

**MINUTES, 29<sup>th</sup> CODATA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014**  
**6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November 2014 – Delhi, India**

**ATTENDANCE LIST**

	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Email</b>
1.	Ahituv	Niv	Israel	Delegate Israel	<a href="mailto:ahituv@post.tau.ac.il">ahituv@post.tau.ac.il</a>
2.	Ashino	Toshihiro	Japan	Observer Japan	<a href="mailto:ashino@acm.org">ashino@acm.org</a>
3.	Autio	Petra	Finland	Delegate Finland	<a href="mailto:Petra.autio@academies.fi">Petra.autio@academies.fi</a>
4.	Bartolo	Laura	USA	Delegate USA	<a href="mailto:lbartolo@kent.edu">lbartolo@kent.edu</a>
5.	Boulton	Geoffrey	UK	Observer UK	<a href="mailto:g.boulton@ed.ac.uk">g.boulton@ed.ac.uk</a>
6.	Branton	Robert	Canada	Delegate Canada	<a href="mailto:Bob.branton@dal.ca">Bob.branton@dal.ca</a>
7.	Brase	Jan	Germany	Delegate ICSTI	<a href="mailto:Jan.brase@datacite.org">Jan.brase@datacite.org</a>
8.	Broome	John	Canada	CODATA Treasurer	<a href="mailto:John-br@rogers.com">John-br@rogers.com</a>
9.	Carroll	Bonnie	USA	Observer USA	<a href="mailto:bcarroll@iiaweb.com">bcarroll@iiaweb.com</a>
10.	Chen	Robert	USA	Observer USA	<a href="mailto:bchen@ciesin.columbia.edu">bchen@ciesin.columbia.edu</a>
11.	Das	Anup Kumar	India	Observer India	<a href="mailto:Anupdas2072@gmail.com">Anupdas2072@gmail.com</a>
12.	Dillo	Ingrid	Netherlands	Delegate Netherlands	<a href="mailto:Ingrid.dillo@dans.knaw.nl">Ingrid.dillo@dans.knaw.nl</a>
13.	Gojobori	Takashi	Japan	CODATA Vice President	<a href="mailto:tgojobor@nig.ac.jp">tgojobor@nig.ac.jp</a>
14.	Graves	Sara	USA	CODATA Secretary General	<a href="mailto:sgraves@itsc.uah.edu">sgraves@itsc.uah.edu</a>
15.	Griffin	Elizabeth	Canada	Observer Canada	<a href="mailto:Elizabeth.griffin@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca">Elizabeth.griffin@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca</a>
16.	Gvishiani	Alexei	Russia	Delegate Russia Delegate IUGG	<a href="mailto:adg@gcras.ru">adg@gcras.ru</a>
17.	Hodson	Simon	France	CODATA Executive Director	<a href="mailto:execdir@codata.org">execdir@codata.org</a>
18.	Hsu	Wen-Lian	China Taipei	Observer China Taipei	<a href="mailto:hsu@iis.sinica.edu.tw">hsu@iis.sinica.edu.tw</a>
19.	Iwata	Shuichi	Japan	Delegate Japan	<a href="mailto:iwatacodata@mac.com">iwatacodata@mac.com</a>
