



ICSU

International Council for Science



Wednesday, 23 September 2009

Dear Colleagues,

Following the decision by the last ICSU General Assembly (October 2008), the International Council for Science recently instituted the World Data System as a new ICSU Interdisciplinary Body which replaces the ICSU World Data Centres (WDC) and the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data-analysis Services (FAGS).

The transition from the old systems to the new system is now beginning and, as one of the first steps, the WDS Transition Team would like to determine generally the interest in the new WDS.

If your organization is interested participating in the new ICSU WDS, please go to this web page (<http://wds.geolinks.org>) and complete the very brief expression of interest. This, in no way obligates you or your organization. It is just an aid to help the [WDS Scientific Committee](#) get a feel for the scope of the new WDS. The web site also contains the WDS background documents.

Since the new WDS will be open to all types of data activities, supporting ICSU's programmes as well as the scientific community in general, please pass this letter along to any appropriate organization as you see fit.

Sincerely yours,

Nicole Capitaine

Bernard Minster

Co-Chairs of the *ad-hoc* ICSU WDS Transition Team

Expression of Interest: <http://wds.geolinks.org>