CEOS IDN Newsletter

Edited by Lola Olsen | Designed by Chrissy Chiddo

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CEOS WGISS-25 Meets in Sanya City

The CEOS WGISS-25 Meeting Participants.

***Sitting (from left to right)**, Ben Burford, Paul Kopp, Martha Maiden (WGISS Chair), Pakorn Apaphant, Liu Chuang, Lyndon Oleson, Liu Dingsheng. **Standing to left**, Rune Solberg, Paul Davis, **Standing to right**, Ken McDonald, Karen Moe. **Standing in back (staggered from left to right),** Huang Zhengchun, Li Mengxue, Wyn Cudlip, Paul Cheng, Terence van Zyl, Jean Pierre Antikidis, Yonsook Enloe, Xiaohua Yi, Michelle Piepgrass, Li Gogay, Beth Weinstein, Satoko Miura, Mike Burnett, Kengo Aizawa, Dave Clark.*

The CEOS Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS) meeting was held from February 25-29, 2008 in Sanya City, on the Hainan Island. WGISS-25 was held concurrently with the CEOS Working Group on Calibration and Validation-28. The meeting was led by WGISS Chair, Martha Maiden, and hosted by the Center for Space Science and Applied Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Jianping Mao represented the International Directory Network (IDN), on behalf of the IDN task team lead, Lola Olsen, and presented some key IDN updates. Dr. Wyn Cudlip of BNSC/QinetiQ presented the IDN's Strategic Plan for 2008-2013, as a representative of the IDN's User Working Group. Other discussion included:

(1) The IDN Interoperability Forum and its use as a mechanism to inform and discuss innovations and modifications for the IDN future.

(2) Updates on directory content and usage, which included statistics about the current population and growth of datasets and services in 2007, monthly web visits, and searches for the past few years. The growth in the directory indicates the increased public interest and use, especially in 2007, which may be attributed to the elevated public awareness of climate changes.

(3) New features and functionalities for MD9.8 (released in June 2008) include the replacement of the Oracle database by MySQL, a newly designed IDN website, and enhancements to reduce maintenance costs and better assist providers in adding to the IDN.

(4) A progress report on an IDN action from the WGISS-24 meeting related to creating an interface to search by missions and/or sensors. WGISS-24 IDN representative, Tyler Stevens, coordinated a

(From left to right), Pakorn Apaphant (GISTDA) (WGISS Vice Chair), Martha Maiden (WGISS Chair), and Michelle Piepgrass (WGISS Secretariat) at work.

group with Bernd Ritschel, Jolyon Martin, Jean-Pierre Antikidis, Karen Moe, Wyn Cudlip and Terence van Zyl to create requirements for a cross-mission searching capability. This capability is currently under development within the IDN. A prototype interface was demonstrated in the meeting, with the capability to search platforms and instruments and directly link them to datasets in the IDN.

(5) A progress report on Earth science keyword work. In April 2007, the hierarchy of the science keywords was expanded by two additional levels. A new topic, Biological Classification, was added and inspired the extension of the science keyword taxonomy to five levels. The IDN Earth science keywords continue to evolve as new metadata records are added and existing records are modified to meet the changing needs of the Earth science community.

(6) Node report on collaborations. There is a continuing demand for portals to provide virtual subsets of the directory for focused user communities. A total of 16 new customized portals were requested and added in 2007, contributing to the new total of 116 portals. Of these, 40 are US portals, and 76 are international.

Following the IDN updates, Dr. Wyn Cudlip presented the GCMD IDN's Strategic Plan that was prepared in response to the recommendations of the Science User Working Group (UWG), of which Dr. Cudlip is a member.

China, as the host of this meeting, introduced many on-going satellite programs in observing the Earth's environment. India also reported status and future plans of Earth observation and data management during the meeting.