20.	Kumar	Anil	India	Delegate India	<a href="mailto:a.kumar@ncl.res.in">a.kumar@ncl.res.in</a>
21.	Laughton	Paul	South Africa	Delegate South Africa	<a href="mailto:pauill@uj.ac.za">pauill@uj.ac.za</a>
22.	Lee	Ilya Eric	China Taipei	Observer China Taipei	<a href="mailto:ilyaericlee@nchu.edu.tw">ilyaericlee@nchu.edu.tw</a>
23.	Lee	Der-Tsai	China Taipei	Delegate China Taipei	<a href="mailto:dtlee@dragon.nchu.edu.tw">dtlee@dragon.nchu.edu.tw</a>
24.	McMahon	Brian	UK	Delegate IUCr Delegate IUIS Delegate IUPAC	<a href="mailto:bm@iucr.org">bm@iucr.org</a>
25.	Mishra	Akhilesh	India	Observer India	<a href="mailto:Akhilesh.mishra@nic.in">Akhilesh.mishra@nic.in</a>
26.	Mwitondi	Kassim	UK	Observer UK	<a href="mailto:k.mwitondi@shu.ac.uk">k.mwitondi@shu.ac.uk</a>
27.	Ramapriyan	Hampapuram	US	Observer US	<a href="mailto:ramapriyan@verizon.net">ramapriyan@verizon.net</a>
28.	Rybkina	Alena	Russia	Observer Russia	<a href="mailto:a.rybkina@gcras.ru">a.rybkina@gcras.ru</a>
29.	Shashidhara	LS	India	Delegate IUBS	<a href="mailto:Ls.shashidhara@iiserpune.ac.in">Ls.shashidhara@iiserpune.ac.in</a>
30.	Singh	Mayshree	South Africa	Observer South Africa	<a href="mailto:Singhm5@ukzn.ac.za">Singhm5@ukzn.ac.za</a>
31.	Singh	RB	India	Delegate IGU	<a href="mailto:rbsgeo@hotmail.com">rbsgeo@hotmail.com</a>
32.	Thorley	Mark	UK	Delegate UK	<a href="mailto:mrt@nerc.ac.uk">mrt@nerc.ac.uk</a>
33.	Tidrow	Meimei	USA	Observer USA	
34.	Uhlir	Paul	USA	Observer USA	<a href="mailto:puhlir@nas.edu">puhlir@nas.edu</a>
35.	Wang	Kehe	Australia	Observer Australia	<a href="mailto:k.wang@bom.gov.au">k.wang@bom.gov.au</a>
36.	Wang	Hsin-Min	China Taipei	Observer China Taipei	<a href="mailto:whm@iis.sinica.edu.tw">whm@iis.sinica.edu.tw</a>
37.	Watanabe	Takashi	Japan	Delegate WDS	<a href="mailto:Takashi.watanabe@icsu-wds.org">Takashi.watanabe@icsu-wds.org</a>
38.	Wilkinson	Ross	USA	Delegate RDA	<a href="mailto:Ross.wilkinson@monash.edu">Ross.wilkinson@monash.edu</a>
39.	Woolfrey	Lynn	South Africa	Delegate South Africa	<a href="mailto:Lynn.woolfrey@uct.ac.za">Lynn.woolfrey@uct.ac.za</a>
40.	Wyborn	Lesley	Australia	Delegate Australia	<a href="mailto:Lesley.wyborn@ga.gov.au">Lesley.wyborn@ga.gov.au</a>
41.	Yefremov	Kostiantyn	Ukraine	Delegate Ukraine	<a href="mailto:k.yefremov@wdc.org.ua">k.yefremov@wdc.org.ua</a>
42.	Zborowski	Mary	Canada	Delegate IUPsyS	<a href="mailto:Mary.zborowski@gmail.com">Mary.zborowski@gmail.com</a>

