



INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RESCUE ORGANIZATION

901 MAIN STREET, DEALE, MD 20751 • P: 410-867-1124 • FAX: 410-867-9259 • WWW.IEDRO.ORG

## Summary of IEDRO Volunteer Activities for the Weeks of April 21 and 28, 2011

**Remember, you can now do [all](#) Amazon online shopping at the [IEDRO Amazon Shop!](#)**

### Attendees:

**April 21:** Rick Crouthamel, Penny Paugh, Sarah Roy, Tommy Owens

**April 28:** Rick Courthamel, Tommy Owens, Ran Meng, Doug Klotter

### Funding

Rick had a long conversation with Dr. Scott Hausman, Director NCDC, who said that chances are slim we will get any VCP funds and that the CDMP Program is effectively dead -- only 2 of 97 data rescue and digitization (DR&D) projects are continuing. Scott also said he wishes to strengthen our cooperation and coordination.

### Personnel & Administration

Thanks to Penny and interpreters, emails and letters about to go out to our 14 sites announcing new funding and Teddy as operations manager...in English, French and Spanish.

### Board Meeting

A meeting of the Board was convened on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Joe Friday, who has been on our Advisory Board, has joined our Board of Directors. We are delighted and honored to have this addition to our Board!

Penny will arrange for the appointment to be announced in multiple media.

### Announcement

Sharon Le Duc has agreed to become our Senior Scientist. She retired from NCDC last year and has represented IEDRO in Bolivia. We are honored and delighted to add her to our staff.

### Administration

The first Thursday of every month the staff meeting will be focused on operational plans. This will help focus our efforts as an agency. Each manager or someone from their group is required to attend.

### Strip Chart Digitization Program

Tommy Owens has set up a test site as IEDRO headquarters and has established a remote desktop capability. This is something we might be able to use at actual sites as a quality control aid. Rick has asked Tommy to provide instructions as he sets up a test site at headquarters.

Debra Katz will be joining the team to collect requirements and help making a flow chart of the software process.

The team lost their two new programmers so it is just Ed and Tommy working on the project. Tommy will send Rick the qualifications to look for new programmers. Rick stated that once he departs Dell tomorrow, he could contact his former staff of 33 highly skilled programmers a few of whom might wish to donate some help. Tommy also stated he and Ed have made good progress with Python wrapper scripts.

### **Site Management**

In preparation for the quarterly meeting of the World Meteorology Organization, Rick, Penny and Teddy Allen have prepared a letter to go to each country's meteorology services department. The letter has been translated in all but Portuguese. Penny will help to mail them out and Rick will send them via email to all of our sites.

Rick is planning to visit Malawi, July 8-18. He will meet with Dr. Donald Kamdonyo and our volunteer Martin Munkhondya. Rick wishes to thank Mr. Kamdonyo for allowing Martin to support us these past 6 years; view first-hand the Malawi DR&D program; and see what is needed to set Malawi up as the "Model DR&D Site" where we could have representatives from other countries to receive training in DR&D. Malawi staff would follow our new processes, making sure

1. All equipment is operational;
2. digitized data for Malawi now in the National Climatic Data Center database is checked;
3. There is a method for us to digitize Malawi data.

Rick also wants to informally discuss the possibility of setting up a cooperative digitization group within their National Meteorological Service where Kamdonyo's service would provide keying people and the facility if IEDRO would provide equipment, training and salaries [piece work basis]. IEDRO would also fund high-speed internet capability

Teddy will be visiting El Salvador in June and would like to arrange to visit our project site while there. He also may visit Barbados and visit their meteorology society while visiting.

Teddy, Doug Klotter and Penny are working on developing a manual to be sent to each data rescue site to give instructions to volunteers for making quality photographs. Larry suggested that using an easel would be easier to set up and lighter to ship. Doug will incorporate this into the instructions.

**Conferences**

Teddy Allen is waiting to hear a response to abstracts he submitted to CIMR. He hopes to hear back in May.

Toni Rosati will be representing IEDRO at the Summer 2011 meeting of the National Meteorology Society's Denver/Boulder chapter in August.

**Collaboration**

Penny and Rick made the script for a DVD to hand out at the World Meteorological Organization meeting in May. Rick found a producer and Penny found a narrator. Penny has been working alongside the producer for the past week. It should be finished in the next week.

**Public Relations Teams**

Much of the work performed by our teams is ongoing.

**Website Statistics**

The number of hits on our website has steadily climbed for the past year.

Currently, we have 94,512 unique visitors annually and 149,496 total visits annually. We hope that the online shop will double these numbers.

**Website Development**

Except for one minor technical problem, the Fair Trade/IEDRO items online page is ready to be published. Max is working to make the site live.

Jake continues to make graphics that have writing on them on the website into each language.

Sil has announced that the Spanish version of the website is close to being done. Lu is starting the Chinese versions.

We have recruited a new Russian translator who will help Olga on the website translation.

## **Volunteer Recruitment & Training**

Farhad, an Iranian agriculture researcher residing in Indian, has offered to be a liaison with World Bank and other agencies. Rick has sent him a warm letter.

Megan has finished automating two training shows for new volunteers. She will post it shortly and all volunteers will be welcome to watch it on our website.

Vivian has joined our French translation team and has stepped up to the plate to be coordinator of website translation activities. Many thanks Vivian.

## **Newsletter**

We have recruited a new managing editor, Ran Meng. She also will be writing articles for our blog. She has began helping Penny with the March/April issue which has been mailed out.

For the May/June issue, Doug will write a short article describing Sharon Le Duc's textbook about Africa's climate which will be finished sometime in the summer. We will run it in the May/June issue.

## **Networking**

We have recruited two new people who are helping with the sister organization list. The list is growing! We also have gained two new members who are writers for our networking sites, Sara and Ran. Sara has written her first article already. Finally, we will be able to keep up an interesting blog.

Penny is continuing regular backups of the blog and marketing materials.

Afraid we missed Earth Day on our blog!

## **Conference Displays**

Penny has made edits on the Data Rescue conference poster. Rick will look at it one more time.

## **Fundraising**

Penny has been delegated as proposal manager for a project involving our strip chart digitizer program. Susan Callis will provide the shell. Looks like something might be written in April. Tommy has indicated that once the first test of the software has been done, the team will be ready to write up a proposal.

Rick and Penny are meeting to begin developing grant and foundation proposal writing.

**Help Wanted**

- A Public Relations deputy manager – energetic, dedicated person desired.
- A developer to help us make foreign language versions of our website and newsletter. The site is in Dreamweaver.
- Graphic designers who know Photoshop.
- Scientists who will write newsletter articles for us.
- Persons to develop and maintain networking sites. We need a Plaxo developer, specifically.