TT-DC 2014 - Final Report



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# Opening

The meeting started with some opening words by the host, an update to the draft agenda ([See Appendix 1](#_Appendix_1_–)) and a group photo afterwards. See [Appendix 2](#_Appendix_2_–) for participants list. The following sections provide a report to the final agenda items.

# Agenda item 1: (Status of DCPCs and NCs endorsements and registrations)

## Status of the certification process

TT-DC took note of the outline of the current status of DCPC and NC nominations and endorsements (<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WIS/centres/>).

TT-DC took note of the outline of the demonstration and nomination process

* Differences between use cases and test cases where use cases are designed to help developers understand the required behaviour of system, and test cases are specifically designed to test systems functions.
* Differences between DCPC and NCs governance process where DCPCs are the responsibility of WMO Programmes but their WIS compliance is assessed by CBS, and NCs are the responsibility of the PR, but working with their principal GISC to ensure compliance with WIS. That is, both are required to maintain WIS compliance.

### Participant’s centre certification status:

#### EUMETSAT: done

#### Kenya: not done yet (for the RTH an ITT was issued to procure the related software, implementation expected by mid next year)

**Action:** to complete the related forms and follow up the formal process after this meeting. Kenya will perform this together with their solution provider. The questionnaire has been gone through during this meeting to clarify its principles to the audience as a case-study.

#### Italy: JRC-GDACS is a pilot case for inclusion of a non-WMO member in WIS. It was recommended to complete the formal registration as WIS centre and WIS compliance together with GISC Offenbach as soon as possible. DCPC RSMC Rome is planned to be ready for assessment by mid 2015.

#### Hong Kong: done

#### Germany: done

#### China: done

### Review of the Demonstration and Nomination Process

TT-DC noted that components of the demonstration and nomination process are being included in updates to the WIS manual and guide being considered by CBS Ext 2014. This included the rolling review of centre certification discussed under ICT-ISS 2014 Action Item 2 “Inclusion of the process for re-auditing WIS centres in WIS manual and guide” discussed in more detail under agenda item 2 below. The meeting worked through updating the online registration and demonstration form for RTH Nairobi as a case study of the process.

#### Review of the DCPC Test Report template

TT-DC noted that DCPCs can use the template provided, however it’s not prescriptive and has been misunderstood by some data centres. In addition, it noted that a different form is needed for TT-CAC to report on DCPC assessment outcome.

**Actions**

* Bernd will review the DCPC template and provide amendments to the document for better explanation what is expected in the usage of the template
* Markus and Lothar will provide a TT-CAC report template for DCPCs.

# Agenda item 2: (Assess ICT-ISS outcome)

TT-DC worked through the draft ICT-ISS report (<http://wis.wmo.int/file=1099>). The order of agenda item has been adapted to reflect the line of discussion where needed.

TT-DC findings and comments are marked below. Items are labelled as “ICT-ISS D” for Decisions, “ICT-ISS P” for Paragraphs, “ICT-ISS A” for action items and “ICT-ISS on” for discussion topics as identified in the ICT-ISS report:

### ICT-ISS D1 (To investigate solutions for Iran’s connecting to the WIS Core Network )

The meeting noted that IRIMO was unable to join the RMDCN NG due to sanctions affecting the supplier. CBS is expected to ask ICT-ISS to find a solution. This will not necessarily be applicable to other GISCs.

### ICT-ISS on IPv6:

The meeting noted the work being done by ET-CTS on IPv6. Participants’ status reports are as follows:

EUMETSAT to prepare for IPv6 but not in the short term, it’s more a planned medium time project

Hong Kong is also currently investigating IPv6

Italy not yet taking concrete steps

China at early steps

Kenya is not considering migrating to IPv6 at the moment

Germany participating in the IPv6 pilot

#### TT-DC position

TT-DC noted that the IPv6 is not seen as a high priority by ET-CTS for inter WIS centre exchange, however the driver for IPv6 is more likely to be driven by users or national policy.

