

5th Anniversary - World Data System IPO and NICT hosts - 5 April-2016

Good afternoon

As President of the International Council for Science, I express our appreciation to the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology for their support and 5 years of successful collaboration between the National Institute and the International Council for Science – in hosting the International Programme Office of the World Data System (WDS-IPO)

I cannot stress too much the importance of data and the global cooperation for enabling high quality and relevant and useful data for the undertaking of science around the world. The International Council for Science and international partners have recently agreed on the OpenData/BigData Accord, which Professor Tatsumi will speak about.

The World Data System enables nations and international organizations, like the International Council for Science, to make positive advances and enhancements on global issues. Research is increasingly dependent on access to quality-assured data across multiple scientific domains, in particular to tackle the pressing challenges of sustainability and the resilient management of our planet. It is vital that the data underlying scientific research are properly preserved and fully and openly shared to facilitate scrutiny and reuse.

The World Data System is a ‘community of excellence’ for scientific data that ensures the long-term stewardship and provision of quality-assured data and data services to the international science community. By federating national, regional and international capacities, the WDS is promoting the establishment of a common globally interoperable distributed data system that incorporates emerging technologies and multidisciplinary scientific data activities. The NICT hosts a WDS Member: The World Data Centre Ionosphere and Space Weather, and therefore contributes also to the WDS endeavour beyond hosting the IPO.

The Sendai Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction is an example of how governments and the international science community have worked together. Our Council was the lead for the Science and Technology Major Group in Sendai and we are very pleased with the agreement and outcomes. The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme which is providing scientific support for implementation of the Sendai Framework is another example of how important data and information is. The NICT was also involved through its Resilient ICT Research Center which conducts research and development to strengthen disaster resistance in information and communication networks for more resilient societies. The missions of the NICT and the International Council for Science converge around these issues.

The global research program – Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability –is also faced with data challenges and is very dependent on multidisciplinary data integration. The World Data System is playing a key role in supporting its Data and Information Task Force. Thanks to the Science Council of Japan one of the Future Earth global program offices is hosted in Tokyo and taking the lead in supporting the Future Earth Data and Information Task force in concert with the WDS-IPO also based here in Tokyo.

We thank you for all your years of cooperation and look ahead to further years of working closely together for the benefit of all societies. Have a good day. Thank you.

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