

International Surface Temperature Initiative steering committee call

1/11/12

8 EST, 13 UK/Z, 14 CET

Call in details circulated by email

Expected on call: Peter Thorne (PT), Richard Chandler (REC), Michael de Podesta (MdP), Rob Allan (RA), Andrea Merlone (AM), Jay Lawrimore (JL), Greg Strouse (GS), Blair Trewin (BT)

Apologies in advance: Xiaolan Wang, Kate Willett, Albert Mhanda, Peter Stott, Jayashree Revadekar

1. Review of actions from previous call and latent unclosed actions from previous calls

ACTION: REC to discuss further with JL, PT and others on potential article for Significance on collection of papers on "large data", as and when plans are firmed up by editor.

Plans are not yet firmed up by editor.

ACTION: GS to take forwards BIPM recognition of the initiative.

PT and GS have worked with BIPM on this and this is now well advanced. CCT meeting in May report required. Strategy meeting on the Monday before ITS9 - can PT present something? Yes.

NEW ACTION: PT to circulate a document to CCT members before ITS9.

ACTION: TP to send email summary of CCI's position on the WMO Res 40 annexes renegotiation issue.

Summary sent 1/4 by TP to steering committee email alias.

ACTION: KW to discuss with AM membership from meteomet on the benchmarking WG and report back.

KW: Contact made with Ingvild Antonsen, awaiting reply.

ACTION: PT and AM to iterate and circulate a memorandum of understanding document between the initiative and Meteomet for approval by steering committee by 12/15

Completed and letter countersigned by PT and submitted to AM.

Within the next two to three weeks this will be formalized by sending signed letters to EMRP.

2. Updates on progress

We have been advised of final wording from last year's WMO congress report by Simon Gilbert thus:

"As discussed this morning, this is the relevant paragraph from the report. The full report (pdf ~ 4.5mb) is on this page as WMO No. 1077 - http://www.wmo.int/pages/governance/congress/congress_reports_en.html

Requirements for climate data

3.5.3.8 Congress recognized the importance of addressing new and evolving requirements for climate data for improved climate monitoring products and services that would support the analysis and assessment of climate extremes, climate change adaptation at regional and national levels, issuing early warnings and perform climate watches. It agreed that there is a need to assess gaps, opportunities and the new and evolving requirements for climate data aspects. Congress noted the progress of the Surface Temperature Initiative, a cross-disciplinary initiative to create a comprehensive global databank of land surface temperature. Congress expressed satisfaction that the Initiative had been endorsed by the WCRP, CCI and GCOS and requested that the progress on the Initiative be formally reported to WMO through CCI. Congress

encouraged Members to contribute to the initiative primarily through the sharing of data and noted that data.submission@surfacetemperatures.org could be used to initiate discussions to this end.

Congress adopted Resolution 16 (Cg-XVI) - Climate data requirements."

2.1. Databank working group

Additional sources continue to be added to the Databank – there are currently 29 sources available. The main activity during the past 2 months has focused on development of a merging methodology aimed at creating a merged Stage 3 dataset to meet the April goal of releasing version 1 of the Stage 3 product. This has not gone as quickly as hoped but progress is being made and it is expected that the Databank Subgroup will be presented with a draft of the merging methodology in early February for their review. We also plan to make the software available with the hope that some scientists will be able to provide comments not only on the overall methodology but also its implementation.

We were able to develop a Certificate of Recognition that will be used to recognize met services (particularly in the Pacific region) for their contribution to this effort. This has 5 co-signatories – Chair of Databank and Steering Committees, Pres. of CCI, Chair of GCOS Steering Committee, and Director of WCRP.

Also a special letter of request for support was written for the Director of the Brazilian Meteorological Service. It is currently being reviewed by the Director of CPTEC before it can be sent to the Met Service.

Jayashree Revadekar has provided some Indian daily data from 2011 and is working on release of longer records

Akiyo Yatagai alerted us to the new availability of Israeli records which will be investigated further.

PT notes that its a massive task and the WG have been effective.

2.1.1 data provenance and version control

Nothing new to report.

2.1.2 data rescue

Data rescue team had a call in November. Main issue presently is the serious lack of resources. Only a small subset of active projects currently and crowdsourcing looks unlikely to be funded through the explored avenues. We have had some submissions of rescued data from Switzerland and from Juerg Luterbacher's group.

Would take about \$500K to set up crowdsourcing. \$200K is for citizen science alliance interface build and maintenance cost and \$300K for support to analyze the data, write papers, pull through to databank etc.

2.2. Benchmarking and assessment working group

Team Creation - Robert/Kate working on creating analog stations on the large scale. Some progress made by Robert but tricky to spread to ~60000 stations. Kate investigating statistical downscaling.

Richard writes: it would be helpful to know what the problem is here. If it has to do with the generation of Gaussian fields on the sphere (a problem I discussed with Victor Venema in this context a few months ago), I can probably find someone who can help - or, failing that, provide a reasonably robust "belt and braces" solution.

ACTION: REC to contact KW about this.

Team Validation - using COST HOME benchmark analysis to investigate potential methods

PhD funded - need to find student.

Ingvild Antonsen (Metrologist) contacted about joining the benchmarking and assessment working group.

Poster presented by Ian Jolliffe at the 5th International Verification Methods Workshop, Melbourne, Australia, December 2011.

3. Meeting reports and upcoming meetings

ITS9 will have a total of 6 initiative related talks spread across two sessions and plenary. There will be a plenary talk, a session with four initiative related talks and an additional talk in a further session spread across two days.

4th WCRP International Reanalysis Conference, Maryland, May 2012 - KW

Others?

The proceedings of the International Statistical Institute meeting in Dublin are now available online at <http://isi2011.congressplanner.eu/> - the presentation about the ISTI can be found under session IPS119.

Intl. Conf on SH Meteorology and Oceanography plus Pacific extremes workshop. BT is involved in organizing. Rob Allan will be running an ACRE session there. New Caledonia. They will ensure the initiative is mentioned. Too late for abstracts.

4. Papers status

BAMS paper has now been published and is available as Open Access article. Noted on the blog.

Environmetrics piece has come back from review with accept with minor revisions.

Metrologia piece update?
Still pending, but not able to be a priority currently.

5. ITS9 paper(s)

PT will endeavour to circulate a draft prior to the call. Submission deadline is 2/6.
Draft circulated 1/5. Will be redrafted late this week / early next.

JL will update on databank paper status. Initial draft will be completed by 25 Jan with a week for internal review and review by Databank WG.

6. Annual progress report

Discussion of draft circulated to group 1/6 by PT

BT: Should we mention funding more generally?
MdP: Yes.
PT will reflect that concern in next draft.

REC: In the section outlining activities for coming year there were actions on databank and benchmarks and publicity but nothing about addressing issues (funding etc.)
Delegate to steering committee members: Funding, engaging groups and gaining data products. Good to have an action to address the issues, given to named individuals.
JL: Helpful to give people specific objectives.

RA: Worth doing but be prepared that you may not be terribly successful.

RA: Look outside the box to other funding interests. Humanities.

PT: Insurance and reinsurance?

JL: Talk to Tom Peterson about the insurance component.

7. AOB

A paper by Claude Williams and colleagues appeared in JGR AOP 1/6 that applies the benchmarking principles to USHCN. This has been highlighted on the blog.

NOAA funding cuts - ICOADS, ISPD, 20CR/SIRCA. What is the current situation re NCDC perhaps taking over ICOADS??? What else can/could be done by the international data community??

Next call 4/4 @8am EDT