Overall the TT-DC members are well aware of the IPv6 initiatives

### ICT-ISS on file naming convention:

TT-DC took note that there is diversity in the usage of file naming conventions. Some data centres are still using the old file naming convention.

Italy is still using the old name does not feel that there is a strong need to migrate.

China is still using the old one too.

Kenya is using the old. In the context of the implementation of their WIS functions they will upgrade to the new file naming convention

Germany is capable to use both.

EUMETSAT is using the new one only.

#### TT-DC position:

Identified the need to still have the capability to use both file naming conventions and both are valid in the Manual on GTS.

### ICT-ISS D2 (procedure for harvesting metadata records by GISCs)

TT-DC noted that the procedure for GISCs harvesting each other’s metadata is proposed to be added to the WIS guide.

### ICT-ISS D3 (WIS discovery metadata catalogue treats fileIdentifiers as case insensitive)

TT-DC supports the decision not to make fileidentifier fields case sensitive and encourages data centres to follow this practice.

### ICT-ISS D4 (User registration processes should use encrypted transfers)

TT-DC supports the decision to use encryption for exchanging user data whenever possible.

### ICT-ISS D5 (statement on backup of regional data in the procedures for GISC backup)

TT-DC concurs with the decision and notes that DCs might waive the obligation of the primary GISC to backup their data from primary GISC to the backup GISC in case of primary GISC failure, however it needs to be noted that in such case the DC needs to ensure that the data is distributed by themselves. TT-DC asks IPET-MDRD to consider the introduction of an optional backup flag.

### ICT-ISS D6: (Recommendations that WIS monitoring)

Noted. See comments below on data centre participation in monitoring (ICT-ISS A2).

### ICT-ISS D7: (Support to be provided by GISCs to attached NCs and DCPCs)

Noted

### ICT-ISS D8: (Procedure for a centre to change its Principal GISC)

Noted

### ICT-ISS A1: (Standard format of messages to be used for GISC to GISC coordination)

Noted

### ICT-ISS D9: (Recommendations for endorsement of centres by CBS)

Noted

### ICT-ISS A2: (Inclusion of the process for re-auditing WIS centres in WIS manual and guide)

Noted

### ICT-ISS P 22: (WIS Monitoring).

TT-DC noted that there has not been a full kick-off on the Monitoring Pilot yet.

TT-DC comments that it is essential to have a substantial representation of DCs in the pilot and their participation should be ensured. TT-DC requested ET-WISC to identify a clear lead of this activity e.g. TT-OM.

### ICT-ISS D10: (WIS Competences and associated Training and Learning Guide)

TT-DC noted the report of ICT-ISS. The issue of competencies and training was discussed further under agenda item 2 part iii of this meeting.

### ICT-ISS D11: (GISCs to publish links to feeds of CAP alerts from the centres attached to them)

TT-DC notes that DCs should negotiated with GISC to make available the CAP alert feeds where implemented. DCs should be aware of the importance of the alerting authorities register.

### ICT-ISS D12: (There is no requirement for a WMO profile for CAP)

Noted

### ICT-ISS D13: (Monitoring of CAP implementation is a PWS activity)

TT-DC noted that implementation of CAP has been achieved within WIS, and that implementation is now under the specific programme which DCs operate. TT-DC noted that ICT-ISS identified that the monitoring of CAP implementation and its uptake is now under the PWS programme.

### ICT-ISS D14: (ICT-ISS should provide technical support for the implementation of CAP)

Noted

### ICT-ISS A4: (ICT-ISS modified recommendations from ET-WISC on CAP)

Noted

### ICT-ISS D15: (Make WMO secretariat a DCPC for registering WMO publications and services provided from the WMO web site in the WIS catalogue)

Noted

### ICT-ISS report Para 24: (It is important to stress to Members that DCPCs (including WMO DCPC) does not imply that the centre is connected to the GTS)

Noted

### ICT-ISS 25-28 (WMO databases being used to support WIS)

Noted. TT-DC requested that the secretariat include the links to the Centres portal where applicable into the WIS Centres Data Base and make available on the WIS centres page (<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WIS/centres>).

