

HIGHLIGHTS OF CODATA ACTIVITIES IN 2009

Dear friends,

2009 was indeed another busy year for CODATA — here are some of the major highlights:

Collaboration with GEO, the Group on Earth Observations

- A Symposium on the “Data Sharing Plans for GEOSS and on the Benefits of Data Sharing for Science” took place in Washington DC in conjunction with the GEO-VI Plenary in November 2009. This international Symposium was organized by the U.S. National Committee for CODATA of the National Academy of Sciences’ Board on Research Data and Information (BRDI), together with the National Committee for DIVERSITAS and the U.S. National Committee on Geodesy and Geophysics, and in collaboration with CODATA, the GEO Secretariat, the GEO Data Sharing Task Force, and the Environmental Change and Security Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Details can be found at http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/brdi/PGA_053959.
- CODATA continued its work and close collaboration with GEO on the development of implementation guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles. CODATA Secretary-General Robert Chen and BRDI Director Paul Uhlir were appointed as Co-Chairs of the GEO Data Sharing Task Force (DSTF) following their nomination by ICSU, the International Council for Science. Other Co-Chairs include representatives from China, the European Commission, India, Japan, and the U.S. The DSTF was established in spring 2009 at the request of the 2008 GEO-V Plenary in Bucharest. The GEO-VI Plenary on 17-18 November 2009 accepted with minor modifications the Implementation Guidelines proposed by the DSTF, which were largely based on the draft guidelines prepared by the original Data Sharing Task Team led by CODATA. The DSTF is now working on an Action Plan aimed at developing working procedures for data sharing within GEOSS and articulating additional steps needed to implement the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles for consideration at the GEO Plenary and Ministerial Summit in China in 2010. Information about the DSTF is available at: http://www.earthobservations.org/geoss_dsp.shtml.
- In support of these activities, CODATA also prepared two important publications: *Toward Implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems Data Sharing Principles*, jointly published by the CODATA Data Science Journal and the Journal of Space Law (see below), and a special issue of the CODATA Newsletter containing an exclusive interview with José Achache, Executive Director GEO, on Data Sharing within GEOSS <http://www.codata.org/resources/newsletters/newsltrspecialissueA4.pdf>.

CODATA Task Group Activities: Building and Strengthening Scientific Data Activities

A major part of CODATA’s Scientific Agenda in 2009 was led by the activities of its ten Task Groups operating in 2008-2010. The CODATA Newsletter No. 98 summarized the task group activities as of mid 2009: <http://www.codata.org/resources/newsletters/newsltr98A4.pdf>.

The Call for New CODATA Task Groups was launched in October 2009 (see <http://www.codata.org>).

CODATA launches “The Polar Information Commons: Establishing the Framework for Long-term Stewardship of Polar Data and Information”

This project, launched in March 2009 with support from ICSU, aims to establish a sustainable long-term framework for the preservation of and access to polar data, building on recent “commons” approaches developed in other scientific fields and entraining new stakeholders and participants into polar data management. Project partners include the International Arctic Science Council (IASC), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the IPY International Program Office (IPY IPO), the World Data System Scientific Committee, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), and the Science Commons project of Creative Commons. The core project team has developed the concept of a Polar Information Commons (PIC) which will serve as an open, virtual repository for polar scientific data and information and provide a shared, community-based cyberinfrastructure for research, education, planning, and management in the polar regions. Presentations about the PIC concept have been given or are planned at the GeoNorth Conference (Fairbanks), the 6th International Symposium on Digital Earth (Beijing), the ISPRS/DFG Data Management Workshop (Cologne), the Antarctic Treaty Summit (Washington DC), the 5th International Digital Curation Conference (London), the fall American Geophysical Union meeting (San Francisco), and at meetings of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Data Management (Amsterdam) and the International Polar Year Data Committee (Ottawa). More details are now available on the PIC website at <http://www.polarcommons.org>.

Building European Activities with the support of the European Commission

CODATA’s Task Group on *Global Information Commons for Science – EU-GICSI Activities* co-led the organization of the Second COMMUNIA conference on “Global Science & Economics of Knowledge-Sharing Institutions” under the

EU-funded thematic network on the *Public Domain in the Digital Age*. The Conference drew more than 100 participants to Turin, Italy on 28-30 June 2009 to discuss the rationale, policy support and practical feasibility of arrangements designed to emulate key public domain conditions for collaborative research. The conference was co-organized with the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), the Department of Economics “S. Cognetti de Martinis”- University of Turin, and COMMUNIA - The European Thematic Network on the Digital Public Domain, in collaboration with BRICK – Collegio Carlo Alberto and with sponsorship from The EU DIME Network of Excellence. A summary report of the Conference is available online at: <http://www.communia-project.eu/node/283>.

Collaboration with the International Council for Science, ICSU

CODATA continued its close collaboration with ICSU in 2009.

- ✚ **ICSU-World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC):** CODATA nominees, Professor Michael Zgurovsky (Ukraine) and Professor Pierre Cilliers (South Africa), were appointed to the newly formed World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC). It is anticipated that the WDS-SC will organize a number of sessions and meetings on WDS issues at the 22nd International CODATA Conference in 2010. See http://www.icsu.org/1_icsuinscience/PDF/WDS-SC_ToR.pdf.
- ✚ **ICSU Ad Hoc Strategic Coordination Committee on Information and Data (SCCID):** CODATA nominee, Dr. Robert Chen (USA), was appointed to this new ICSU *ad hoc* Committee. One of the goals of the committee is to establish and assert a visible and effective strategic leadership role, on behalf of the global scientific community, in relation to the policies, management and stewardship of scientific data and information. See http://www.icsu.org/5_abouticsu/STRUCT_Comm_Adhoc_SCCID.html#tor.
- ✚ An interview with Catherine Brechignac, President of ICSU, on the important role of data and information within the ICSU community will appear in a special issue of the *CODATA Newsletter* to be published in early 2010.

CODATA Data Science Journal Collaborates with the Journal on Space Law

The *Journal of Space Law* (Volume 35, number 1) and the *CODATA Data Science Journal* (Volume 8) simultaneously published “*Toward Implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems Data Sharing Principles*” in fall 2009. The paper was authored by BRDI Director Paul Uhler, CODATA Secretary-General Robert Chen, and two other co-authors who participated in the GEO Data Sharing Task Team. The paper has been released under a Creative Commons license to allow reuse and re-dissemination of all or part of the paper with proper attribution. It is online at: <http://www.spacelaw.olemiss.edu/JSL/articles/35JSL201.pdf> and <http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/dsj/8/0/GEO1/pdf>.

To access papers published in the *CODATA Data Science Journal* in 2009, see <http://www.codata.org/dsj/index.html>.

22nd International CODATA Conference, 25 – 27 October 2010, Stellenbosch, Cape Town

Finally, CODATA is delighted to announce that its 22nd International Conference “*Scientific Data and Sustainable Development*” will take place in the wine lands of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa. For information on the **Call for Papers, Call for Sessions, Nominations for the CODATA Prize 2010, Young scientist activities** and much more, please see <http://www.codata2010.com/>. We look forward to seeing you in South Africa!

These are only some of the highlights of CODATA activities over the last year. More information can be found on our website at <http://www.codata.org>.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and myself I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all Task Groups and the CODATA community for their active role in promoting the mission of CODATA and I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our National Members and Supporting Organizations for their support and collaboration. It is thanks to you that CODATA is able to carry out its activities.

CODATA Secretariat
December 2009