

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

CBS/OPAG-IOS/IPET-OSDE1 / Doc. 3
(27.03.2014)

COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP ON
INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

ITEM: 3

**INTER PROGRAMME EXPERT TEAM ON
OBSERVING SYSTEM DESIGN AND EVOLUTION
(IPET-OSDE)
*First Session***

Original: ENGLISH

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 31 MARCH – 3 APRIL 2014

GUIDANCE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE OPAG-IOS

(Submitted by Jochen Dibbern (Germany))

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

The document provides guidance from the Chair of OPAG-IOS.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Meeting is invited to note the information contained in this document when discussing how it organises its work and formulates its recommendations.

DISCUSSION

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 At CBS-15 (Jakarta, Sept 2012) the CBS OPAG-IOS Inter Programme Expert Team on Observing System Design and Evolution (IPET-OSDE) was established following on from the previously installed CBS OPAG-IOS Expert Team on the Evolution of Global Observing Systems (ET-EGOS). Several important meetings have taken place since then. Many of the outcomes will be covered by other documents or will be covered under agenda item 4 of this meeting.

3.1.2 Since the Workshop on Observing System Design in Geneva, Switzerland, November 2013 the most relevant meeting for the work of IPET-OSDE was the third Session of the Inter-Commission Coordination Group on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (ICG-WIGOS), held from 10-14 February 2014 in Geneva. Additional information how the activities of the ICG-WIGOS may impact the work of this team is provided in the following section.

3.2 WIGOS aspects of relevance to the IPET-OSDE

3.2.1 ICG-WIGOS-3 reviewed the status of the WIGOS Key Activity Areas. The group expressed its appreciation of the progress achieved in the most critical activities to be implemented by 2015. The report from the CBS representative reflected the work of IPET-OSDE on WIGOS “Principles” for Observing System Network Design (OSND) and also on high-level guidance elaborating these principles. The document will be made available to ICG-WIGOS for comment.

3.2.2 ICG-WIGOS discussed the document and recommended that the Observing System Network Design (OSND) Principles developed under the auspices of IPET-OSDE should further be elaborated by IPET-OSDE-1, and after endorsement by ICT-OS-8 be incorporated in due course into the Manual on WIGOS.

3.2.3 ICG-WIGOS recommended the development of a “Vision for WIGOS in 2040” and requested CBS to lead this development, with involvement of the other TCs. The target for approval should be Cg-XVIII (2019), following endorsement by CBS-16 (2016). This was also discussed during the last CBS Management Group meeting in January 2014, and IPET-OSDE is requested to start discussion on this issue.

3.2.4 The recent agreement to move the management of the RRR database (OSCAR¹) from the WMO Secretariat to MeteoSwiss was brought up by Chair IPET-OSDE and discussed by ICG-WIGOS in detail. The RRR databases are an important component of WIGOS and have gained enormous visibility through the excellent work of the Secretariat. They are becoming very widely used and they should be promoted as the unique repository of observation requirements. The need for a diligent and effective hand-over process from the Secretariat to MeteoSwiss was emphasised, so that the continuous further development of the databases should not be interrupted through the transition process. The RRR databases are one of the tangible and visible “successes” of WIGOS to date, and therefore continuous support must be secured.

3.2.5 The classification of WIGOS metadata was discussed. A two-stage approach

1 OSCAR: Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review Tool – www.wmo.int/oscar

was suggested. During the first stage, a decision should be made regarding which WIGOS metadata (WMD) are mandatory, both in the sense of being necessary for using an observation, and in the sense of “achievability” by all (or most) Members worldwide in real time. During the second stage, a complete set of WMD relevant for climate applications, expressing uncertainty, etc. shall be made available by Members.

3.2.6 OSCAR should be the repository of a sub-set of the WIGOS metadata; in particular those from which observing system capabilities required for the RRR process can be extracted, and those that are required for operational use such as the planned evolution of WMO No. 9, Volume A. The remaining metadata will have to be collected, maintained, and archived by Members. ICG-WIGOS requested its Task Team on WIGOS Metadata (TT-WMD) to clarify which metadata shall be included in OSCAR, and which ones shall be mandatory.

3.2.7 ICG-WIGOS reiterated its concern about the sustainability of the observing systems/networks, especially in developing and less developed countries; a subject which is also taken up by Chair IPET-OSDE in document 9.4.2 of this meeting.

3.2.8 ICG-WIGOS emphasized in particular that there should be insistence on donors taking an end-to-end approach when projects are considered, so that initial investments in acquisition, installation etc. are supplemented with maintenance, training and operational funds to ensure the sustained operation of observing systems and supporting activities. In order to maximize sustainability, ICG-WIGOS recommended that the Resource Mobilization Office of the WMO Secretariat should pay appropriate attention to this critical issue when considering any donation from major development partners as investment in observing systems of WMO Members. Sustainability of such an observing system should be guaranteed by the donors.

3.3 Preparation for the Extraordinary Session of the Commission for Basic Systems

3.3.1 The Commission for basic Systems will have an Extraordinary Session in Asuncion, Paraguay from 8 to 12 September 2014 (CBS Ext.(2014)). In preparation for this meeting an ICT-IOS-8 meeting will be held in Geneva from 7-10 April 2014 to prepare the report from OPAG-IOS, including contributions from IPET-OSDE. The Chair of IPET-OSDE will report to ICT-IOS-8 and contribute to the input for CBS Ext(14).