### ICT-ISS D16: (Global data and GISC Cache)

TT-DC discussed and clarified D16 vis-a-vis CBS D03-2(1)-WIS and discussed also Agenda item 6 on DCs’ needs and usage with regards to the GISC Cache.

TT-DC takes note of ICT-ISS Paragraph 29 and D16 in particular the recommendation to CBS as expressed in the draft text for CBS Ext 2014 report ( CBSExt2014-Doc3.2 Appendix B).

TT-DC recommends to ICT-ISS that it would be essential to have user representatives (e.g. DCs) as members of the proposed inter-commission Task Team in order to ensure the user view is considered.

TT-DC identified during the discussion that there is a diversity of expectations of the DCs how the global user community is to be served via WIS for data classified as "intended for global exchange". There are two fundamental types of needs and expectations: a) the Data Centre assumes the responsibility to serve the users directly b) the Data Centre wants or needs to rely on the services provided by the WIS Infrastructure as expressed in the WIS manual, in particular the possibility for the users to obtain such data sets from another WIS Centre (e.g. GISCs).

TT-DC suggests clarifying the terminology used in the Manual on WIS regards "global exchange" in order to clearly differentiate between words used to express Data Policy and Data Classification versus key words used in the discovery meta data. It is proposed to:

* add a note to the Manual on WIS under 3.5.1 highlighting that "Information classified as intended for global exchange will normally be available from a GISC; and that,
* Distribution of data is controlled by the Discovery Metadata Keyword that defines if data is available from the GISC or from the data provider. See Appendix C, section 9 to this Manual.

The meeting suggested the following text, noting that it should be reviewed and agreed to by IPET-MDRD as follows:

3.5                    Functional requirements of a Global Information System Centre

3.5.1            General

Note:        The phrase “information intended for global exchange” encompasses time- and operation-critical information (data and products). Such information includes “essential data” and part of the “additional data”, as specified in WMO Resolution 25 (Cg-XIII) and Resolution 40 (Cg-XII).  The  data policy, transmission priority and actual scope of distribution of information is controlled by the Discovery Metadata defined in Section 9 of Appendix C to this Manual.

### ICT-ISS Section 4.3: (IPET DRMM issues considered by ICT-ISS)

TT-DC took note of the summary provided in a guest visit by Dr Simon Eliot, chair of IPET-DRMM, expanded on some of the key issues, including the filenaming issue, case independence of ISO3166-2 country two letter abbreviations (see ICT-ISS A7) and the decision of ICT-ISS to manage contradictions in positioning between data in Vol A and BUFR messages, where the BUFR location is to take precedence over the Vol A position. DCs should ensure they follow up on correcting Vol A (or the BUFR) where problems are identified.

### ICT-ISS Para 43, 44, D22 and A7, A8 & A9: (Terms of reference for focal points under OPAG-ISS)

TT-DC noted the request of ICT-ISS and that the TORs and list of ET and focal points for ISS is available online at <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/CBS/Lists_WorkGroups/CBS> and following the link to Cross Cutting for focal points, or OPAG ISS for expert teams.

### ICT-ISS A5: ( ET-WISC experts to be in Task Team developing WMO Core Metadata Profile v2)

Noted

### ICT-ISS D23 (Should use the words “information resource” more instead of “dataset” when referring to WIS content)

TT-DC noted that although dataset has a specific meaning in ISO19115, it is important to remember that WIS serves information which includes data and products. It encouraged all DCs to note this ICT-ISS decision.

### ICT-ISS Para 46-49 and A6 (CBS cannot be the sole source of expertise in developing data representations)

Noted

### ICT-ISS Para 50-52 and D24: (Noted progress on codes registry but it was too early to consider automating development of TDCF templates from data models)

Noted

### ICT-ISS Para 53-56 and D25: (Working with OGC to make data more discoverable by special users such as the TT working on Humanitarian issues.)

