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### **Resources and People to Educate the Next Generation of Data Managers**

Fellow eGYers,

One of the goals of eGY, IPY, and ICSU is to foster a culture change in science where data management is viewed as a vital, recognized and, professional component of scientific endeavor. To help meet this goal the IPY Data Committee and the IPY Data and Information Service (IPYDIS) are working with the very organized and active Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS--<http://www.arcticportal.org/apecs>) to provide basic training and resources on data management for young scientists.

We could use the help of eGY participants. At one level we are seeking resources such as tutorials, web sites, or other references addressing the needs of data management. I also plan to develop a relatively high-level, engaging presentation to introduce the concepts of data management and informatics and to emphasize the need for researchers to have basic knowledge of data management. This will probably be done as a slide show with voice over to be posted on the APECS web site (through YouTube perhaps). I welcome ideas and contributions on that.

At another level, APECS is conducting a series of thematic workshops. They would like to include a data management presentation and discussion as part of these workshops and perhaps eventually have a complete workshop devoted to data management. The next workshop is fo-

cused on polar ocean observations, monitoring, and data. It will be held at the Otto-Schmidt Laboratory at the Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in St. Petersburg from November 20-22, 2008. I have a Draft agenda in case you are interested. There is a slot for a data management speaker, but it is as yet unfilled. They are in the process of lining up speakers and hopefully finding sponsors for participants. If you know of anyone that might be able to sponsor some participants to attend—particularly students that are working on data management or interested in learning more—please let us know. Perhaps eGY would be interested in sponsoring a participant and/or a speaker to represent data issues?

I welcome your feedback, and please spread the word.

—Mark A. Parsons

*Received from parsonsm@nsidc.org*

### **New eGY Demonstration: STARS (Solar-Terrestrial data Analysis and Reference System)**

Professor Ken T. Murata of the Center for Information Technology of Ehime University in Japan has developed software that provides search and retrieval of data from NASA's ISTP spacecraft. The STARS system also provides analysis tools and access to published papers based on the data. A description of STARS and other eGY Demonstration projects are available on the eGY web page at: <http://egy.org/demoproj.php>.

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **Call for eGY Demonstration Projects**

To demonstrate the usefulness of virtual observatory technology, eGY is collecting short write ups and narrated power point presentations of systems that use them. They are available on the eGY web site at:

<http://egy.org/demoproj.php>

Many eGY participants have produced systems or deployed technology similar to those shown on the web page. If you are interested in featuring your application or technology on the eGY Demonstration page, contact Bill Peterson at [bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu](mailto:bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu).

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **Sessions of Interest to eGY Participants at the Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union**

UNION Sessions:

U08: The Library—Data Center Alliance in Earth and Space Sciences; Conveners Mark A. Parsons and Rajendra Bose

U02: The International Polar Year

Earth and Space Science Informatics Sessions:

IN22: Data and the Ethos of Science; Conveners Ruth Duerr and Mark A. Parsons

IN20: Sustained, Interoperable Data Systems for Observing Networks: Building the IPY Legacy for Earth System Science; Conveners Taco de Bruin and Mark A. Parsons (National Snow and Ice Data Center/World Data Center for Glaciology)

IN03: Emerging Cyberinfrastructure for Geosciences

IN07: Making Earth Science Data Records

IN09: EarthScope and CyberInfrastructure

IN10: Data Fusion: Issues, Barriers and Approaches

IN12: Strategies for Improved Marine and Synergistic Data Access and Interoperability

IN14: Advancing Digital Watersheds and Virtual Environmental Observatories

IN18: Complex, Interdisciplinary Ontologies and Automated Semantic Web Data Integration for Hydrology and Earth System Science

IN21: Building Interoperability Across the Geosciences

IN24: Open Source Remote Sensing for Environmental Mapping and Analysis

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### **eGY Spotlight Articles**

Eos extends a special invitation to authors to submit contributions that spotlight scientific data and information (informatics) issues in the Earth and space sciences. This invitation is part of the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY) effort and provides an outlet for news and views as the scientific world adapts to and exploits the opportunities of the information era. More information is available in the News and Announcements Section of the eGY web site ([www.egy.org](http://www.egy.org))

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **Earth and Space Science Informatics Summit, Rome, March 2008**

