

Steering committee call

15/4/14

12Z (8am EDT, 13 BST, 14 CEST)

Present on call: Peter Thorne, Richard Chandler, Xiaolan Wang, Akiyo Yatagai, Andrea Merlone, Michael de Podesta, Blair Trewin, Jay Lawrimore, Matilde Rusticucci, Albert Mhanda

Apologies in advance: Rob Allan, Kate Willett, Antonio Possolo

Actions from prior calls still open

ACTION: ERA-Clim phase 1 data receipt is still pending. Jared to follow up with Stefan Bronniman.

ACTION KW/JR/BT follow up on WOW/Amateur obs being ingested into ISTI databank e.g., <http://wow.metoffice.gov.uk/>

ACTION KW to join mailing list of CHARMe and keep informed.

New actions arising

ACTION: PT to send ITS-90 code produced as a Meteomet deliverable to Michael de Podesta.

ACTION: Databank WG to have call in next 4-6 weeks.

ACTION: PT chase wmo over responses status to the letter sent to national PRs.

ACTION: Peter to follow up on potential Norwegian funding council meeting support.

1. Check against actions from previous calls

Call in November

ACTION: KW to email Regional Inhomogeneities spreadsheet working document to Steering Committee

ACTION: KW - post this spreadsheet on the ISTI/BAWG blogs

Done. Posting to blog solicited inputs.

ACTION: ERA-Clim phase 1 data receipt is still pending. Jared to follow up with Stefan Bronniman.

ACTION KW/JR/BT follow up on WOW/Amateur obs being ingested into ISTI databank e.g., <http://wow.metoffice.gov.uk/>
Australian version of this has been launched.

ACTION JL/KW to look at revamp of WG ToR prior to next call in January. PT to redraft and circulate SC terms of reference.
Done and revised ToRs are now posted

ACTION: Databank working group to discuss what to do with data rescue task team on their call and report to all hands call.
Done. Data rescue task team call wished to continue and have been asked to do so

ACTION KW to join mailing list of CHARMe and keep informed.

ACTION: Peter to set up doodle and canvas WGs and SC on timing for Jan all hands call in early December.
Done

ACTION: Andrea Merlone to prepare some materials to distribute before Jan call on two relevant Meteomet related activities (general report - could also be a blog post, and details of the MMC 2014 meeting) and discuss further on that call. Materials to be circulated by Dec. 15th.
Done

Call in January

ACTION: Jay and group to discuss whether possible for someone to attend and give talk at Xiaolan's EGU session

Done. Sadly restrictions on travel made this impossible. Enric Aguilar will give an invited talk on benchmarking group work on behalf of Kate.

#AY will attend EGU.

#AY will present about ISTI activity at AOGS (Sapporo 1 August). PT, Jared, and Jay have helped. Any update information especially for any stimulating materials for Asia-Oceania researchers is most welcome.

ACTION: Jay and Databank WG to formulate data merge task team terms of reference.

Done. Posted this morning.

ACTION: Peter to ensure that final annual report redrafted, reviewed and resubmitted by Jan 31st.

Done

ACTION: Peter to follow up with Tom Peterson on how ISTI can input to CCI congress.

Done. Some words are in the CCI draft. (Note also ISTI invited presentation to associated Technical Conference - see item 4)

ACTION: Peter and WG chairs ensure 3-5 abstract submissions to MMC by end of February deadline.

At least 4 relevant abstracts were submitted by various members of ISTI community.

ACTION: Steering committee to discuss further on next call the need, financial support options and timing of a next ISTI meeting and whether could be collocated with e.g. MMC meeting or some other appropriate meeting.

See item below

2. News from MeteoMet etc...

2.1 Metrology for Meteorology and Climate. MMC 2014 - September 15-18 - Brdo Slovenia

An ISTI session possibly hosted

80 abstracts in total. Across multiple subject areas. May have side meeting of those ISTI participants present.

2.2 PT at XXVII CCT meeting

PT will give an invited presentation at BIPM at a meeting of the CCT (consultative committee on thermometry) in May.

AM highlighted potential new CCT group on environment that could be formed and agreed to keep us appraised.