Three WGISS-25 work activities especially relevant to the IDN are: (1) The Land Surface Imaging (LSI) portal (DA-07-03-5) to support and assist the LSI Constellation team in enhancing user knowledge and access to medium resolution LSI data and products. The Land Surface Imaging Constellation aims to "promote the efficient, effective, and comprehensive collection, distribution, and application of space-acquired image data of the global land surface, to meet societal needs of the global population, such as those addressed by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) societal benefit areas." LSI Constellation studies in 2007 placed heavy emphasis on mid-resolution land surface imaging systems. The USGS has been assigned responsibility for leading the Land Surface Imaging Constellation study. Lyndon Oleson, USGS, will lead the LSI interest group. The IDN Task Team started working together with Lyn to create an LSI portal for review in the WGISS-26 meeting (#25-3).

(2) A "Climate Diagnostics" portal, (CL-06-02-14). The WGISS IDN Task Team will iterate with Climate SBA (Lead, Mitch Goldberg, NOAA/NESDIS) to demonstrate climate data records showing long-term trends and variability information for societal benefit through an IDN portal.

(3) The IDN may also assist in the development plan, (HE-07-01-1), for "efficient and economical access to critical space-based imagery to support modeling, forecasting and monitoring of health issues." The IDN could contribute to this task by creating a portal that includes records relating to public health issues. Two examples in the IDN were demonstrated to Paul Kopp, who will lead and coordinate this work plan. Imagery related to air quality from the Aura satellite was suggested as an example.

(4) In addition, work activity #25-16 is a request for WGISS members to review issue 1.1 in the CEOS Interop Handbook and comment to Paul Kopp. Issue 1.1 addresses the replacement of Z39.50 with PMH, the Protocol for Metadata Harvesting developed through the Open Archives Initiative (OAI) protocol.

A WGISS plenary meeting was also held to discuss the 5-year plan, organizational structure, and meeting proposals. An suggestion from this meeting included scheduling more time at the WGISS subgroup meetings for technical discussions, such as in the joint meeting with Cal/Val and discussions among Task Teams. It was also proposed to plan more time for technical and application discussion, separate from the plenary meeting.

– Jianping Mao

WGISS Chair, Martha Maiden, smiles with Liu Chuang at WGISS-25.

Congratulations and more smiles for Dr. Chuang, who was recently selected to receive the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) Prize Award for 2008-2009. The award recognizes a distinguished scientist in the scientific data field.

Lola Olsen Appointed to AMS IIPS

By Howard Diamond, NOAA/NCDC, AMS IIPS Co-Chair

Lola Olsen has been appointed to the American Meteorological Society's Committee on Interactive Information Processing Systems (IIPS) for a 3-year term. She is participating in planning sessions in preparation for the annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona in January 2009.

This 25th IIPS Conference will be held as part of the 89th AMS Annual Meeting. "Urban Weather and Climate: Now and the Future" is the theme for the meeting.

Attention will be focused on the following cross-cutting urban themes:

a) Meaurement systems and networks
b) Modeling and forecasting
c) Observations and studies of high-impact weather
d) Geographic influences on urban weather and climate
e) Human and environmental impacts
f) Implications of climate change and population growth

Programs, registration, hotel, and general information will be posted on the AMS website in mid-September.
http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/

Land Surface Imaging Constellation Portal

By Lyn Oleson, USGS, Lead of the WGISS LSI Interest Group and LSI Portal Task Team

Ken McDonald (NOAA/NESDIS) and Lyn Oleson (USGS) at WGISS-25.

In an effort to identify and pursue new innovative processes whereby the CEOS member agencies might better meet the space-based observation requirements expressed in the 10-year Implementation Plan for the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), CEOS is pursuing the formulation of several satellite constellations referred to as the CEOS Constellations for GEOSS. The fundamental idea of the CEOS Constellations for GEOSS is to obtain requirements from target user communities and translate those requirements into standards which can serve as guidance in the development of future systems and against which proposed future Earth observing systems can be assessed. The concept is also envisioned as a process that will engage disparate Earth observing programs of CEOS member agencies and facilitate their contributions toward meeting space-based observations requirements. CEOS has established study teams to define four prototype constellations, one each for: precipitation, atmospheric composition, ocean surface topography, and land surface imaging.