The Minutes will follow the Agenda as approved.

### **1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda**

The outgoing President was not in attendance. In his place, the Secretary General chaired the meeting on the first day of the General Assembly, welcoming all delegates and observers. To open the meeting, a message recorded by the President was played, in which he spoke of CODATA's successes which included the Workshop on Big Data for International Science, the work of the Task Groups and efforts to collaborate with WDS, RDA and GEO. The President concluded the message by congratulating the new executive team in advance of the elections. The Secretary General then expressed thanks to the Conference organizing committee and also recognized representation from the co-opted Members WDS, RDA and ICSTI. Following this, all present introduced themselves and indicated in what capacity they were attending the General Assembly (GA). On the second day of the General Assembly, as the Secretary General was not in attendance due to health issues, the General Assembly was chaired by the Treasurer.

### **2. Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes**

The 29<sup>th</sup> CODATA General Assembly approves, as presented by the Secretary General, the Agenda for the 29<sup>th</sup> CODATA General Assembly and the Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> CODATA General Assembly (**Annex One**).

### **3. Welcome of New Members**

The Secretary General acknowledged the importance of expanding the membership structure of the organization. She announced that the Netherlands and Kenya have applied for Membership, and discussions are additionally underway to welcome Denmark and Brazil. A presentation was made by Ingrid Dillo on behalf of the Netherlands, and a statement was read as prepared by Muliaro Wafula of Kenya. Finally a short presentation was also made by Ross Wilkinson on behalf of RDA, to become a co-opted Member. Approval of formal membership was presented to the delegates and after discussion the following Resolutions were adopted:

#### **Approval of the Netherlands**

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly unanimously approves the application of the Netherlands, under Research Data Netherlands (RDNL), to become an official Member of CODATA with immediate effect, thereby allowing the Netherlands to exercise its vote at the meeting.

#### **Approval of Kenya**

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly unanimously approves the application of Kenya, represented by the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), to become an official Member of CODATA with immediate effect, thereby allowing Kenya to exercise its vote at the meeting. However, there being no representative for Kenya at this General Assembly, Kenya did not have opportunity to exercise its right to vote.

#### **Approval of RDA**

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly unanimously approves the application of Research Data Alliance (RDA) to become a co-opted Member of CODATA with immediate effect, thereby allowing RDA to exercise its vote at the meeting.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report, indicating that the 2013 Audit was performed by Mizgala & Cie (Montreal, Canada). The audit was completed in Euros by the accrual method, and no issues were discovered (**Annex Two**). The Treasurer explained further that CODATA is operating, as planned, on a deficit budget, to allow enhanced activity and outputs and thereby to improve CODATA's international standing.

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly approves the Treasurer's Report as presented by the Treasurer. Further, the General Assembly formally recognized a suggestion (raised by the UK delegate) to review, in 2016, the ongoing management of the deficit budget.

#### **5. Executive Director's Report**

The Executive Director (ED) distributed the latest CODATA information leaflet to all (**Annex Three**), and gave a presentation (**Annex Four**) which highlighted:

- a) CODATA's response to the ICSU review: ICSU's suggestion to increase visibility has resulted in an updated website and use of social media, as well as several presentations given by the ED to promote CODATA and its activities. It is noted that the optimal way to increase CODATA's budget (as urged by ICSU) is to increase the Membership base. To that end, discussions are underway with prospective new Members Brazil and Denmark, as well as with a new supporting Member, Nature Publishing.
- b) Strategic Plan: The ED spoke of CODATA's priorities in four strategic areas: Data policy; Data Science; Capacity Building; and Data for International Science. To support these, the Fundamental Constants Task Group has been moved to a permanent status, and the successes of other Task and Working Groups were highlighted. Finally, proposals are being considered for a reinvigorated Data Science Journal.
- c) Capacity Building: The ED summarized the various workshops and summer schools that have recently been organized.
- d) International Collaboration: The ED highlighted some events including the Big Data Workshop which was held in June 2014 in Beijing, and also SciDataCon 2014 which was organized in collaboration with World Data Systems.

#### ***Special Resolution: Thanks to the Outgoing Executive Director***

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly formally thanks the outgoing Executive Director, Kathleen Cass, for her extensive contributions to the organization over the years from 1999 to 2013 and wishes her continued success in her new activities.

#### ***Special Resolution: Thanks to the New Executive Director***

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly formally thanks the Executive Director for his significant contributions to the organization since taking on the role in 2013. His accomplishments to date have exceeded original expectations, for which CODATA has benefited greatly.

