

**Preliminary Report on the
2nd IPY Data Policy and Management Subcommittee Meeting
to the
IPY Joint Committee
2 March 2007**

Highlights

- *Data coordinator.* A data coordinator for operational data supported by Norway, Canada, and Germany has been identified at the Norwegian Meteorological Institute: Øystein Godøy. An overall IPYDIS coordination office at the WDC for Glaciology, Boulder is likely to be partially supported by the US National Science Foundation. Canada may be willing to augment the support of this office directly or through other means such as a partial position at the IPO. Finally, Germany has offered some time for a data technician to work on any specific technical tasks and some countries have identified national data coordinators.

The Data Committee identified a set of tasks for these data coordinators. The Norwegian will focus on operational and near real time data, the US office will focus on tracking the overall IPY data flow and will coordinate the overall effort. Canada may support specific technical and metadata expertise.

- *Project data survey.* We have received ~50 responses to our data survey. Of these about a third have adequate data management plans. Part of the lack of response is due to delays in funding. It is apparent that much of IPY data will be initially be available through the projects themselves. There is a need to ensure that data are eventually transferred to long-term archives.

There is some resistance to making data available in a timely manner. The JC may want to consider reinforcing the data policy through the national committees. For example, Canada will not provide second year funding until projects demonstrate that their data are available.

- *Metadata submission.* Data Committee developed data infrastructure model of an IPY Master Directory, which is a repository of metadata for discovering data, linked to a system of distributed data centers. The Data Committee defined basic discovery metadata requirements. Co-chair Parsons is working with an existing NASA-funded project and the Global Change Master Directory to establish an initial metadata collection system with a view toward establishing the “IPY Master Directory”. Metadata requirements and submission mechanisms will need to continue to evolve in response to the diverse requirements of IPY projects and data.
- *IPY data centers.* The Data Committee defined provisional requirements for IPY data centers. These requirements will likely evolve in response to work by WMO, the ICSU ad hoc Strategic Committee on Information and Data, and planned IPY data center

workshops. We will also encourage IPY data centers to facilitate formal citation of their data through the use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) and other means.

- *Funding.* Several data management efforts related to IPY are likely to be funded in the near future, including efforts to support the Arctic Observing Network and the management of local and traditional knowledge. Various data centers have offered their services to IPY and these offers need to be clarified and added to the overall IPY support structure. In addition, Hans Pfeiffenberger at AWI is developing a proposal in collaboration with several Data Committee members for the European Union Framework 7 initiative. We are cautiously optimistic that continued support for IPY data management will emerge over time. A major challenge will be to address the short-term needs and to ensure that no data are lost in the interim. As always, we welcome JC suggestions.
- *Open access to IPY publications.* The Data Committee endorses the principle of open access to scientific literature as a means to enhance equitable global science. We are working with the CODATA Global Information for Commons for Science Initiative to facilitate open access. Together with CODATA, we will inform investigators on relevant open access journals and steps they can take through the Science Commons to allow for self archiving and distribution of their publications.
- *SCAR and IASC.* Both SCAR and IASC reported to the Data Committee. The Data Committee will support both SCAR and IASC to help develop coordinated and sustained Arctic and Antarctic data management efforts.

Future Plans

- With partial support from CODATA, the Data Committee plans biannual meetings over the next two years. We plan to conduct data management training workshops for IPY data centers and data managers in conjunction with these meetings. We would like to coordinate some of these meetings with future JC meetings or other major IPY activities and seek the JC's advice in this area.
- We will develop a set of data management milestones for the Data Committee, data coordinators, and IPY data centers.

Recommendations

- Send a letter to the WDC Panel asking them to help engage the WDCs as active supporting participants of IPY.
- Endorse the concept of open access to literature by requesting relevant journals to consider open access to IPY publications (perhaps after some period of time) and to accept Science Commons addenda to copyright assignments that allow authors to self archive and distribute their publications.