The fundamental mission of a CEOS Land Surface Imaging (LSI) Constellation is to promote the efficient, effective, and comprehensive collection, distribution, and application of space-acquired image data of the global land surface, especially to meet societal needs of the global population. This mission addresses not only the building and launching of satellite systems, but also the development and operation of associated ground segments and their ability to get critical data efficiently into the hands of many interdisciplinary science users. To accomplish this mission, an LSI Constellation Study Team has been established to perform and coordinate the studies and other activities required to achieve LSI Constellation goals and objectives.

The LSI Constellation Study Team held its second meeting in Sanya, China on February 24 & 25, 2008 in conjunction with the joint meetings of the CEOS Working Group on Calibration and Validation (WGCV) and the CEOS Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS). WGISS had previously approached the LSI Constellation Study Team about the possibility of helping to implement some of the goals and objectives of the LSI Constellation, particularly as they relate to enhanced user access to data and ground systems operations. This joint meeting venue provided an excellent opportunity to explore and identify several specific actions.

One of the main action areas identified in discussions with the LSI Constellation Study Team was to assist with creating a common LSI Constellation website. The Study Team expressed a desire for a common website to provide information about currently operating satellite systems and the characteristics of the data they collect and to provide links to search and order tools for those systems. To help satisfy this need, WGISS formed an LSI Interest Group and charged the LSI Portal Task Team with having a prototype of an LSI Constellation website (portal) available for review at the WGISS #26 meeting to be held in Boulder, Colorado in September and subsequently made available for use and comment by the LSI user community.

To accomplish this prototype task, the LSI Portal Task Team is taking advantage of the "portal" capabilities of the IDN. The NASA Global Change Master Directory (GCMD) team, hosts of the CEOS IDN, has for some time recognized the importance of customization for partner organizations and has been generating subset views of the GCMD directory through portals. Portals have made it easier for organizations to maintain and document their data in one place without duplicating the effort to create another online directory. Portals help provide science or application-specific focus and may be trademarked with the logo of an organization while possessing the full functionality of the GCMD search engine and tools. Another tremendous benefit is that as metadata is added to the subset, in this case land surface imaging information, it is also freely available from the GCMD general search pages for scientists in other disciplines to access and use.

This initial prototype will be the first of several updated versions planned for release to the LSI community over the next 12 to 18 months. Beyond the basic information and data access capabilities of this first LSI Constellation portal prototype, the LSI Constellation Study Team will need to establish a clearinghouse for free data offered by operators of mid-resolution systems and will provide free access to "bundles" of mid-resolution LSI data collected over common sites by agency systems in the future. The hope is that these prototypes not only enhance the ability of LSI users to locate, understand, and access LSI data, but also serve as an excellent test-bed for new information technologies and architectural approaches aimed at enhancing interoperability among CEOS member systems.

More on the LSI Constellation Portal

By Paul Davis, Project Manager, The Global Land Cover Facility, University of Maryland

The Land Surface Imaging Portal Project will develop a prototype for an LSI Constellation Portal, providing single source access to imagery from national data centers. Prototype portals will be demonstrated at the September 2008 WGISS meeting. The first goal of the Portal Project will be to offer access to medium resolution multispectral imagery, or what is called the "Landsat" class. Follow-on efforts will include the same for high resolution radar imagery, as well as moderate resolution (100-1000 m) and fine resolution (0.1-10 m) imagery. Users will be able to find data collections through the portal. Initially, this will occur through simple linkages, with possibly higher technology solutions to follow. The Portal Project finished recruiting members on April 11 and has moved forward on this effort.

An initial prototype will be available to view in Boulder.

