formats into DIF and metadata harvesting.

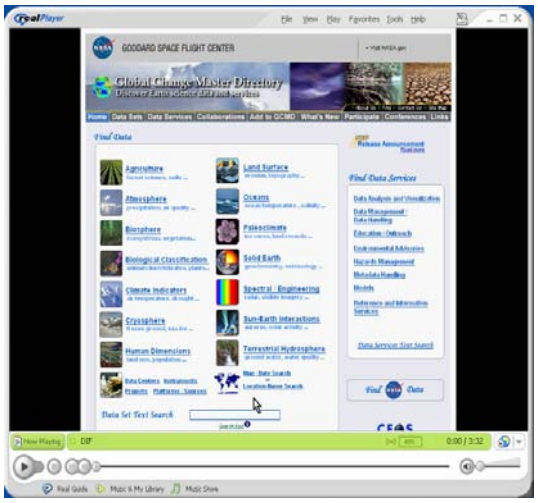
Once again, the WGISS 23 members were very impressed with the accomplishment of the IDN team led by Lola Olsen. The IDN team's efforts continue to provide leadership in data, services, discovery, and dissemination, as well as, systems development for the Earth Science community. The next WGISS 24 meeting will be scheduled in October, 2007 in Germany.

Berndt Ritschel (GFZ ISDC) taking a serious picture in Hanoi.

WGISS Chairman, Ivan Petiteville, front and center, with international CEOS/WGISS 23 participants.

IDN Demonstrations Available Online

By Tyler Stevens (GCMD GIS/Services Coordinator)



DIF Demonstration

At the request of the CEOS Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS), pre-recorded audio-visual demonstrations of the IDN's functionality are now available online. These demonstrations highlight the advanced search capability of the IDN, direct access to data sets and services, and the use of the online docBUILDER authoring tools. These demonstrations are created using a software package for creating screen captures and simultaneous audio recordings. CEOS members and collaborators should find these demonstrations useful for introducing the IDN to new users. You can find these demos online from the IDN homepage at http://idn.ceos.org.

The ESIP "Federation"

By Tyler Stevens (GCMD/GIS Services Coordinator)

IDN staff member, Tyler Stevens, was invited to give a presentation on the Directory Interchange Format (DIF) standard at the Earth Science Data Systems Standards Process Working Group held in conjunction with the Federation of Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) summer meeting in Madison, Wisconsin on July 17-20. The strategy behind the Standards Process Working Group is to review and adopt standards that will play a vital role in the success of future science data systems. This was part of the Strategy for Evolution of ESE Data Systems (SEEDS) study for developing a strategic process to identify appropriate standards to adopt within the Enterprise. Following the review process, the group will make recommendations to NASA management and stakeholders on the standards.

The DIF has been identified by the Standards Process Group as a heritage standard because of its longstanding use within the NASA community. Since its inception in 1987, the DIF has matured over the years. Feedback from the workshop presentation was positive and included: "The GCMD has done some great things in the past and will continue to do some great things in the future"; "The DIF has made discovering data very easy"; "The DIF tools should also output metadata in FGDC and ISO format". All comments will be considered for integration into future software releases. The GCMD will continue to participate in the standards process and attend meeting and telecons.

A poster on the recently expanded Ancillary Descriptions for Platforms (AD-P) and Instruments (AD-I) was presented at the meeting. The poster illustrated examples of platform descriptions for NASA's A-Train Earth Observing Satellites. The GCMD will populate all existing ancillary descriptions, and a new interface for search and discovery of these descriptions will be designed.

The main theme of the meeting was sustainability. The goal was determining how to sustain a thriving and growing data and information system. Exchange of information across many Earth Science disciplines has always been a challenge, but this group hopes to bridge the gaps among these systems. The Earth Information Exchange (EIE) portal is targeted to provide a service and knowledge-sharing platform with access to data sets and various interoperable mapping services. A prototype is available at http://eie.cos.gmu.edu/c/portal/layout?p_l_id=1.9. The themes discussed are synchronous with the GCMD theme of directing users to data. As a Type I ESIP, the GCMD helps fulfill the mission of the ESIP Federation. The GCMD will continue to monitor ESIP Federation initiatives.

