

WDS International Programme Office

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Pascale Ferrage
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France

Wednesday, 10 October 2013

Subject: International DORIS Service (IDS) as Network Member of ICSU World Data System

Dear Pascale Ferrage,

IDS applied for membership in the new International Council for Science (ICSU) World Data System (WDS). On behalf of ICSU and the WDS Scientific Committee (WDS-SC), it is my distinct honour and pleasure to formally accept your organization as a Network Member of ICSU-WDS, pending the finalization of a signed agreement with ICSU (as noted in the application). A template agreement is provided on the ICSU-WDS website (<http://icsu-wds.org/membership/join-icsu-wds/template-agreement>).

As described on the [WDS website](#), Network Members represent groups of Regular Members, serving as coordinating agents across nodes that have common characteristics and mostly common disciplines. Your application was reviewed favourably by two referees. The summary of their comments at the end of this letter is intended to help your organization become a more effective member of ICSU-WDS. I trust that you will find it useful. Realizing that the review process is somewhat burdensome, the WDS-SC greatly appreciates your interest and is grateful for your time and effort in completing the application. Any feedback and comments have provided as part of the application process will be taken into account to help improve the process in the future. Your continued support will be most invaluable in building WDS as a 'system of data systems'.

To show your affiliation as an ICSU-WDS Member, we would like to encourage you to display the WDS logo on your organization's homepage with a link to our website (www.icsu-wds.org). Owing to the unique and comprehensive accreditation procedure prescribed by WDS, quality assurance of your organization's data holdings is recognized by means of the WDS label. Through our joint efforts, we believe this acknowledgement of 'data excellence' will only increase in the future.

These are exciting times for ICSU and the data stewardship community. We trust that a robust and relevant WDS will play a key role in the development of new and innovative solutions to the challenges posed by the 'information and data' age. The success of the first ICSU-WDS scientific symposium, 'Global Data for Global Science', held in Kyoto on

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Executive Director: Mustapha Mokrane. *Programme Officer:* Rorie Edmunds. *Administrative Officer:* Yuko Nikaido. *Senior Advisor:* Takashi Watanabe.

Scientific Committee

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3–6 September 2011 (<http://wds-kyoto-2011.org/>) is a clear indication of the timeliness of this endeavour and, I hope, a harbinger of things to come.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B Minster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B" and a horizontal line underlining the name.

Bernard Minster

Chair, ICSU-WDS Scientific Committee

Cc: WDS-SC

Howard Moore (ICSU Secretariat)

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Reviewers' Consolidated Feedback

Overall comments

This is a good, solid response from a well-established service (part of GGOS and IAG); it is unfortunate that this fell in a crack. The application is a little brief in places, but answers point to documentation on the website.

Good points

- Well established and documented service made up of many components.
- Strong organization of the service and the activities.
- Extensive communication with users.
- Good response to continuity planning.
- Strong support from parent agencies.
- Obligation to ITRF, and to ongoing missions, is a strong motivation for continued high-performance operations.

Room for improvement

- Criteria 15 and 18: A little more information would be helpful about long-term preservation and processes for responding to changing scientific requirements and to evolving technologies.
- Criterion 23 was not well understood. However, from independent knowledge, IDS has extensive contacts with the scientific community and especially with its user community. The answer is therefore positive.

Summary of the evaluations

This is a strong application from a well-established service (service of IAG and GGOS) that 'knows the business' and comprising components that have delivered high quality products for a quarter century. With governing board and well documented procedures, all criteria for membership in WDS are easily met, although a few answers are a little brief. As noted above, a little more detail in the responses to Criteria 15 and 18 would be helpful. IDS should be accepted as a Network Member of WDS.

Recommendation

Application should be accepted (should have been long ago!). Proceed to Letter of Agreement.

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