Noted

### ICT-ISS D26: (Developing a future vision for WIS)

TT-DC supports D26 noting that evolving and changing user needs as well as technologies are important contributing factors that should be included in this process.

### Regional Reports to ICT-ISS

TT-DC takes note of the points highlighted in RA1, in particular the need for support to raising awareness and education about WIS services. This is also relevant to TT-DC which aims to expand the group’s membership in order to capture a wider base of centres.

TT-DC took note of the RAIII report. Although not connected to the RMDCN (WIS Core network), the meeting noted that AMDCN activities in RAIII have advanced and that otherwise good support is being provided to the user community

TT-DC took note of the RAV report.

### ICT-ISS Activities until 2015.

D28 TT-DC commented that it should be ensured that users and centres representing user communities of WIS are included in this activity

TT-DC supports the emphasis on WIS training and the role of the GISCs also in particular relevant for DCs, user meetings should be further encouraged.

TT-DC welcomes further engagement with industry since many DCs rely on industry support and solutions to implement and maintain the WIS related functions and services

# Agenda item 3 (Management and Maintenance of Meta data updates and Vol C)

The discussion about Meta data led also to a further discussion on monitoring and quality of service reporting.

TT-DC referred back to the outputs of the WIS monitoring workshop (<http://wis.wmo.int/page=WIS-Work-Mon-2014>) and took note accordingly. It was identified that DCs might develop in addition to the elements outlined by the monitoring workshop their own monitoring schema to validate that their data is available in all intended destinations. This could also apply to validate the metadata and data discovery functions across WIS from a DC point of view.

For Meta data upgrades, DCs in most cases either rely on industry to perform upgrades or on support by their principle GISC. In all cases it also requires a communication between DCs and their principle GISC. Changes and evolutions need to be long time foreseeable in order to be budgeted. Capacity building, including encouragement of bi-lateral support, is required to support migrations between profiles and versions. Potentially there might also be conflicts regarding implementation schedule if a DC has to support a variety of communities and profiles. TT-DC took note of the requirement to be compliant with ISO 19115 and that version 2 is due for release in 2015.

# Agenda item 4 (Eumetsat report on CGMS activity)

TT-DC took note of the activities related to the CGMS Task Force on Meta Data. The CGMS Task Force on Meta Data is focused on discovery Meta data for Satellite products and noted that WIGOS Meta data will be separate matter.

# Agenda item 5 (Usability of WIS)

TT-DC requests the secretariat to include into the WIS Centres Data Base the links to the Centres portal where applicable.

The meeting discussed the question posed by some centres relating to what accessibility it should offer to users once it is an operational WIS centre. TT-DC stated that the accessibility to a DC portal is that which was maintained and offered by a centre prior to its registration as DC, including the related authentication and authorization services. TT-DC takes note of the recommended practices (i.e. [Guide to IT Security WMO No. 1115](http://wis.wmo.int/gts-security)) of making use of encryption services when handling user related data.

Regarding the usability of WIS Portals in general TT-DC takes note of the topic being discussed at the ET-WISC meeting in Beijing 2013 (<http://wis.wmo.int/page=ET-WISC-2013>).

TT-DC encourages ET-WISC to take an action to improve the user usability of the WIS portals.

# Agenda item 2 part III (WIS Competencies)

TT-DC took note of the information provided about WIS competencies and learning guides.

TT-DC strongly supports the build-up of competencies since they are considered the basis for successful WIS operations. Furthermore they will allow more centres to see and use the benefits of WIS and the WIS competencies in general for their own business.

 "What are the needs in order to join WIS?" is a common question. TT-DC has the view that the generation of competencies will assist a lot of countries in the understanding and justification why they need to invest into WIS. Therefore their engagement into the WIS community and expert teams is the recommended practice. Furthermore the available set of documentation is a valuable source of information and members are encouraged to make us of this WIS documentation.

Infrastructure and related funding is a major topic in some areas.

Overall the regional implementation plan should consider those aspects including activating the related focal points to raise the overall awareness and resulting commitment of the member countries.

TT-DC strongly recommends to the GISCs to keep investing in their training and capacity building in their area of responsibility.