Next CEOS WGISS Subgroup Meeting

By Rosy Cordova (GCMD Software Developer/Database Specialist)

Frauenkirche
(Cathedral Church of Our Lady)

Source: Google Earth

An aerial view of DLR Oberpfaffenhofen Center.

The next CEOS WGISS meeting (#24), October 15-19, 2007, will be hosted by the German Aerospace Center (DLR) at its Oberpfaffenhofen center. Oberpfaffenhofen is located about 30 km southwest of Munich (capital of Bavaria).

If you fly into the Franz Josef Strauss Airport, you might enjoy sight seeing in Munich on your way to the meeting. Start at the Marienplatz, one of the Munich's central squares. The Marienplatz is named for the Mariensaule, a column crowned with a statue of the Virgin Mary. After enjoying a stroll thru the square, be sure to visit the Frauenkirche (Cathedral Church of Our Lady). The view of Munich from the south tower is spectacular. If you visit Frauenkirche, also try to stand in the spot where it seems there are no side windows. It is said a 'famous' footprint marks the spot.

Although most may arrive in Munich too late for Oktoberfest, the largest beer festival in the world, you can still enjoy a one-litre glass of beer in one of Munich's Biergartens. Try the Weisswurst (veal sausage), or Schweins-haxen (grilled pork leg), Sauerkraut (pickled cabbage), or Kartoffelsalat (potato salad).

As you prepare for your trip, if there is anything you would like to share with the community and post on the IDN website (http://idn.ceos.org), please contact me, Rosy.M.Cordova@nasa.gov.

Mr. Lyn Oleson, USGS, to Lead Data Services Task Team

Shinobu Kawahito, JAXA, passed the responsibilities for the Data Services Task Team (DSTT) to Lyn Oleson, USGS, at WGISS 23 in Hanoi. (We thank Shinobu for her capable leadership).

Reemerging in 2005 after a long absence from CEOS, Lyn has volunteered to coordinate the DSTT members' activities and assume the lead. The mission of the DSTT is to serve as a forum for exchange of technical information about the World Wide Web and Internet related technologies that would be useful to the CEOS community.

Lyn Oleson, Chief of Mission Support Team at the Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) of the USGS.

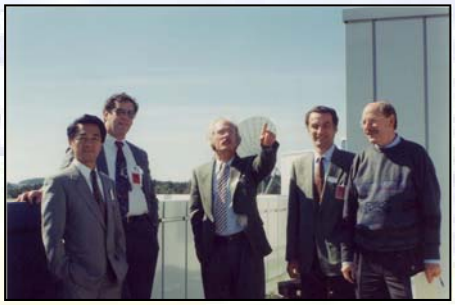
Chrissy Chiddo

Return of the CEOS to Oberpfaffenhofen, Examining the Archives

By Chrissy Chiddo, GCMD Multimedia Specialist

Lyn Oleson, (far left) in 1994, looking into the future and seeing himself as the Data Services Task Team Leader in 2007.

Angelo Bodini (ESA/ESRIN), **Bernhard Buckl (DLR/DFD)**, Reggie Duda (Ames).



Mineo Sekiguchi, Andy Germain, Hartwig Schroeter (pointing), Angelo Bodini, and Jorg Gredel.

The CEOS Working Group on Data (WGD) (now WGISS) Catalog Subgroup last met in September of 1994 in Oberpfaffenhofen. Note the familiar names and faces in the photographs (above) from the CEOS Meeting #13. In particular, note Bernhard Buckl, who will serve as our host at the upcoming meeting.

WGD: A Flashback to 1994

By Lola Olsen

Thirteen years ago on September 19-21, 1994, Mr. Jorg Gredel (DLR/DFD) welcomed the CEOS group and presented information on the DLR, the major German space research effort. Funded through the Ministry for Research and Technology, the DLR has seven research centers administered from Koln. The German Remote Sensing Data Center (DFD) was established by the DLR to support the German user community in accessing and analyzing satellite remote sensing data and satellite navigation data, promoting its use.

Ms. Kathy Pedelty (now Fontaine) of RDC, gave a brief update on the status of action items from past meetings and included Action Item 9.8.

Action Item 9.8

All CS members to provide user manuals for local data systems that are linked to a CEOS IDN node. The manuals should be in machine readable form or hard copy. Documentation is to be sent to ESA (G. Triebnig).

