



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR SCIENCE (ICSU)
Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical
Data Analysis Services (FAGS)**

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Minutes for FAGS Meeting, April 2, 2007, 10:30 – 17:30

ICSU - International Council for Science, 51 Bd. de Montmorency, 75016 Paris, France

Agenda

- 10:30-10:45 Opening and Welcome, by Nicole Capitaine (FAGS President) and Carthage Smith (ICSU Deputy Executive Director)
- 10:45-11:15 Presentation of the draft FAGS White Paper, by Nicole Capitaine
- 11:15-11:45 Presentation of the ICSU SCID Committee, by Carthage Smith
- 11:45-12:15 Views from the WDC Panel, by Bernard Minster
- 12:15-13:00 Comments from the Unions and the FAGS Council members
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-14:30 Information on the CODATA strategic plan, by Robert Chen (CODATA Secretary General)
- 14:30-15:30 Comments from the Service Directors
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00-17:30 General discussion on the views for the future

Participation list:

Dirk Behrend, IVS
Richard Biancale, BGI
David Boteler, ISES
Bernard Ducarme, ICET
Francoise Genova, CDS
Ronald Van der Linden, SIDC
Michel Menvielle, ISGI
Ruth E. Neilan, IGS
Bernd Richter, IERS
Lesley Rickards, PSMSL
Michael Zemp, WGMS

JoAnn Joselyn, IUGG
Ian Corbett, IAU
Jean Bernard Minster, WDC
Robert Chen, CODATA
Carthage Smith, ICSU
Philip Woodworth, PSMSL
Nicole Capitaine, President of FAGS Council (IAU)
Phil Wilkinson, FAGS Council (URSI)
Ray Norris, FAGS Council (IAU)
Frederic Clette, FAGS Council (URSI)
Niels Andersen, FAGS Secretary

Nicole Capitaine opened the meeting and gave the floor to Carthage Smith.

Carthage Smith welcomed all to ICSU and informed that ICSU is moving to another building ultimo 2007.

Nicole Capitaine informed about a WDC Panel meeting that took place at ICSU on 29 and 30 march in which she was invited to participate and present FAGS; she noted that this was the first time that WDC, FAGS and CODATA have had the opportunity to discuss together during a common meeting. In addition, Bernard Minster, new Chair of the WDC Panel has been invited to participate in the FAGS meeting and present the WDCs.

A short “round the table presentation” was performed and Nicole Capitaine pointed out the importance that everybody came up with comments or questions during the day.

The agenda was approved and according to this there was in a row three presentations with comments and questions after the three presentations.

Nicole Capitaine went through the draft of the white paper and expressed the hope that the FAGS white paper could be finalized at the end of the day.

Carthage Smith gave a brief background and terms of reference for the *ad hoc* Strategic Committee on Information and Data (SCID).

Jean Bernard Minster gave a brief introduction to the WDC organization and also referred to the WDC panel meeting the days before (29 – 30 March) where it was pointed out that GEOSS needs close cooperation between COADATA, FAGS and WDC.

Jean Bernard Minster further informed about an actual quality assessment process of the all WDC including how much the individual WDC actually is used.

After the three presentations a general discussion was opened and some points were raised with concrete ideas about future FAGS Services and/or WDC:

- A general principle of full and open access to data
- Interoperability is important and this is best achieved by a bottom up process
- Meta data – handbook of template with descriptions of relevant meta data
- A list of what is gained by coordination of CODATA, FAGS and WDC

Lunch at 13:10

Robert Chen gave an introduction to CODATA and could tell that the entire CODATA budget is at the order of 250 – 350.000 US\$. Robert Chen also noticed that he often experienced low general knowledge among scientists about CODATA (for example information about fundamental constants) – An issue that should be addressed through the work in SCID.

A general discussion was then opened with specific inputs on a more general level and also with concrete points regarding improving the white paper:

It is important to identify unique characteristics of FAGS – WDC entities:

- Long term, homogenous time series
- Scientific expertise must be available
- High quality web in order to give quality and authority
- Interoperability between relevant services
- The services could be inspired by the ideas behind the virtual observatories
- The services directors meets regularly
- One stop shopping

Some general issues were raised:

- Service activities is often looked upon as NOT science which makes it difficult to achieve funds through National Science Foundations
- It might be fruitful to approach Meteorology (IMO) – Space Weather
- It is very important that service directors exchange views on service specific problems and challenges
- The services should generally be more open to society needs and be careful not only to look inward (for example to look into forecasting)
- FAGS services should await to see how CODATA evolves and also await the result of the WDC assessment process

Improvements to the white paper:

- It should be more evident that the services should look into more interdisciplinary activities and also focus more on “science for society”
- The quality of data and quality assessment of services should be highlighted more in the white paper

A FAGS general committee meeting will be arranged in Perugia, Italy at the IUGG General Assembly in July 2007.

(Later: 2 July, 12 - 14 at IAPSO Executive: room 16 into Academy of fine arts)

Nicole Capitaine closed the meeting at 17:30.

Referent: Niels Andersen, FAGS Secretary who was the day after (3 April) succeeded by Philip Woodworth as FAGS secretary.