

Commission for Data and Information (UCDI)

INTRODUCTION

In 2008 the IUGG established the Union Commission on Data and Information (hereafter UCDI) to provide IUGG's eight Associations an entity to deal with data and information issues at the Union level and engage with similar bodies in other Unions and Societies.

The Commission provides a focused and sustainable organizational structure that supports and strengthens IUGG science through integrated scientific information activities in order to ensure the availability of modern data and information systems and services. These services are globally distributed, provide universal open access, and must be sustainable. The UCDI objectives are to:

- provide a focus and single voice within IUGG, spanning all IUGG Associations and inter-Association bodies.
- connect IUGG and its scientists to other bodies/agencies/initiatives that have interest and responsibility on matters of geo-data.
- advocate and facilitate research and development in the growing field of informatics to improve data and information systems and practices.
- promote open access to data and adoption of inter- operable data sets.

ADMINISTRATION

Membership - UCDI executive

IACS	Mark Parsons, NSIDC, IPYDIS (USA)	parsonsm@nsidc.org
IAG	Bernd Richter (Germany)	richter@iers.org
ICSU-FAGS	Ruth Neilan JPL (USA)	Ruth.Neilan@jpl.nasa.gov
IAGA	Peter Fox, RPI (USA) – Chair	pfox@cs.rpi.edu
IAHS	Pierrick Givone (France)	pierrick.givone@cemagref.fr
IAMAS	Maria Assunção F. Silva Dias, CPTEC/INPE (Brazil) (IAMAS Vice-Pres.)	assuncao@cptec.inpe.br
IAPSO	W John Gould, Southampton, UK	wjg@noc.soton.ac.uk
IASPEI	Tim Ahern, IRIS, (USA)	tim@iris.washington.edu
IAVCEI	Adelina Geyer Traver, Barcelona (SPAIN) – Secretary	ageyer@ija.csic.es
eGY & CODATA	Charles Barton, Australian National University, (Australia) – Vice Chair	cebarton@gmail.com

Business meetings

None to date, first executive telecon will be held in March 2009

ACTIVITIES

Scientific Meetings

UCDI was intended to build on foundations, established prior to its formation in 2008 such as the IUGG/IAGA-led activity, the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY). The commission has thus just started to continue and expand certain functions of eGY since the completion of that activity in December 2008. However, within this context, UCDI executive members have participated in several international meetings after UCDI's formation to represent IUGG Data and Information interest. These meetings include CODATA (Fox, Barton, Parsons, Neilan, and IUGG Secretary General Alik Ismail-Zadeh), IGY+50 (Fox, Barton, Parsons), and Fall AGU (Fox, Parsons, Ahern, Neilan).

Projects and publications

Project – define scope:

- Data science: Earth and space (geo)- informatics.
- Distributed data systems: virtual observatories, libraries, research communities and organizations.
- Open access to data and information.
- All issues related with data acquisition, processing, storing, manipulation, interpretation and use.

Project – define web site content

Participation and representation

UCDI's near-term plans and progress were

- Establish initial Commission website presence (www.iugg-ucdi.org reserved and web hosting secured, initial web context due in April 2009, verification of commission web page on IUGG web site)
- Collect, compare, adapt and recommend policies and procedures for collaboration on data collection, and use and sharing across IUGG Association activities (Barton, Parsons, ongoing).
- Contribute to the deliberations about the future of the World Data Centre System as it relates to IUGG Association science areas (Now World Data System Services. Fox, Ismail-Zadeh to contribute to March 2009 meeting).
- Contribute to the deliberations about the future of the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services (now included in the above item).
- Seek members from within and beyond IUGG's Associations (to commence in 2009).

Representation

- UCDI submitted, via the IUGG executive, nominations for the new ICSU Strategic Steering Committee on Information and Data (SSCID)
- Liaisons for scientific societies:
 - AGU (Peter Fox)
 - EGU (Peter Fox, Adelina Geyer Traver)
 - GSA - pending
 - JGPS - pending

PLANNED FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Continue ongoing near-term activities from above
- Continue membership outreach, especially for participants in activities
- Liaise with related data and information bodies and forums to advance the shared responsibilities for modern data and information practices – identify commission representatives to those bodies' and forums.
- Arrange informatics and collaborative sessions at Assemblies and major conferences of IUGG and at other Geo-union activities.

- Arrange workshops and training in support of IUGG's mission related to data and information.
- Outreach to increase awareness – encourage Commission members to include discussions on the Commissions activities in talks, lectures at any suitable venue.
- Ensure the themes of the Commission are publicized in publications – via articles in journals and newsletters, and potentially the development of promotional literature.
- Maintain an active and evolving website presence.
- Issue an (at least yearly) Electronic Newsletter.

Peter Fox, UCDI Chair