Category: CEOS IDN / Guide Services
Status: Continuing. This action item and the related 9.9 and 12.04 will be left open.

During this meeting:

1) Mr. Richard Gobel (DLR) presented the CEOS Inventory Interoperability Experiment (CINTEX) status report and an overview of the first CINTEX Protocols Meeting in Annapolis, MD, held on September 12-14, 1994.
2) Ms. Lola Olsen (NASA) presented updated information on CEOS IDN activities.

- The Global Change Master Directory (GCMD) is restructuring query capabilities using valids as 'controlled keywords' and uncontrolled keywords. Both controlled and uncontrolled keywords will be incorporated into an enhanced database for searching, to be released in March 1995.
- A new Directory Interchange Format (DIF) authoring tool is available, which is based on the emacs editor.
- The lag time between submission of DIFs and entry into the GCMD has decreased significantly.

Mr. Sobue (NASDA) wanted to know about the scheduled upgrade from CEOS IDN Version 1 to Version 2. The GCMD is reworking the VAX installation; UNIX is ready to go now.

New Action Item 13.03: (1994) NASA (Lola Olsen) will establish a listserver for CEOS IDN communications. It will be available after October 15, 1994.

The International Polar Year Data Challenge

By Taco de Bruin and Mark Parsons (Co-Chairs IPY Data Policy and Management Subcommittee)

Source: www.widerange.org

The International Polar Year 2007/2008 (IPY), co-sponsored by the International Council of Science and the World Meteorological Organization, started less than 6 months ago and already proves to be a huge success.

The fourth IPY (previous International Polar Years were organized in 1882, 1932 and 1957) is a large scientific programme focused on the Arctic and the Antarctic from March 2007 to March 2009. It covers all earth and environmental sciences as well as, for the first time, social sciences and humanities.

Central research issues are:

- Acquire a complete overview of the current status of the polar regions.
- Study past and future changes
- Link the polar regions to global processes
- Investigate frontiers of science in polar regions
- Use the poles as a vantage point to earth history and to space
- Study social and cultural dynamics and resiliency

It may well be the largest international scientific programme the world has ever seen. Originally more than 1200 Expressions of Intent for international research projects were submitted. These were combined into some 170 coordination projects. IPY involves more than 50,000 participants (scientists, technicians, crew, etc.) from over 60 nations around the globe.

IPY will result in an unprecedented insight into the functioning of the polar ecosystems and the role of the polar regions in the global climate. However, the real value of IPY may become apparent in a more distant future, since IPY aims to be the starting point of large circumpolar observation systems, which will continue to be operational long after the end date of this IPY.

Right from the start, the data set resulting from IPY was considered to be the most important legacy of this IPY, or, in the words of the IPY Framework Document: "In fifty years time the data resulting from IPY 2007-2008 may be seen as the most important single outcome of the programme" and "These data … will act as benchmark data which can serve as a baseline against, which global change is measured".

IPY is producing an unprecedented and very diverse collection of physical, life, and social science data from the polar regions. The data include in-situ and remote sensing data, as well as model output. These data, when combined with the IPY objectives of interdisciplinary science and international exchange, present a huge data management challenge and opportunity to greatly enhance international data management collaboration.

To ensure the proper preservation of all IPY data, the overarching IPY Joint Committee established the IPY Subcommittee for Data Policy and Management. One of its first activities was to finalize the IPY Data Policy.

The central clause of the IPY Data Policy (full text can be found at http://classic.ipy.org/international/joint-committee/data-management.htm) reads:

"In accordance with

- the Twelfth WMO Congress, Resolution 25 and 40 (Cg-XII, 1995)
- the ICSU 1996 General Assembly Resolution
- the ICSU Assessment on Scientific Data and Information (ICSU 2004b)
- Article III-1c from the Antarctic Treaty
- the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Data Exchange Policy

and in order to maximize the benefit of data gathered under the auspices of the IPY, the IPY Joint Committee requires that IPY data, including operational data delivered in real time, are made available fully, freely and on the shortest feasible timescale."

The IPY Data Committee also conducted a survey to establish the data management needs and available resources for all IPY projects. This was one of the initial steps to set up the IPY Data and Information Service or IPY-DIS. The IPYDIS is a loose international federation of data repositories, observatories, networks, and data management experts. Work continues to develop the IPYDIS and involve established discipline-based and World data centres.

