CODATA, China and Partners' Joint Efforts on Research Data Sharing in/for/with Developing Countries

Liu Chuang, Secretary, CODATA PASTD TG

Dear President, dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We recognize that science has a central role in the development of the Information Society. Sharing research data not only provides fundamental resources for research, but can be an accelerator for the knowledge economy, for sustainable development and to achieve the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As we enter the big data era, data sharing in developing countries has become even more critical if the digital divide is not to expand even more because of policy, infrastructure, capacity, culture and even language gaps.

I am geographer, and from geographer's point of view every corner of the world should get benefit from the information society equally. I would like to suggest U.N. continue to pay more attention to reduce the digital divide, especially in the policy, infrastructure and capacity building dimensions.

I will illustrate some activities, led by CODATA, in collaboration with many partners, that have helped address these issues in the last decade.

In 2002, CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology of the International Council for Science, established the Task Group for Preservation of and Open Access to S&T Data in/for/with Developing Counties (PASTD). CODATA also promised at the WSIS Tunis 2005 that it would do its best to help reduce the digital divide. CODATA PASTD has convened a successful series of international workshops, training programs on data strategies and policies in the developing world. CAST, the Chinese Association for Science and Technology, immediately established the Consultant Committee on IT for U.N. (CCIT/CAST) with a remit to demonstrate its achievements at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) each year.

These collaborations have led to notable achievements which include:

- the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR/CAS) and JKUAT, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya jointly established the Global Change Research Data Publishing and repository;
- the National Research Foundation of South Africa established the World Data Center for Public Health and Environment;
- the National Geoinformatics Center of China donated the Global Land Cover datasets in 30 metres resolution to the United Nations.

Each of these achievements have become important parts of the global research data sharing infrastructure for sciences and sustainability.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of CODATA-PASTD and CAST-CCIT, I would like to thank the many organizations that have worked with us and supported us during the last ten years. With these partnerships, we will continue to cooperate and to reduce the digital divide by promoting data sharing for science.

In 2014 we developed the Nairobi data sharing principles for developing countries and this year, at the GEO Plenary in Mexico we will finalise the data sharing guidelines that support these principles. In future years we shall promote the sharing of infrastructures and the development of data sharing capacity and practices.

We understand the importance of this mission and we dedicate to it all our efforts, because it is not only our job, but our life, and it is not only for our generation, but for our children too.

Thank you very much!