2.3 ITS-90 software submitted to ISTI

PT received from Meteomet partners a set of windows based software on temperature scales etc. Sadly, PT is mac based so it doesn't work for him yet (although IT support are working upon a solution using a windows emulator and hosting on a windows server so all may not be lost but it may take some time to implement and get past virus scans etc. etc.). Does anyone with easier access to a windows machine wish to take on having a look at this in the interim?

ACTION: PT to send ITS-90 code produced as a Meteomet deliverable to Michael de Podesta.

3. Updates from WGs

3.1. Databank WG - Jay

Currently preparing the version 1 release. Have incorporated an additional data merge process to compare station IDs. Has resulted in improved merging of stations which were formerly either withheld or a separate station.

There are 32,219 stations in the Stage 3 dataset.

Jared is working on documentation and presentation material required for internal operational readiness review. Expect to complete ORR process in May and release version 1 in June.

Other: We will be modifying the Data Submission guidelines to remove the option of submitting data via ftp (IT security concerns). Preferred method will be submission via the data.submission@surfacetemperatures.org e-mail address.

Data Merge Task Team terms of reference completed as noted above. Members from NCDC, UK Met Office, Australia BOM, and NERSC.

ACTION: Databank WG to have call in next 4-6 weeks.

3.2. Benchmarking WG - Kate (Peter if Kate unavailable)

There has been some progress with the benchmarking. Several calls have taken place. Benchmarking requires access to the first version of the databank release which it is planned to exactly mimic. There remain active discussions upon many of the specifics although the broad scale aspects are largely agreed now. Questions remain about assessment but will be discussed and developed further once the benchmarks are produced as these are now recognized as being time critical.

BT - it is likely that WMO CCI will create a new task team on homogenisation. BT will nominate for this. XW has also been nominated for that TT (nomination submitted).

4. SAMSI / IMAGE workshop update

We are slowly getting together an agenda for this and a number of folks have registered. We aim to engage a discussion of the workshop organizers in the next couple of weeks.

5. General updates from SC members

Please provide any general updates here in advance. We shall also go around call members here.

ISTI invited presentation at WMO Technical Conference prior to Commission for Climatology session at end of June (Heidelberg, Germany) - BT to present. Abstract has been submitted.

PT submitted an abstract to the EMS conference in October

University College London (UCL) has capital funding from the Natural Environment Research Council in the UK, to establish a "bioclimatic data centre" as part of the UK's investment in "Big Data infrastructure". The aim is to pull together freely available global and regional datasets so that researchers can more easily link them e.g. to assess relationships between climate and ecosystems. RC is involved in this and is exploring possibilities for leveraging some resource to experiment with the development of a user interface for the ISTI data portal. There are intellectual property issues to sort out here (the software development is being done by a commercial organisation - <http://www.rezatec.com/> - and in the first instance the intention is that access to the data centre will be restricted, at least during its development phase) but it could provide ISTI with a testbed if the steering group feel that this would be helpful. Watch this space.

Those on the call felt that this would indeed be useful and strongly encouraged Richard to continue this activity.

XW and Lucie Vincent are gearing up for their participation in the first benchmarking cycle, and have responded to the WMO letter on ISTI with comments on Canadian temperature data in the ISTI databank. XW has been named the ISTI national contact for Canada. Lucie plans to attend SAMSI workshop. XW is working on hosting the next ACRE workshop (25-27 August 2014) in Environment Canada in Toronto.

ACTION: PT chase wmo over responses status to the letter sent to national PRs.

KNMI are currently in process of trying to expand ECA&D platform globally - so far to SE Asia and a few countries in Africa and S America. Worth keeping an eye on as a data display/visualisation tool.

6. ISTI in person meeting discussion

This item was asked for on our previous call. When and how should we aim to have an ISTI workshop to which all ISTI participants are invited and how to support this financially.

PT: There might be some Norwegian funds but these may be limited to primarily Scandinavian participation. I need to clear time to look properly at this but on first glance it does look possible that this is in scope. I will discuss further with my boss when he doesn't have his kid in the office with him(!)

ACTION: Peter to follow up on potential Norwegian funding council meeting support.

JL: Would be nice to hold somewhere strategically important. Brazil for example would stress the importance of the data sparse S. American region. If possible we should try to be truly international.

JL: WMO support? Will talk informally to Tom P.

7. AOB

Next call will be an all parties call and should be held in June - prior to the SAMSI / IMAGE workshop.