It is generally accepted that inventories with data set descriptions form the first phase in data preservation and are necessary to allow (future) re-use of the data. To achieve this and to build an IPY data inventory, an IPY metadata profile was developed. This IPY metadata profile is fully compliant with existing standards as the ISO 19115 and the FGDC and DIF standards.

Meanwhile, GCMD built a dedicated IPY portal (http://gcmd.nasa.gov/portals/ipy/) and populated this with existing IPY related datasets from the GCMD data holdings. The DocBuilder interface was adapted to accommodate the new IPY metadata profile. Thus, all systems are ready to start receiving data set descriptions of newly acquired IPY data sets.

Chrissy Chiddo (IDN) and Gene Major (NASA/GSFC) discuss the CEOS Newsletter.

New Synergies Between the IDN & the Library Community

By Gene Major (NASA/GSFC Library Program Manager, Library Associates)

Science and technical libraries have been the target of budget cuts, especially in the United States and Canada where Federal libraries have been closed, services cut, and operating hours reduced. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) closed five of its regional libraries, which were recently ordered by the U.S. Congress to re-open. As stated in an editorial by Atmospheric Science Librarians International (ASLI) president, Jean Phillips in the July 2007 issue of the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, "librarians are invaluable members of research teams who facilitate access to information, analyze for relevance and quality, and are increasingly important given the shear number of resources available."

NASA's GCMD (and thus the IDN), has a distinct advantage by being in physical proximity to the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Library, a dynamic institution serving the information needs of the NASA research community. The Goddard Library itself is in transition as it moves from a traditional physical and digital library to a true virtual center for knowledge exchange. The potential for synergistic collaborations between the IDN and the library community exists through: (1) Linkages between library web sites and IDN data portals. (2) Automatic links to publication abstracts and/or full text from the DIF reference field. (3) IDN participation in digital library projects. (4) Possible cataloging of IDN records as electronic resources, made searchable from library online catalogs.

Note: Gene Major, former GCMD contract task lead, recently accepted a position with the Goddard Library. He has been drawn to libraries since his early years and as a kid, and spent many a day at the local Stamford Public Library in Connecticut.

Message From Our Host for WGISS-24

Register Today

Bernhard Buckl (DLR/DFD)

After 13 years, it is a pleasure for me to welcome WGISS again on the campus of DLR in Oberpfaffenhofen near Munich/Germany from **October 15-19, 2007**. Back in 1994 DLR hosted the WGD Subgroups, which I attended as one of the CINTEX developers. In the CINTEX TT (now ICS) we were laying the roots of interagency product level interoperability resulting in the CEOS Interoperability Protocol, CIP.

Today I'm looking forward to meeting you in Oberpfaffenhofen as DLR's WGISS representative and the organiser of the meeting logistics and the host workshop. The workshop will give you an overview about the new and planned German EO missions TerraSAR-X, TanDEM-X, EnMAP and RapidEye, DLR's multimission ground segment and applications exploiting the new missions from the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) perspective. The missions are performed as public-private partnerships. These will be reflected during the host workshop where high level industry representatives will introduce the missions, and DLR will present the ground segment and applications part.

But before the meeting comes the reminder: Please don't forget to register on http://wgiss-24.dlr.de before Sept. 6th. After that date, hotel booking with special DLR rates will be closed. However, the meeting registration will remain open beyond Sept. 6th. I wish you a safe trip to Oberpfaffenhofen and an enjoyable stay.

Bernhard Buckl, DLR/DFD

Proposed IDN Task Team Meeting Agenda (Lola Olsen, IDN, Task Team Lead)
(Wednesday, October 17, 2007)

09:25 Dr. Wyn Cudlip: "Briefing" from The GCMD/IDN Science User Working Group Meeting, June 19-20, 2007
09:40 Update on Population and Usage Statistics
09:45 Development Plans for MD 9.8 and MD 10
10:00 GEOSS Activities and other Collaborations
10:15 Node Reports (Contact Lola to schedule)
10:25 Evolution of Controlled Vocabularies
10:35 Reemergence of the Interop and Communications
10:45 Break