Minutes of WMO/GAW Expert Team on World Data Centres

15 March 2007, Empa Dübendorf

Forum Chriesbach D77

Participants

Jörg Klausen	**JK**	(GAWSIS – EMPA Dübendorf)	*Chair ET-WDC*
Anatoly Tsvetkov	**AT**	(WRDC – MGO St. Petersburg)	
Ed Hare	**EH**	(WOUDC – Environment Canada, Toronto)	
Tim Coleman	**TC**	(WDCPC – SUNY Albany)	
Yukimoto Tsutsumi	**YT**	(WDCGG – JMA, Tokyo)	
Julian Wilson	**JW**	(WDCA – JRC, Ispra)	*Rapporteur*
Geir Braathen	**GB**	(AREP/ENV – WMO, Geneva)	

Excused

Frank Baier	(WDC-RSAT – DLR Oberpfaffenhofen)
Vincent-Henri Peuch	(ET-NRT-CDD – Meteo France)

Agenda Item	Action Item
Meeting opened by Jörg Klausen (Convener) and Julian Wilson (Rapporteur). Apologies for absence of Frank Baier and Vincent-Henri Peuch. The group regrets once more that logistics prevented the meeting from taking place in St. Petersburg and thanks Anatoly for offering to host next meeting.	
1. Approval of the Agenda, denoting the meeting Rapporteur The agenda was approved with the replacement of item 2 by a presentation from Geir Braathen in the absence of Frank Baier. The revised participants table is given above. The TOR for the *ET-WDC* was presented and approved. The emphasis on WIS and near-real time data delivery was noted, but the wording was acceptable to all. Active engagement in WIS & NRT issues requires the group to involve WIS & NRT expertise to make informed comment. JK is a member of the WMO inter-commission Meta-data Expert team that is working on metadata standards. They have a first draft Meta-Data standard which JK will circulate together with a report of their Moscow meeting & the	**1**

Agenda Item	Action Item
latest WIS bulletin to members to facilitate discussions at the next meeting.	**2**
2. ***Introduction of ET-WDC members to each other*** The World Data Centre for Remote Sensing of the Atmosphere (WDC-RSAT) was presented by GB and discussed by the group. DLR has been an ICSU data centre since 2003 with a focus on ozone & aerosols. WDC-RSAT aims at building a data portal to all available RSAT data. Some data are stored (mainly ESA & EUMETSAT) & processed at DLR. They also propose the integration of ground based & satellite measurements and want access to GAW data for this. Issues raised were - What is the difference between WDC-RSAT & PROMOTE? – They are the same group of people. - What is the consequence of putting GAW imprimatur on a single (namely, the DLR) retrieval? – GAW WDCs have SAGs to guide quality, hopefully this is covered by having DLR persons join SAG Ozone (Frank Baier) & SAG Aerosol (Thomas Holzer-Popp) in the first instance. Geir will circulate the report of Nov meeting between the secretariat and DLR – memo of understanding to be formed.	**3**
3. ***Progress on tasks recommended by the 2006 meeting*** **AI1** – closed **AI2** – closed: Disclaimer is included in files from WDCGG. Others to put it into new files for 2007 year data onwards due date: 31.12.2007. TC to get approval from his regional data centres and report back to next meeting. **AI3** – closed, however opened a discussion on what is a GAW station. It is still not clear how WMO deals with this, a list of characteristics exist (cf. GAW Strategic Plan), but it is not obvious what happens if these are not met. The group feels that enforcing the expect/support is role of SAGs & AREP.	**4**
Not least in light of meeting additional GCOS requirements, it was agreed to send from AREP a document package to all stations/contacts registered in GAWSIS to update them on what is expected from them & what they can expect from GAW. WRDC is reluctant to 'advertise' data from stations with uncertain data quality as GAW data. WDCGG is unsure how to deal with stations that have reported meta-data but no data. For the next meeting, a structured discussion on issues and documentation of	**5**

Agenda Item	Action Item
traceability, metadata, lack of data should be planned.	**6**
AI4 – closed	
AI5 – WOUDC operational; WDCA in progress; WDCGG operation but incomplete because of difficulties with identification in GAWSIS; WDCPC no progress but given uncertain future of WDCPC a demonstration may be proving helpful to make the case for WDCPC – Tim to try again by 30.06.2007; WRDC did a one off version, but weekly updates (and possibly an extension) of the file are required.	**7**
AI6 – no progress made, keep open	**8**
AI7 – no progress made, keep open. A quick reference to calibration is very useful.	**9**
AI8 – closed. Acknowledgement to Shane McEwan for his help. Further steps that are required involve an update of GAWSIS station coordinates so that station locations are accurately pointed to in GoogleEarth. This should be included in a general call to update GAWSIS.	**5**
JK welcomes GAWSIS suggestions for improvements & EH will restart website reviews	**10**
AI9 – remains open	**11**
AI10 – update given by JW: Expertise in NILU for aerosol data is limited; GEOMON & EUSAAR are opportunities for improving the situation especially regarding aerosols. JW is writing a brief description of situation & solutions for AREP & Aerosol SAG to pursue with NILU. In more general terms, GEOMON should involve GAW and maximize synergies (Comment: GB & JK involved in GEOmon; will feed WDC expertise into GEOMON data management committee.)	**12**
AI11, AI12 – still to be done	**13**
AI13 – Valuable feed-back received from several members of the group. Those who have not done so: critically review latest version of GAW Strategic Plan, in particular WDC-related issues	**14**
AI14 – closed subject to Ed confirming with Vitaly Fjoletov.	**15**
AI15 – no meeting activity by ET-NRT, no action required. The groups' position of 2006 meeting is unchanged.	
AI16 – 3-letter station identifiers are a de-facto standard (NOAA, WDCGG, WDCA, BSRN etc). WWW offers neither the capacity nor the control necessary; The alternative is displaying a master table, with a variety of acronyms/identifiers as used by the WDCs and including the master 3-letter code table. Any common GAWID would not replace the existing IDs at the various WDCs in the short term, but a development towards fewer station names/identifiers is a valid aim. WOUDC will not change their IDs, but is willing to display a GAWID. WIS might require (yet) a different station code. In the interest of time, the group agreed to hold off the discussion and to provide	