The CEOS SIT-21 "Stands" for a Photo at Woods Hole, MA

By Michelle Piepgrass, WGISS Secretariat

The CEOS Strategic Implementation Team (SIT) is a group established by the CEOS Plenary to address the role and function of the space component in an Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS). The SIT-21 meeting was held April 22-24, 2008 at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Among the participants were CEOS WGISS members: Martha Maiden (NASA HQ), Pakorn Apaphant (GISTDA), Kenneth McDonald (NOAA), and Satoko Miura (JAXA). Also in attendance were: Changyong Cao (NOAA/WGCV), Ivan Petiteville (ESA/CEO), Mitch Goldberg (NOAA/Climate SBA Lead), Ernest Hilsenrath (NASA/ACC and WGCV), DeWayne Cecil (NASA CEOS System Engineering Office) and Stephen Ward (CEOS Executive Secretary), who work closely with WGISS.

Fifty-nine participants attended the SIT-21 Meeting, representing agencies including BNSC, Canadian Space Agency, CONAE, COSPAR, CSIR, ESA, EUMETSAT, GCOS, GEO, GISTDA, IGES, IOCCG, JAXA, NASA, NOAA, Norwegian Space Centre, USGS, and WMO. Ms. Pontsho Maruping, CSIR (South Africa), serves as 2008 CEOS Chair (front row, fourth from right.) Standing to her left is Mary Kieza (NOAA, SIT Chair.)

The IDN's Metadata Publisher Profile

By Tyler Stevens, GCMD, GIS/Services Coordinator

The IDN was recently asked a series of questions about the creation and sharing of data by Geospatial One-Stop (GOS) stakeholders and collaborators. All responses from U.S. federal agencies will be compiled into a "Metadata Publisher Profile and Best Practices" document for contributing metadata to GOS. Several agencies want to collaborate and provide metadata directly to the IDN and subsequently pass this metadata to GOS, thus reducing maintenance, increasing metadata population, and reducing duplication of metadata in GOS. [In addition, as part of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) 10-year implementation plan, metadata in GOS and other national and international metadata repositories will be made available in a centralized GEOSS sponsored portal. Therefore, metadata made available through the IDN would be filtered to GEOSS.] Here are the questions and answers.

1. How do you create metadata? What tool(s) do you use?

The IDN uses an authoring tool called docBUILDER that assists users in creating metadata. The web-based version of the tool is available at http://gcmd.nasa.gov/DocumentBuilder/Home.do?Portal=ceos where users can compose, validate, and submit metadata to the IDN. Templates can easily be developed for creating metadata with repeatable information. An online writer's guide provides additional tips for writing metadata. Earth Science Data Sets are described as DIFs (Directory Interchange Format) and Earth Science Data Services are described as SERFs (Service Entry Resource Format). If users have metadata in other formats (e.g. FGDC, ISO), they can use the XML schema to write a stylesheet to translate among metadata standards and then send the DIF or SERF metadata to the IDN. The schema for both data sets and services can be found here:

- DIF XML Schema: http://gcmd.nasa.gov/Aboutus/xml/dif/dif_v9.7.1.xsd
- SERF XML Schema: http://gcmd.nasa.gov/Aboutus/xml/serf/serf_v9.7.1.xsd

2. What harvest protocol do you use?

The IDN uses the Z39.50 and OAI-PMH metadata harvesting protocols. These are useful, standardized protocols for submitting metadata through the IDN.

3. How do you set up your metadata for harvesting on your end?

On a weekly basis the latest metadata content is automatically extracted from the database, converted from DIF XML to FGDC XML, and placed in a directory to be harvested via Z39.50 for Geospatial One-Stop (GOS). Harvesting for additional collaborations takes place using OAI-PMH.

4. What tips or "best practices" can you recommend to GOS publishers?

Z39.50 is being used for Geospatial One-Stop and the legacy FGDC clearinghouse. However, harvesting using the Open Archive Initiative-Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) is easy to manage, runs on an open port, and can easily be configured for any collaborative effort. The GCMD contributes NASA metadata to GOS, but can pass on other metadata stored in the GCMD to GOS. This effort will eliminate multiple metadata submissions to GOS.

