The ISWI Website and the ISWI Newsletter:
A Summary Report Covering Three Years

Dimitar Danov[1], George Maeda[2]

[1] Space Research and Technology Institute – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
[2] International Center for Space Weather Science and Education
–Kyushu University, Japan

Email (mitkodanov@abv.bg, maeda@serc.kyushu-u.ac.jp)

Abstract: The three-year international program called ISWI soon comes to an end (although it will continue in other forms) and so it is appropriate to summarize some of its results. Because of the global nature of ISWI, it was necessary to establish some channels of communications. ISWI had two: (1) the ISWI Website, and (2) the ISWI Newsletter. In this report, we summarize some of the achievements of both. The website and newsletter effectively complement each other.

Keywords: International Space Weather Initiative, ISWI Newsletter, ISWI Website.

Introduction

Because of the global nature of ISWI (International Space Weather Initiative), it was necessary to establish some channels of communications between participants. ISWI created two channels: (1) the ISWI Website, and (2) the ISWI Newsletter.

ISWI Website

The ISWI Website must provide basic information about ISWI -- its organization and participants, projects and achievements, calendar of events and operating results to the general public. ISWI is a continuation of IHY (International Heliophysics Year), and thus the ISWI Website must be a continuation of the site http://www.ihy2007.org .

Two options were considered before launching the site. The first option was based on [WordPress]. Its advantages are: visitors actively participate in the creation of news, and discussion forums can be conducted. Some disadvantages are: number of pages in the site are limited, and has restrictions on the size and on the format of supported files. A major drawback was the need to have PHP and MySQL installed, as well as APACHE or similar server or an external server. The second option considered was a site based on [HTML4], [JavaScript] and [Perl]. Its advantages are: a) sufficient in-house server resources; b) no need to install additional software and c) no restrictions on the number of files and their format. We chose the second option because of its simplicity and the possibility of tighter controls on the site. Final decisions concerning the basic policies of the ISWI Website were decided by Dr. Joseph Davila, Dr. Natchimuthuk Gopalswamy (both members of the ISWI Secretariat) and Dimitar Danov (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences).

The ISWI Website was launched in late December 2009. The server for this website is located on the campus of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Sofia, Bulgaria). Since the beginning of this website, Dimitar Danov has been responsible for its contents.

ISWI Newsletter

One majör disadvantage of the ISWI Website is lack of active connection with ISWI participants. To address this problem we created an email-based newsletter. Prof. K. Yumoto (Director of International Center for Space Weather Science and Education, formerly known as Space Environment Research Center, at Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan) offered to publish this newsletter.

The newsletter came to life under a United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) mandate, which was issued by Prof. Hans Haubold (another member of the ISWI Secretariat). The office of the newsletter is located on the campus of Kyushu University. The publisher is Professor K. Yumoto and the editor is George Maeda. The first issue of the newsletter was released on November 19, 2009.

How the ISWI Newsletter and the ISWI Website operate

ISWI Newsletter

In order to distribute the ISWI Newsletter we use the external mail-service http://www.mail-list.com/ .

ISWI participants send material to the editor of the newsletter, who decides whether to disseminate this information.

Contributors to the newsletter are asked to follow these guidelines: (1) create a thoughtful mix of text and photos, (2) generate the final report as an Adobe PDF file under 3 MB, (3) stick to A4-size pages, (4) identify the contributors to the report, and (5) add the name of the creator of the report and the creation date to the front page of the report.

ISWI Website Operations

The purpose of the ISWI Website is to show all achievements within this international initiative. So we

work closely with all PIs of the instrument arrays, the National Coordinators and the ISWI Secretariat. It is not possible to be aware of all details and changes of the separate Instrumental Areas. For this purpose, individual sites were created for most Instrumental Areas. We are trying to reflect any changes in the basic structure of the instruments. Every six months, we import changes to geographic map of the distribution of tools. This interactive map is one of the most attractive pages of the ISWI Website. All organizational changes, new documents, as well as upcoming events, appear on the site at the time of their occurrence.

The website is hosted on a Sun Microsystems computer, running SunOS 5.10.1. - The web server running on this machine is Apache/1.3.33 (Unix) PHP/4.3.10 mod_ssl/2.8.22 OpenSSL/0.9.7d. The ISWI Website is http://www.iswi-secretariat.org/

Rules for the management of the website: (1) Responsible for the site content is Dimitar Danov; (2) New content is added only after permission is received from one of the following persons: Prof. Hans J. Haubold (UN Office for Outer Space Affairs), Dr. Joseph M. Davila, or Dr. Natchimuthuk Gopalswamy (both with NASA at Goddard Space Flight Center); (3) Any changes related to the Instrument Arrays are made after coordination with the respective Lead Scientist (s); (4) National Coordinators may propose Site Content; (5) News is circulated using the ISWI Newsletter. (6) The complete archive of the ISWI Newsletter is stored at the website.