This Summit was held in Rome, 13-14 March 2008 in order to establish better understanding and cooperation among the various geoinformatics and space science informatics initiatives and programs that are growing up rapidly world-wide. The meeting was organized as an eGY event and held at the headquarters of the Italian Geographical Society and home of the International Geographical Union. Participants at the Summit represented the interests of some 45 organizations and many different countries. The Summit recognized the emergence of informatics as one of the pillars of 21<sup>st</sup> Century science, and also the pressing need for international leadership and governance—with ICSU playing a central role. Strong endorsement was given to the recently released recommendations of ICSU's Strategic Committee for Information and Data ([website](#)). A full report about the Summit is at [http://egy.org/files/ESI\\_Summit\\_Report\\_final.pdf](http://egy.org/files/ESI_Summit_Report_final.pdf).

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **eGY Session at COSPAR**

eGY Sponsored a half day session at the recent COSPAR meeting in Montreal, Canada. We are starting to collect

the presentations made there and putting them on the eGY web site (<http://egy.org/presentations.php>).

Two presentations are now available: Prof. Alex Szalay, “Science in an Exponential World,” and Prof. Saito’s “Data Browsing with a Geospace data-showcase system.”

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **Report of the Ad-hoc Strategic Committee on Information and Data (SCID)**

The Strategic Committee on Information and Data (SCID) was established by The International Council for Science (ICSU) to advise on the future organization and direction of its activities in relation to scientific data and information. Following an earlier priority area assessment exercise in this area, ICSU’s declared strategic goal is: to facilitate a new, coordinated global approach to scientific data and information that ensures equitable access to quality data and information for research, education and informed decision-making. The role of SCID was to assess how this goal might best be achieved. Peter Fox was the eGY representative on the committee.

The major recommendations of SCID are that:

1) ICSU assert a much-needed strategic leadership role on behalf of the global scientific community in relation to the policies, management and stewardship of scientific data and information;

In order to achieve this, ICSU must reform some of its current interdisciplinary bodies and establish a new committee that will provide overall strategic direction and advice.

2) a new ICSU World Data System be created (as an ICSU Interdisciplinary Body), incorporating the WDCs and FAGS as well as other ‘state of the art’ data centers and services;

This new structure or system must be designed clearly to support ICSU’s mission and objectives, ensuring the long-term stewardship and provision of quality-assessed data and data services to the international science community and other stakeholders.

3) CODATA focus its activities on the three main initiatives identified in its draft strategy and extend its links to other organizations and networks to play a more prominent role within ICSU and within the wider scientific community;

This will require the close alignment of implementation mechanisms, e.g. working groups and task groups, with the 3 main initiatives identified in the draft CODATA strategic plan (appendix G). The bi-annual CODATA conference should also be modified to provide closer links to ICSU priorities and the new ICSU World Data System.

4) a new ad hoc ICSU Strategic Coordinating Committee for Information and Data be established to provide broad expertise and advice to ICSU in this area;

This Strategic Coordinating Committee will act as an interface between scientists and data and information professionals that can advise on the data needs and possible solutions for existing and new ICSU programs and other international initiatives.

It should be established for three years in the first instance, potentially renewable for a further three-year term. During which period it will be expected to establish visible and effective leadership for ICSU and ensure proper coordination among ICSU activities.

5) ICSU National Members and Unions be strongly encouraged to establish committees or commissions, where these do not already exist, focusing on data and information issues.

Where national committees or liaison structures already exist for CODATA and/or the WDCs, consideration should be given to amalgamating and expanding these to integrate data policy, management and stewardship issues. Professional data services must be recognized and supported at the national level as part of the long-term infrastructure of science.

The full report of this committee is now available on the eGY Website at <http://egy.org/files/SCIDrepfin23-6-08.pdf>.

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **Report from the IST-Africa Meeting Now Online**

Alem Mebrahtu and Victor Chukwuma represented eGY Africa at the IST-8 Conference, May 7-9 in Windhoek, Namibia. The IST-Africa (Regional Impact of Information

Society Technologies in Africa) initiative is supported by the European Commission. Its charter is to place Africa on a firmer industrial footing and strengthen the continent’s human resources, with training that leads to sus-

<http://www.egy.org/>

tainable livelihoods. The IST-8 conference focused on Applied ICT research topics addressing major societal and economic challenges. A report from the meeting is now online on the eGY web site at <http://egy.org/reports.php>.

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