Geospatial One-Stop (GOS) is a repository of U.S. related geospatial metadata and is automatically harvesting NASA's metadata.

Scientific Metadata Focus Captures Attention of Hoan-Vu Tran-Ho

By Hoan-Vu Tran-Ho, GCMD/IDN, Senior Software Developer

Hoan-Vu Tran-Ho, "The Reader"

I joined the GCMD/IDN team in August, 2007 as a senior software developer. Working together with the team, I take care of the existing applications on the server side and contribute to the extension of software. In the current release of the GCMD software, MD 9.8, I built a link-checking component in the metadata authoring tool's docBuilder Operations (OPS), as well as a server application which identifies broken links in metadata records, enabling the science coordinators to easily repair them. Approximately 500 NASA links were fixed within three weeks, increasing the percentage of working links from 95% to 98.5%. The link-checking components are part of our effort to continue improving the quality of IDN metadata. At this time, our developer team is creating concepts for the future software, with a new milestone for improving the quality of the IDN, taking responsibility for the needs of our user community and increasing user acceptance.

I was born in Vietnam and lived in Wuppertal, Germany for almost 25 years, where I finished my studies in experimental physics and worked as an application developer. In the summer of 2007, I decided to start a new life with my wife and children in Maryland, where my parents and siblings live. As I was searching hopelessly for a job, I didn't realize what an amazing opportunity was awaiting me until I was called to interview for a software developer position with the IDN.

As a developer, it is a privilege for me to work with the IDN, which allows users from around the world to browse and access information about Earth science data. I am very interested in physics and astronomy, so it is amazing to work with scientific metadata. Some of the most exciting events happen at NASA, such as the Hubble Space Telescope, the Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope (GLAST) start, the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), and much more. It is a privilege for me to work with the great GCMD/IDN team, where people know what they are doing.

ESDS SPG "Request for Comments" Document for the IDN DIF and SERF

By Chrissy Chiddo, Multimedia Specialist and John Scialdone, CIESIN/SEDAC

In early May, John Scialdone (CIESIN/SEDAC) asked the IDN Task Team to prepare a "Request For Comments" (RFC) document in reference to the IDN's Directory Interchange Format (DIF) and the Services Entry Resource Format (SERF) for the Earth Science Data Systems' (ESDS) Standards Process Group (SPG). The SPG is one of many working groups created by NASA to facilitate the development of future data systems. They seek submissions of potential standards that would be of value to the NASA Earth Science community.

This RFC document provides information to the ESDS community about the DIF data model format for writing and accessing information. An overview of the docBuilder authoring tool can be found in the document, as well as a description of all DIF fields, specifications, recommendations, and examples that are also included in the DIF Writer's Guide (http://gcmd.nasa.gov/User/difguide/difman.html).

To view this document, please visit http://www.esdswg.com/spg/rfc/esds-rfc-012/.

NOAA Welcomes CEOS WGISS-26 to Boulder, Colorado

By Dave Clark, ICSU Panel on World Data Centers Secretary, NOAA/NGDC

The 26th meeting of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites' Working Group on Information Systems and Services (CEOS WGISS) will meet on September 21 through September 26, 2008 in Boulder, Colorado. The meeting is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NOAA NESDIS), and hosted by the NOAA NESDIS National Geophysical Data Center. The hotel for the meeting is the Boulder Broker Inn (http://www.boulderbrokerinn.com). The meeting will take place in two venues in Boulder. Most of the WGISS meeting will take place at the UCAR Center Green facility (http://www.ucar.edu/org/bouldermap.shtml). On Monday, September 22, there will be a one half day joint session with the GEO Architecture and Data Committee (ADC) and User Interface Committee (UIC), which will be held at the University of Colorado's Discovery Learning Center (http://engineering.colorado.edu/dlc/overview/index.html). Social functions will be held jointly with the ADC and UIC. There will be an Ice Breaker on Sunday evening, September 21st at the Boulder Broker Inn. On Monday night, September 22nd, there will be a joint dinner at the University of Colorado's Stadium Club, which overlooks the University of Colorado and affords a panoramic view of the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and Flatirons.