The information on the site is organized in six main themes, each of which has several sub-topics. The themes are as follows: **About** (Objectives, History, Sponsors, Workshop's sites, National ISWI Sites). **Organization** (Secretariat, Organization, Steering Committee, National Coordinators). **Projects** (Instrument Projects, Instrument Leaders, ISWI instrument distribution, ISWI instrument websites, Participating Countries, ISWI Space Science Training, Societal Impacts Workshop). **Meetings** (ISWI-UN Workshops, Events with ISWI participation, Calendar of Events related to SW). **Publications** (Books whose authors are participants in ISWI, Printed Proceedings from ISWI events, List of presentations stored on ISWI site, List of presentations stored on external sites, Newsletter Archive, UN Documents related to ISWI, Video lectures). **News** (Latest ISWI Newsletter, Just Published papers or books, recent changes to this site). Each sub-topic provides one or more web pages, as well as links to external sites.

We take steps to provide at the site all presentations delivered in ISWI schools and ISWI workshops. Often the ISWI Website is the only place where presentations remain available permanently. Unfortunately, we have found, many ISWI-related websites keep their ISWI-related material only for a temporary duration.

Results

Current content on the site

The number of files that are stored on the site is more than 1900. They occupy 1 500 MB of disk space. See Table 1

Table 1

File type	Amount of disk storage [MB]	Number of files
HTML code	4.35	486
Adobe PDF	919.	796
Images	74.30	538
Sound or movie	410.	20

Newsletter Archive currently holds fifty-one percent of the disk space on the site. The number of files in the Newsletter Archive is fifty-six percent of the total number of files.

Since 2011 the total number of visitors to the site exceeds thirty thousand. See Figure 1 (unfortunately we do not have statistics for the years 2009 and 2010).

ISWI Newsletter

The first issue of the newsletter was emailed to 288 persons. The number of newsletter subscribers as of September 2012 was 394. So the number of subscribers increased by 38% percent.

The number of issues published is as follows: Year 2009 was 4 issues, Year 2010 was 109 issues, Year 2011 was 110 issues, and Year 2012 was 131 issues.
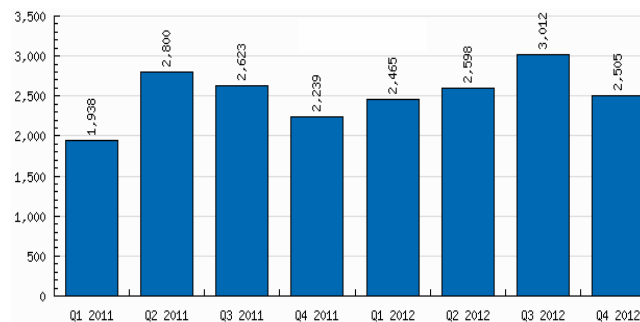

Figure 1: Visits to site by quarter (2011 and 2012 years)

Discussion (What will we do in the future?)

ISWI Newsletter

The newsletter will continue to be published in the coming years even after the formal conclusion of the International Space Weather Initiative (which was active from 2010 to 2012).

Reports by all ISWI instrument arrays will be published.

Reports by ISWI National Coordinators will be published.

The activities of (1) *Centers for Space Science and Technology Education* and (2) the *International Center for Space Weather Science and Education* (ICSWSE) will be reported in the newsletter. (Note that the newsletter is published by ICSWSE under the guidance of the ISWI Secretariat.)

ISWI Website

The website will be updated within six months following the formal conclusion of the ISWI. Pages similar to what has been described above will be added or updated.

We intend to add presentations of all meetings and schools related to ISWI.

We will add to the documents created within ISWI (Abuja Resolution, Quito Resolution, the UN reports on the work of ISWI) a link to all official documents accepted by UNOOSA. In this way, it can be better understood how ISWI to the activities of the UN - the largest international organization.

The activities of ISWI do not cover everything being done on "Space Weather". We consider the ISWI Website and ISWI Newsletter as media for the popularization of activities under the subject of Space Weather. The ISWI Newsletter will distribute news related to this subject. The reports and results of ISWI member states will be kept on the ISWI Website. We will create a page with Web-accessible resources created by member states.

We will continue to publish on the website different education and training materials (e.g., Lectures, E-books, videos). Whenever possible, they will be duplicated on the site.

Acknowledgements

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