Furthermore TT-DC encourages the regional training centres to take note of the WIS competencies and to include them into their course curricula.

TT-DC encourages the RAs to emphasize the generation of detailed regional WIS Implementation plans and identification of national WIS focal points.  TT-DC recommends encouraging centres to develop their own development plans, nominate their centre focal point and cooperate closely with the national WIS focal point. TT-DC recommends that centres encourage clarification of focal points where not known.

TT-DC welcomes their participation in TT-DC.

# Agenda item 9 (Regional WIS Implementation Plans)

TT-DC takes note of the Regional Implementation Plans and encourages the centres to take note of the regional implementation plans. (See <http://wis.wmo.int/folder=75> ).

# TT-DC review of its ToR and Action Plan

TT-DC reviewed the draft minutes and recommendations taken during the meeting, and compared to its TOR (<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/CBS/Lists_WorkGroups/CBS/opag%20iss/et-wisc-tt-dc/tors> ) and Action Plan (<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/CBS/Experts/plans/ET-WISC-ActionPlans.pdf#page=4>).

As a concluding note TT-DC comments that in order for TT-DC to accomplish the tasks assigned and expressed in the ToR and Action Plan it requires support in increasing its membership. In the view of TT-DC the current membership does not represent sufficient NCs. Therefore TT-DC encourages ICT-ISS to emphasise this also to other ETs and TTs.

# Terms of further working rules:

TT-DC decided to organise:

* Half yearly meetings on webex
* Ad-hoc if required on webex
* Usage of an action tracker
* To hold one face-2-face meeting prior to upcoming CBS-sessions in order to ensure timely and commonly agreed document inputs

# AOB:

None

# Closure

The meeting thanked EUMETSAT for hosting of this important first meeting of TT-DC. The chair thanked all for their contributions and for their participation and wished all a safe return voyage.

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# Appendix 1 – Agenda

## Agenda

1. Review status of DCPCs and NCs, status of endorsements and registrations
2. Status of the certification process
3. Review of the Demonstration and Nomination Process
4. Assess ICT-ISS outcome
5. Assess minutes of meeting of TT-OM, in particular the monitoring metrics and their impact on DCPCs, NCs
6. Briefing of decision of TT-CAC with relevance to TT-DC
7. Assess and comment on the papers on WIS Competencies
8. Management of Meta data updates including Vol C1
9. Inform about the CGMS activities in relation to WIS integration of satellite centre DCPCs
10. Discuss usability of WIS from a DCPC point of view and assess usage and quality of data provision via WIS to DCPC user communities
11. Accessibility of the WIS Web Portals from an user point of view
12. Discussion Data Centre needs and usage with regards to the GISC Cache
13. Exploring opportunities to enhance the member ship of the group in particular to include NCs and to reach coverage of all WMO regions
14. Review and comment on the regional WIS Implementation plans ( <http://wis.wmo.int/folder=75> )
15. AOB

# Appendix 2 – Participant list

## *Participants*

| **Representative** | **Organization/Country** | **Participating** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lothar Wolf | EUMETSAT | Yes |
| Guillaume Aubert | EUMETSAT | Yes |
| Michael Schick | EUMETSAT | Yes |
| Zhu Ting (Ms) | China | Yes |
| CK Pan (representing S.T. Chan) | Hong Kong, China | Yes |
| Antonio Vocino | Italy | Yes |
| Peter Mutai | Kenya | Yes |
| Markus Heene | Germany | Yes |
| Bernd Richter | Germany | Yes |
| Bissa Sougue | ASECNA | No |
| Li Xiang (Ms) | China | No |
| Alfred Hofstadler | ECMWF | No |
| Baudouin Raoult | ECMWF | No |
| Walid Gomaa | Egypt | No |
| Benjamin Saclier | France | No |
| Chouaibou Gueye | Senegal | No |
| Al Kellie | NCAR | No |
| Walter Smith | USA | No |
|  | | |
| David Thomas | Secretariat | Yes |