

## **International Surface Temperature Initiative Steering committee call**

**Nov 5th 2013 @13Z (8EST, 13 UK, 14 CET)**

Summary of resulting actions:

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

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

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 is also about to be 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.

ACTION: Databank working group to discuss what to do with data rescue task team on their call and report to all hands call.

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.

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.

Call notes:

Present on call: Peter Thorne (PT), Kate Willett (KW), Albert Mhanda (AMh), Michael de Podesta (MdP), Blair Trewin (BT), Jay Lawrimore (JL), Richard Chandler (RC), Jared Rennie (JR), Akiyo Yatagai (AY)

Apologies in advance: Rob Allan (RA), Xiaolan Wang (XW), Andrea Merlone(AM)

## **1. Review of previous action items**

ACTION: All to provide any final comments on the IP redraft contents by Monday 15th July.

*Done and redrafted IP is now published.*

ACTION: Kate to finalize report on recent mini-workshop at NCDC and post on the blog.

*Done*

ACTION: KW set up a call with Blair to chat about benchmarking further - realistic worlds, especially input on tropical stations.

*Done*

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

ACTION: KW to link up African data possibilities from Mozambique workshop if possible through Rob

Allan, PT to highlight possibilities to Chris Merchant.

*Done*

ACTION: PT will email Albert Mhanda and Chris Merchant to try to make links on African data and participants for Earthtemp meeting.

*Done*

ACTION: BT to send some ideas of participants to Chris Merchant from his recent WMO African meeting he attended.

*Unknown*

ACTION: JL to report back on what may be possible regarding improving the precision of the station coordinates within the merged holding at the next call.

ACTION: PT will ask Tom Peterson if any words could / should be added to the IP on data sharing and WMO.

*Done. Agreed no words necessary.*

ACTION: KW to chat to Rob Allan about ACRE text in IP  
*Done*

ACTION: SB to ensure ERA-CLIM phase 1 data are submitted to databank.  
*Pending at time of last call. Does this remain a pending item at this time?*  
NEW ACTION: ERA-Clim phase 1 data receipt is still pending. Jared to follow up with Stefan.

## **2. Report from chair**

Several things have occurred since the last call that are not directly related to the underlying Working Groups or are more management orientated.

Following this year's GCOS Atmospheric Observations Panel for Climate a letter was drafted and sent from WMO Secretary General to all NMS Permanent Representatives requesting help in furthering ISTI aims. The letter concentrated largely upon databank aspects. A blogpost can be found at <http://surfacetemperatures.blogspot.no/2013/10/request-for-support-sent-from-world.html>. That post contains a link to the letter. At this point it is too early to tell whether anything will result from this. In theory a response is required to such communications.

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 is also about to be launched).

A subset of ISTI participants were involved in putting forward a proposal for a SAMSI ([www.samsi.info](http://www.samsi.info)) summer activity next summer. This would bring together statisticians, applied mathematicians and climate scientists to advance novel homogenization methods. This was tentatively approved pending logistics following a strong set of support letters from folks initially reached out to. We should have more in coming weeks. Suggestions as to who to involve would be welcomed. The workshop will occur over a two week period (June or July) either in the Research Triangle in NC or in Boulder, CO. SAMSI will provide some level of logistical, financial and scientific support, but we will need to self-support wherever possible and provide scientific support. The workshop aims to be practical with actual efforts made to work on, test and evaluate some techniques whilst there. Participants should attend the full period.

The ISTI progress was covered in my talk at the Royal Society in early October. Apparently this was recorded ...!

Michael de Podesta prepared a poster that was presented at the recent TEMPMEKO meeting and outlined what ISTI aims to do. I am told that the poster garnered some interest from participants. Stephanie Bell and I (AM) presented the poster that received continuous interest by the thermal metrology community (approx 450 participants) during

its presentation. AM was asked an invited lecture at the opening plenary session on Metrology for Climate and we reported on the running common activities also with ISTI. A part on assessment of uncertainties and instruments for temperature recording was presented together with the newly developed software for inclusion of corrections due to temperature scales change in the past scales of 1927, 1948, 1968 and ITS-90.

PT: Poster is available

at: <http://www.surface temperatures.org/background/ISTI%20-Tempmeko%20Final%20Version%20.pdf?attredirects=0&d=1>

I was invited to AMS in Atlanta in Feb to give a talk on IPCC / NCA. Given this I decided to submit an abstract on ISTI. This was accepted for an oral slot in a parallel session so I will have a talk of roughly 12 minutes to update whoever is present and spread the word.

There will also be a poster regarding the databank at AGU in San Francisco in December

### **Taking the Temperature of the Earth: Challenges and Applications Across All Earth Surface Domains I Posters [SWIRL\_CS]**

Thursday, December 12th 8:00 AM - 12:20 PM; Hall A-C (Moscone South)

Not sure how I forgot this but I will be giving a talk at the Stats+climate workshop on Monday of next week (11th). This workshop is aimed at exploring ways to bring stats and climate people together on primarily (but not exclusively) Norwegian funding proposals. I have dusted off a recent talk.

I have noticed that our terms of reference and those for the WG have officially expired. See the main website at [www.surface temperatures.org](http://www.surface temperatures.org) and the associated pages for each working group and steering committee. We should revisit and if necessary revise these. Suggest we discuss on posited all hands call in Jan, with action on us and WGs to respectively discuss our own ToRs as they stand and make suggestions that we can all discuss on that call.

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.

## **3. Reports from Working Groups**

### **3.1. Databank**

Note preceding action: JL to report back on what may be possible regarding improving the precision of the station coordinates within the merged holding at the next call. (There appears to be quite a bit of action in various WMO working groups on common metadata formats - that might have flow-on benefits for us if/when implemented).