We hope you have registered for WGISS-26. There will be several meetings in Boulder during this week. The hotels are filling up fast. The deadline at the WGISS hotel for the guaranteed rate was August 5, 2008. Please register at your earliest convenience if you have not done so.

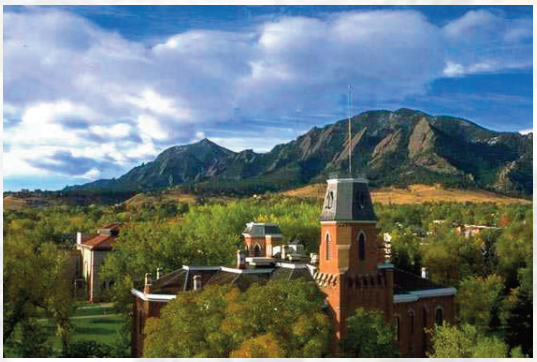
For on-line registration and additional information about WGISS-26 see:
http://www.joss.ucar.edu/joss_psg/meetings/Meetings_2008/ceos_wgiss/index.html

For more information about Boulder see:
http://www.boulderchamber.com/
http://www.normankoren.com/Boulder.html
http://www.visitingboulder.com/about.php
http://www.colorado.edu/webcam/

More on Boulder – "A Green Place"

By Chrissy Chiddo, GCMD, Multimedia Specialist

Voted one of the "Best Green Places to Live in America" and "Smartest Cities in America" in early 2008, Boulder is an ideal place for the next CEOS IDN meeting. Boulder's population of ~100,000 is younger than the national average, and is attributed to the student population at the University of Colorado, built in 1874.



The University of Colorado campus

September temperatures in Boulder average between 16-24°C, (60°-75°F), so enjoying the outdoors during your trip should be no problem. Over 31,000 acres of recreational open space and nature preserves provide many opportunities for hiking, biking, and rock climbing. In Boulder Valley, the Rocky Mountains meet the Great Plains. You may notice "The Flatirons," large slabs of sedimentary stone tilted on the foothills, which are a widely recognized symbol of Boulder. Long ago, the Boulder Valley was the home of the Arapaho tribe, which resided in a village near Haystack Mountain. Comanches, Sioux, and Cheyennes were also frequent visitors to the area.

Boulder offers an array of activities to enjoy during your trip. If you're interested in sampling award winning wines, take a tour at Bookcliff Vineyards or the Boulder Creek Winery to discover the brilliant taste of the 100% Colorado grown grapes. If you prefer tea, try the Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse, featuring an eclectic, international menu of teas from all over the world. Nearby, "Celestial Seasonings" offers a 45 minute walking tour through their factory, the world's most advanced tea production plant, where 8 million tea bags are produced daily! You can shop for fresh fruit, vegetables, and flowers in a friendly environment at the Boulder's Farmer's Market, where the locals sell their products. Try unique entertainment at the Fiske Planetarium and Science Center where you can enjoy live talks, laser shows, and star shows. The Wonder of Science at Twenty-Ninth Street is another great place to explore. This permanent interactive science exhibition offers hands-on explorations of time, space, and earth. To enjoy dinner and a show, visit the Boulder Dinner Theatre, highly recommended for fine dining and live "Broadway-quality" entertainment. Their musicals have received several awards for theatrical performances and talented casts, so don't miss out!

Light-Footprint Visit to Boulder, CO

By Tom Northcutt, IDN, Systems Administrator

Boulder is one of the most environmentally aware cities in the country. On a recent work-related trip to Boulder, after booking a room at a "zero-waste" hotel that caters to Boulder's eco-conscious community, I decided to see how "low impact" a trip I could take. I had no need for a rental car, and simply joined a bus-full of travelers.