#### **6. CODATA Officers and Ordinary Members elected by the 29<sup>th</sup> CODATA General Assembly**

##### **President**

Geoffrey BOULTON (UK) (2014-2018)

### **Vice-Presidents**

Niv AHITUV (Israel) (2014-2018)

Takashi GOJOBORI (Japan) (2014-2018)

### **Ordinary Members (2014-2016)**

Bonnie CARROLL (USA)

Anil KUMAR (India)

Paul LAUGHTON (RSA)

Jianhui LI (China)

Der-Tsai LEE (China Taipei)

Alena RYBKINA (Russia)

Mark THORLEY (UK)

Mary ZBOROWSKI (Canada)

In accordance with the CODATA Constitution, Sara Graves (USA) remains **Secretary General** and **John Broome** (Canada) remains **Treasurer**. Likewise, **Huadong Guo** (China) becomes **Past President**.

### ***Special Resolution: Thanks to the outgoing President***

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly formally thanks the President, Huadong Guo, for his vision and leadership as President from 2010 to 2014. CODATA is grateful for his many contributions to the organization over several years of involvement with CODATA.

### ***Special Resolution: In Remembrance of Fedor Kuznetsov***

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly formally honours CODATA's Vice-President, Fedor Kuznetsov, who died during his period of tenure, on 4 February 2014. CODATA recognizes his significant contributions to the organization since taking office and extends condolences to his family and colleagues.

## **7. Task Groups**

The formal process to approve Task Groups was run, noting that the Fundamental Constant Task Group has been moved to Permanent status. Additionally, CODATA liaisons were identified for each.

### **The Following Task Groups were approved for the period 2014-2016:**

- Interoperable Data Publications (New)
- Science and Management of Physical Objects (New)
- Anthropometric Data and Engineering (Renewal)
- Advancing Informatics for Microbiology (Renewal)
- Data At Risk (Renewal)
- Data Citations Standards (Renewal)
- Earth and Space Science Data Interoperability (Renewal)
- Global Roads Data Development (Renewal)
- Linked Open Data for Global Disaster Risk Research (Renewal)
- Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in/for/with Developing Countries (Renewal)

## 8. Appointment of the Nominating Committee for the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

A nominating committee was appointed for the purpose of collecting nominations for positions of Officers and Ordinary Members, to be elected at the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The outgoing President, Huadong Guo will chair the committee, which will consist of Mark Thorley, Elizabeth Griffin and Mary Zborowski.

## 9. Discussion of CODATA Strategic Activities

Each country representative present, as well as Union representatives, presented brief updates of activities and specific areas of concern. Several common themes arose, including:

- Early Career Data Professionals
- Methods of evaluating activities
- Expanding knowledge and influence of CODATA into sponsoring academies and organizations
- Data sharing efforts
- Policy issues
- Integrity of data and data stores
- Development of dictionaries and ontologies
- Blending of data and information/publications
- Membership by developing countries
- Awareness of other organizations
- Integration of different types of data for special concerns such as disaster planning and recovery

## 10. Updates on CODATA Strategic Activities

### 10.a SciDataCon 2016

The success of SciDataCon 2014 was discussed by all and thoughts gathered on the initial planning for SciDataCon 2016. All agreed that despite some unfortunate setbacks, the Conference was a success.

### ***Special Resolution: Thanks to the Indian National Organising Committee for SciDataCon 2014***

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly sincerely thanks the Indian National Organising Committee, and especially Anil Kumar, Alok Bhattacharya, and Brotati Chattopadhyay, for the excellent organisation of SciDataCon 2014.

### ***Special Resolution: Thanks to the World Data System, the International Scientific Programme Committee, and the co-chairs of SciDataCon***

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly sincerely thanks the World Data System, the International Scientific Programme Committee, and the co-chairs of SciDataCon (Krishnan Lal and Paul Berkman) for the development of an excellent scientific programme which formed the basis for SciDataCon 2014. It is by these combined efforts that the Conference was a success.