Will be a focus of the next databank WG call. Will advise on next call in Jan on WG plans in this regard.

The methods paper, led by Jared Rennie, has been accepted by Geosciences Data Journal  
RA has done all he can to speed the publication along - any delays are down to Wiley.

This was to trigger a formal version release but at the 11th hour NCDC have decided to undertake a data readiness review prior to formal release. So what is likely to occur is that a release candidate version will be published shortly and noted on the blog. Unless major issues are found (highly unlikely) this will become version 1 upon completion of the readiness review (est. 3 months - this is a rough estimate!). Users, including benchmarking working group, should treat this a stable version release and not wait three months before starting to analyze.

PT: Databank Working Group should ideally have a call between now and suggested all-hands to keep momentum going. Not least to discuss data rescue task team per below.

PT: There has been a real issue keeping interest in the data rescue task team. This is partly my fault in that the team had no call for a year while IPCC assessment activities were in full swing. But it raises the question as to the viability of the task team and whether we should instead strengthen either the WG and / or steering committee to ensure that we remain abreast of data rescue activities and maybe sit instead more actively on some of the other, existing activities. I am trying to constitute one last quorate call in December. Guidance / suggestions from steering committee on this point would be welcome.

ACTION: Databank working group to discuss what to do with task team on their call and report to all hands call.

XW: A few weeks ago I sent an email to PT and Jared Rennie regarding the Chinese temperature data I have put on our anonymous ftp site. But I have not got any response to this email. Has the data been downloaded or you already have the data in the databank? Can I delete the data from our ftp site now?

PT: Resolved 4/11/13 over email. Data are now held by databank developers and being processed and analysed for future inclusion.

### **3.2. Benchmarking and assessment**

Slow progress over the summer after a successful workshop held at NCDC.

A concepts paper has been drafted and is now on second edit. This will be submitted to the Geoscientific Instrumentation, Methods and Data Systems <http://www.geoscientific-instrumentation-methods-and-data-systems.net/> which is open access.

The 2012/2013 progress report has been drafted and is undergoing edits from members.

Kate and Robert still working on creating the synthetic data.

The characteristics of the blind and open error worlds have been decided and a set of changepoint distributions defined in addition to some probability framework work necessary to decide when, where and how to add the specific change point types.

The assessment will focus on ability of the homogenised product to recover true characteristics of trend, climatology and variance and the skill in correctly detecting change points (hits/misses). Detailed assessment of changepoint adjustments applied will be made possible but not make up part of the formal assessment because the key interest is in how well homogenisation algorithms do in terms of returning the true underlying climate. Detailed info about hits/misses is of more interest to algorithm developers.

Deadlines have been pushed back due to issues over the summer. These are now:

Submit Concepts paper - December 2013

A few open clean and error worlds and basic assessment ready for SAMSI workshop June/July 2014

Benchmark Cycle Begins/Release of Open clean and error worlds and blind error worlds - Summer 2014

Validation full scale assessment - Summer 2015

Deadline for submission of homogenised benchmarks/Release of blind clean worlds - September 2015

Return Benchmark Assessment - March 2016

Assessment of benchmark cycle workshop - Summer 2016

PT Is there anything on the blog on results of survey of regional inhomogeneities?

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

#### **4. Updates from steering committee members**

Please provide any updates on pertinent activities here for discussion.

KW gave a talk to the Reading University Meteorology Department as part of their lunchtime seminar series on ISTI and benchmarking. This led to a discussion with Debbie Clifford who is involved with a current FP7 project called CHARMe which involves setting up standardised metadata for climate data products and a system where this can be digitally linked to any data product. METAFOR was a similar project for CMIP data where at download, each model had a METAFOR link to click on. Could be a nice link up for ISTI databank derived products with benchmarking assessment.

CHARMe website: <http://www.charme.org.uk/>

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

AM: A report on MeteoMet activities of interest for ISTI is proposed for next call.

AM: One or more contribution/s from ISTI are welcome at the MMC 2014 (Metrology for Meteorology and Climate), 16-18 September 2014 in Prtorose - Slovenia

PT: Does MMC 2014 have a website? I think I saw it in the past but google is now drawing a blank ... I plan to attend and am happy to give a talk.

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.

Albert Mhanda: Failed to join call. On Data Rescue, IEDRO conducted training at ACMAD, in July, on rescuing microfiche data. First phase on scanning microfiche to JPEG format is in progress. This will be followed by digitizing. The digitized data will be ingested into the West African Climate Assessment and Data Rescue (WACA-DARE) system. KNMI provided training on the WACA-DARE system in August. Hopefully it will be possible to have the same data for the surface temperatures databank, after necessary consultations.

Steering Committee members noted this significant progress and strongly welcomed it.

JL attending a meeting at WMO on network design next week and will raise ISTI activities.

## **5. Annual report discussion**

Please provide items you would like to see being covered in the annual report here.

KW: dedicated funding streams would mean its taken more seriously.

PT: Need to address data portal aspects.

## **6. AOB**

Propose next call be a joint call between steering committee and working groups and occur in early Jan to discuss progress report before its finalization.

ACTION: Peter to set up doodle and canvas WGs and SC on timing in early December.

AY: Anyone planning on submitting a talk/poster to EGU 2014?

PT: Plans for a 2minute presentation session - strong encouragement for anyone attending to present something on ISTI.

Session

Page: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2014/session/14230>

ACTION KW to ask BAWG members if anyone is going and may be able to present something.

JR: If no one willing I can bring AGU poster on Databank to EGU as well