

UPDATE ON IGDDS

The Integrated Global Data Dissemination Service (IGDDS) project aims at enhancing the availability of satellite data and products in the context of the WMO Information System (WIS). The IGDDS Implementation Plan contains some broad strategic guidelines, states key functional requirements, and defines a few critical actions.

The third meeting of the IGDDS Implementation Group (IGDDS-IG 3) was held in Tokyo in February 2009, in conjunction with the RARS Implementation Group and with participation of the APSDEU community. The meeting reviewed the progress and confirmed the importance of the critical actions including:

- ensuring the dissemination of satellite data and products through a coordinated set of operational DVB-S services with global coverage;
- ensuring full integration of these dissemination services into the WIS through referencing in DCPC catalogues, association with metadata, development of appropriate coding and use of agreed file name structures.
- collecting the expression of data requirements at the regional level;
- facilitating user consultation mechanisms allowing the adjustment of dissemination service contents to the regional data needs.

An IGDDS DVB-S Operators Standards document has been approved by IGDDS-IG 3.

Actions have been initiated for the collection of regional data requirements from South and Central America and from Africa; these initiatives should be pursued and followed up in a user consultation mechanism with NOAA and EUMETSAT respectively. Similar actions are under consideration in Asia in the context of a RA II Pilot Project led by Japan and Korea.

Based on the outcome of IGDDS-IG 3, It is planned to update the IGDDS Implementation Plan for consideration by IGDDS-IG 4 to be held in Geneva in March 2010.

Action/Recommendation proposed:

WMO to inform CGMS-38 on the update of the IGDDS Implementation Plan and the progress made towards its implementation.

UPDATE ON IGDDS

1 BACKGROUND

The Integrated Global Data Dissemination Service (IGDDS) project aims at enhancing the availability of satellite data and products in the context of the WMO Information System (WIS). The IGDDS Implementation Plan contains some broad strategic guidelines to improve data accessibility, states key functional requirements of WMO, and defines a set of implementation actions.

2 OUTCOME OF IGDDS-IG 3

The third meeting of the IGDDS Implementation Group (IGDDS-IG 3) was held in Tokyo in February 2009, in conjunction with the RARS Implementation Group and with participation of the APSDEU community. The meeting reviewed the progress and confirmed the importance of the critical actions including:

- ensuring the dissemination of satellite data and products through a coordinated set of operational DVB-S services with global coverage;
- ensuring full integration of these dissemination services into the WMO Information System (WIS);
- collecting the expression of data requirements at the regional level;
- facilitating user consultation mechanisms allowing the adjustment of dissemination service contents to the regional data needs.

2.1 DVB-S services

As concerns the DVB-S services, the meeting noted the status of EUMETCast (with dissemination services centered over Europe, Africa, and the Americas), of FengYunCast (with dissemination over a large part of the Asia-Pacific region), and Mitra (with dissemination over Northern Asia including the Community of Independent States). The status of Geonetcast-Americas was also presented, and it was noted that this service would have the potential to contribute to IGDDS if its data content was adapted to IGDDS requirements.

The meeting reviewed and approved the IGDDS DVB-S Operators Standards document, which defines the recommended practices to be followed by DVB-S service operators in order to respond to WMO IGDDS functional requirements.

2.2 Integration into WIS

Regarding the integration into the WIS, it is essential that data and products are properly referenced in the catalogue of a Data Collection and Production Centre

(DCPC) and associated with metadata to allow this data to be easily located and identified. This point is addressed in WMO-WP-07.

The meeting noted the progress made by EUMETSAT with respect to the development of a Product Navigator and its evolution to an Earth Observation Portal and Clearinghouse. Full integration of this development into the WIS framework is essential to ensure a maximum interoperability. While noting the high value of the Product Navigator, the Implementation Group recalled the need to add a capability to automatically “harvest” metadata from the Product Navigator, in order to allow the interoperability of data catalogues, which is a fundamental principle of the WIS and GEOSS. The implementation shall be compatible with WIS metadata standards. The meeting confirmed the importance of an action proposed by EUMETSAT regarding the development of an interface to allow the remote query of the Product Navigator and the standardization of the catalogue information formats within the Product Navigator.

Furthermore, agreed file name structures should be used to allow unique identification of the product in the WIS world. Appropriate coding should also be developed if necessary (e.g. BUFR coding for new instrument data or new products). These issues require a continuing effort, which is the role of the Task Force on Satellite Data Codes. Further details on these aspects are provided in WMO-WP-09.

2.3 Regional Data Requirements

Actions have been initiated for the collection of regional data requirements from South and Central America and from Africa.

A Task Force on Satellite Data Requirements was established by WMO with representatives of South and Central America and the Caribbean islands; it is led by Dr Machado, Rapporteur of the Space Programme for RA III and Chairman of the Expert Team on Satellite Utilization and Products. The Task Force has now completed a prioritized list of product requirements, which will be submitted to NOAA for consideration of the possible accommodation of these requirements on Geonetcast-Americas.

Another action has been initiated by EUMETSAT to set up a consultation of the user community in Africa. The relevant Task Force is expected to be established soon.

Similar actions are under consideration in Asia in the context of a RA II Pilot Project led by Japan and Korea.

These initiatives should be pursued and followed up in a user consultation mechanism with data providers.

3 CONCLUSIONS

Efforts shall be encouraged to progress on IGDDS actions. Based on the outcome of IGDDS-IG 3, It is planned to update the IGDDS Implementation Plan for consideration by IGDDS-IG 4 to be held in Geneva in March 2010.