Agenda Item	Action Item
individual feed-back to Doc_3.2.	**16**
4. *WDCGG Guide* The document is clearly written and will be of great help; metadata looks rather complete. The suggested data format was criticised for not displaying descriptors & units (name/value pairs) for all the fields. Also, consistency with international developments – e.g. ISO standard for address – should be aimed for (e.g., split address into several sub-fields). As a general concern, why not use an existing format such as NASA-AMES, NARSTO, extCSV. What is the advantage of new format in comparison with existing ones? The group agreed that, most importantly, the user community (data submitters and data users) must support the data format. It is the responsibility of the SAG and WDCGG to make sure that sufficient metadata items are allowed by the data format. YT was requested to report SAG GG feedback to ET-WDC. Also, the format used at CDIAC should be reviewed, as many users obtain GHG data from there (rather than WDCGG). If SAG has similar comments to above and identifies issues where ET-WDC can help, the group is certainly willing to assist.	**17**
5. *WIS, GAW NRT data exchange and the role of GAW WDCs* The group reviewed the ad-hoc response of VHP (Doc_5.1). In absence of significant progress from ET-NRT CDD, it was decided to not enter a discussion on the issue.	
6. *Implications of new GAW Strategic Plan (GSP) for ET-WDC* Big new issues in GSP are IGACO and WIS. The WDCs need to develop in order to remain relevant: emphasise the qualities of the data long term archive warehouses. Community needs to engage with the model users etc. to enhance quality of the science. SAGs need to channel feedback from the client community, as WDCs risk becoming less relevant if they are not used. All SAGs to look to solicit feedback from the user community, e.g. through questionnaire, and by inquiring off-line during meetings, conferences, etc.	**18**
7. *Other Business* It was suggested that a WIKI or web-site be set up to hold and share documents of relevance to ET-WDC. Next meeting foreseen June or September 2008 in St. Petersburg	**19**
Meeting closed at 17:59!	

List of Action Items

#	Action Item	Responsible	Due Date
1	Invite David Thomas, BoM for WIS & Vincent Henri Peuch for NRT needs to the next meeting	**GB**	**Before next meeting**
2	Circulate first draft of WMO Meta-Data standard & report of Moscow meeting & WIS bulletin to members – to be discussed at next meeting.	**JK**	**31.03.2007**
3	Circulate minutes of Nov meeting with DLR	**GB**	**31.03.2007**
4	Include GAW data use disclaimer in new data files for 2007 onwards.	**YT, JW, EH, AT**	**31.12.2007**
	TLC to get approval from regional data centres and report back to ET-WDC.	**TC**	**Next meeting**
5	AREP/ETWDC to prepare a short document pack on expectations and support from GAW for new & existing stations		
	- draft doc,	**TC**	**20.03.2007**
	- comments final version,	**All**	**29.03.2007**
	- submit to JSSC (11-12. April 2007)	**JK**	**01.04.2007**
	- Send from AREP a document package to all stations/contacts registered in GAWSIS to update them on what is expected from them & what they can expect from GAW.	**GB (JK)**	**31.07.2007**
6	Put a discussion on issues and documentation of traceability, metadata, lack of data on the agenda of next meeting	**JK**	**Next meeting**
7	a) WDCPC flat file of all available data for GAWSIS on FTP server.	**a) TC**	**30.06.2007**
	b) routine update of WRDC flat file of all available data for GAWSIS on FTP server.	**b) AT**	**30.06.2007**
8	AREP to provide to GAWSIS a list of queries and questions that AREP needs GAWSIS to answer.	**LB, GB, SN**	**30.06.2007**
9	Produce a draft proposal/implementation in GAWSIS based on Ken Lamb's Brewer example (www.ios.com) for review by the group.	**JK**	**30.06.2007**

#	Action Item	Responsible	Due Date
10	Launch review of WDC & GAWSIS web pages and functionality and suggest improvements	EH (All)	30.06.2007
11	Prepare a draft proposal regarding the representation of mobile GAW stations	YT, JK	31.12.2007
12	JW is writing a brief description of situation & solutions for AREP & Aerosol SAG to pursue with NILU	JW	31.07.2007
13	AREP to provide guidance to GAWSIS regarding status/representation of EMEP, NADP, BSRN, NDACC, etc. and to find MoU regarding EMEP and others.	GB	31.07.2007
14	Critically review latest version of GAW Strategic Plan, in particular WDC-related issues	All	23.03.2007
15	Confirm with V. Fjoletov that AI14 (WDCMM2006) is actually closed.	EH	31.03.2007
16	Review Doc_3.2 (GAWIDs) and give feedback	All	30.05.2007
17	- YT to report SAG GG feedback to ET-WDC - Provide written comments on WDCGG document. - Review CDIAC data format and report to group - If SAG comments address data model and /or data format, then demonstrate alternatives: transcribe header & table information for CFC-11 for extCSV (EH/TC), NARSTO (JW) & NASA-AMES (GB),	YT All YT EH, TC, JW, GB	As soon as possible 30.03.2007 30.03.2007 2 weeks after receiving SAG comments
18	AREP to recommend to all SAGs to look to solicit feedback from the user community – questionnaire etc.	GB	30.05.2007
19	Set up WIKI or dedicated website for ETWDC discussions	JK	31.07.2007