My room was equipped with bottle, can, and aluminum recycling (blue can), and a mixed-paper/card-board bin (white box), complete with a compost bag for biodegradable materials (fruit peels, apple cores, etc.)

Although mass-transit bus service was readily available through-out the city, I found Boulder to be one of the most walk-able cities in all my travels. An extensive Greenways Program was put in place to protect the natural resources in the city, resulting in a series of natural trails and paths within close proximity to most of the major points of interest in town. As this monument states, the purpose of the Greenways Program was to: 1) protect & restore riparian, floodplain, & wetland habitat, 2) to enhance water quality, 3) to facilitate storm drainage, & mitigate floods, 4) to provide alternative transportation routes or trails for pedestrians & bicyclists to provide recreation opportunities, and 5) to protect cultural resources.

In addition to the Greenways path system, extensive walking paths and trails were easily found in and around the city. This trail was 5 minutes walking distance from my hotel and led to an elaborate trail system at Chautauqua Park and breathtaking views of the Flatirons. While walking throughout the city, I noticed many other signs of the environmental commitment by the community. As a native Marylander, I have been accustomed to the friendly reminders on storm water drains that lead to the Chesapeake, an environmentally sensitive tributary in my area, so I was pleasantly surprised to find similar reminders embossed on Boulder drains: "Dispose no Waste, Drains to Creek."

In the end, my conscious effort to take a "low-impact" business trip turned out to be a great success and a lot of fun too. By relying on mass-transportation and foot power for all my travel, I was able to see many interesting sites, meet many people, and visit the most interesting places. Virtually all the restaurants and cafe's had recycling bins readily available and silverware and dishware as an alternative to plastic. Fittingly, just as I was departing the hotel for home, the recycling truck was just arriving to pick up the items I had recycled on my trip.

What made this trip easy was the people and culture of the city of Boulder. With the University of Colorado running through the center of town, and institutions such as NOAA and UCAR/NCAR, awareness of ecological and environmental issues was prevalent and demand for a livable and sustainable community was high. Ultimately, I think it is the surrounding natural beauty that acts as a constant reminder for Boulder's residents. Nowhere is it so apparent that the care and stewardship of the environment is so beneficial to the residents, and so appreciated by the travelers like me.

WGISS-25 Action Items Ignite the Interest of the IDN Task Team

By Lola Olsen, IDN Task Team

Thursday, September 25, 2008

8:30	Final Response to UWG Recommendations	Cudlip
8:40	Usage and Content Statistics	Olsen/Cordova
8:55	Interoperability Forum	Olsen/Cordova
9:00	Extending Keyword Vocabularies	Olsen
9:05	Action Item Progress • Land Surface Imaging Portal (DA-07-03-5) • Climate Diagnostics Portal (CL-06-02-14)	Oleson/Goldberg
9:20	Future Plans and Questions	All

Coordinating Changes Through INTEROP

By Rosy Cordova, Database Administrator

We would like to encourage communication within the IDN Community with this reminder of the Interoperability Forum. The email to use for sending your questions or feedback to the community is: ceos-idn-interop@lists.nasa.gov. The list will be moderated only to confirm a message has proper content. We would also like to share with you the news of our successful release of the IDN/GCMD software (Version 9.8). This version includes the following upgrades:

• Metadata display improvements for our web users.

• Improvements in the docBUILDER-authoring tool for metadata contributors, which includes automated link checking within the metadata validation process.

• "Privacy" field to allow authors to temporarily restrict the data set description from being publicly available.

• The schema encoding changed from ISO-8859-1 to UTF-8. Please note the change to the schema encoding. The UTF-8 character set is being used to improve metadata exchanges among our international partners who were experiencing display issues related to special characters in their metadata. You will hear more about the release at the next IDN Task Team meeting (WGISS 26).

To view past issues of the CEOS IDN newsletter, please visit: http://idn.ceos.org/IDN/IDN_Newsletters/