

## Hosting the International Programme Office of ICSU-World Data System in Japan

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Scientific data is growing in size explosively, is becoming heterogeneous in nature, and is being required to involve multidisciplinary interactions together with general society. In the situation that various questions surrounding scientific data activity have been arose for data collection, data curation, data citation, long term preservation, barriers of multidisciplinary data fusion, etc., a

database construction and maintenance work in each institute or organization has become more active. At the same time discussions to make interdisciplinary cooperation or fusion between databases, organizations, and data systems are strongly required. International unions, programmes, and bodies such as IUGG, IPY, IRDR, GEOSS, etc., have been launching their own data activities and/or are showing the interest in data issues separately, but they are now discussing or approaching collaboration with related activities. A new programme, ICSU World Data System (WDS), was launched in 2008, where one of the most important goals is to realize "system of data systems". In October 2010 ICSU decided to establish its international programme office (IPO)

in Japan. NICT, or National Institute of Information And Communications Technology, Japan, was selected as its host institute. WDS scientific committee (SC) is the brain of WDS programme, and IPO is a focal point of the programme activity and the core of implementation, while the host institute is to provide the environment for IPO which has to work internationally in the nation or region.

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