### 10.b Early Career Data Professionals (ECDP)

This group, although newly formed, has identified issues of concern and/or ways in which it might contribute to CODATA as a whole. These include:

- Reviewing the governance and structure of ECDP;

- Improving visibility;
- Becoming more involved in CODATA Task Groups;
- Contributing on the editorial board of Data Science Journal;
- Determining other tangible outcomes of the group.

### **10.c Capacity Building**

A discussion of issues towards which CODATA should focus its attention in upcoming years resulted in the following:

- Development of semantics and vocabularies;
- Exploration of the issue of big data and “deep” data;
- Mapping the landscape of bodies involved in data activities;
- Supporting science for disaster avoidance and recovery;
- Country reporting and evaluations;
- Data citation activities.

### **10.d Data Policy Committee**

Planned activities and the need to expand the group were outlined in the Executive Director’s presentation.

### ***Proposed Resolution on Application of the Principle of the Universality of Science***

The Principle of the Universality of Science (ICSU Statute 5) reads as follows:

‘The Principle of the Universality of Science is fundamental to scientific progress. This Principle embodies freedom of movement, association, expression and communication for scientists as well as equitable access to data, information and research materials. In pursuing its objectives in respect of the rights and responsibilities of scientists, the International Council for Science (ICSU) actively upholds this principle, and, in so doing, opposes any discrimination on the basis of such factors as ethnic origin, religion, citizenship, language, political stance, gender, sex or age. ICSU shall not accept disruption of its own activities by statements or actions that intentionally or otherwise prevent the application of this principle.’

In the light of this principle, the 29<sup>th</sup> CODATA General Assembly urges that visa regimes should not make it harder or more onerous to obtain a visa as a delegate for a scientific conference or assembly than it is to obtain a visa as a tourist. Nor should processes be put in place which make it more difficult for delegates from specifically identified countries to obtain a visa.

### **10.e Big Data Working Group**

The success of the Workshop on Big Data for International Scientific Programmes was noted and the intention to scope and take forward activities and a working group in this area was outlined in the Executive Director’s presentation.

### **10.f Data Science Journal**

The Executive Director updated all present on the status of consultations made on behalf of CODATA, to various scientific publishers which principally included Taylor Francis, F1000, Ubiquity Press, Nature Publishing Group and PLOS. He proposed that Ubiquity Press as the preferable option, based on a set of criteria which included (among others) Open Access and Open Data ethos, competitive cost and transparency of Article Processing Charge, interest in data and support for data and software publishing, support of managing editor, support for peer review

process, ability to preserve previous DSJ content, potential integration with CODATA Conference materials etc. The CODATA subcommittee will consider the information presented before making a final decision on the future of DSJ.

The importance of an effective Editor-in-Chief was stressed, and all present were encouraged to consider this issue seriously and send input to the Executive Director.

***Special Resolution: Thanks for contribution to success of Data Science Journal***

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly thanks John Rumble for his hard work on the Data Science Journal to date. DSJ would not have been successful without his dedicated attention and efforts. The General Assembly also thanks Shuichi Iwata, Takashi Kunisawa, Toshihiro Ashino and Mitsutane Fujita and other colleagues from CODATA Japan for their dedication in hosting and advancing the Data Science Journal.

**11. Final Resolutions**

***Special Resolution: Congratulations to the 2014 CODATA Prize Winner***

The 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly congratulates Dr. Sydney R. Hall, who was named the Winner of the 2014 CODATA Prize. Dr. Hall is Emeritus Professor at the University of Western Australia in Perth, Australia, and through life-long leadership has resoundingly produced outstanding achievements in the world of scientific and technical data.

*Meeting closed on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

The newly elected CODATA Executive Committee met briefly following the meeting to discuss possible dates for the 59<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting in 2015 and to discuss other issues of concern. The date for the 2015 meeting was not finalized and so, when chosen, will be communicated by email to all.

**12. Annexes**

Annex One: Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Annex Two: Treasurer's report

Annex Three: CODATA Information Leaflet

Annex Four: Executive Director's Presentation