



Report to National Members and Supporting Organizations CODATA Activities 2010

Dear friends,

It is my great privilege to report to you on the 2010 CODATA activities. This has been indeed another busy year culminating in a very successful 22nd International CODATA Conference held in South Africa in October. Leading up to that event, some of the major highlights at a glance were:

- ✚ **CODATA launched the Polar Information Commons in its continued effort to help preserve and make available the scientific data generated under the International Polar Year.**
During January-June 2009, CODATA held a number of meetings and adopted an outreach strategy, noted by reference in Nature magazine, leading to the launch of the Polar Information Commons (PIC <http://www.polarcommons.org/>) in Oslo, Norway, June 2010. The event was officially launched by Professor Steven Chown, recipient of the prestigious Martha T. Muse award, Director of the Centre for Invasion Biology and a Professor in the Department of Botany and Zoology at Stellenbosch University. The launch was attended by approximately 100 people and the Polar Information Commons (PIC) booth was visited by many dignitaries throughout the week, including HRH Crown Prince Haakon of Norway and HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. For information see <http://www.polarcommons.org/pic-launch-oslo-june-8-2010.php> . For photos we invite you to visit the PIC photo gallery at <http://www.polarcommons.org/oslo-photo-gallery.php>
During 2011-2012, CODATA will continue working in this area through its Polar Year Data Policy Task Group that was approved by our General Assembly in South Africa.
- ✚ **Strengthening collaboration with ICSU**
CODATA, continued its collaboration with ICSU through participation on the *ad hoc* ICSU Coordinating Committee on Information and Data - attending meetings of the Committee in Paris in February and September. The ICSU World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) held its administrative meetings around the 22nd International CODATA Conference in South Africa in 2010. In addition, the WDS-SC organized three scientific sessions within the framework of the scientific conference on *Data Publishing in the context of the World Data System; ICSU World Data System: International Building Blocks; and The ICSU World Data System: a Disciplined or Un-disciplined Initiative?* A special keynote session on Strategic Planning on Data and Information issues took place within the conference preceded by key note presentations from Bernard Minster, Chair of the WDS-SC and Kari Raivio, Vice-President, ICSU. For more information on this and much more see <http://www.codata2010.com/scientific-program.php>.
- ✚ **Collaboration with GEOSS, Global Earth Observation System of Systems**
CODATA, as one of the Co-Chairs of the GEOSS Data Sharing Task Force (DSTF), continued its collaboration with GEO (Group on Earth Observations) leading to the VII GEO Plenary and Ministerial in Beijing, 3-5 November, 2010. The Plenary and Ministerial approved a Data Sharing Action Plan, presented to delegates by the DSTF and adopted the Beijing Declaration: “*Noting with particular satisfaction, the GEOSS Data Sharing Implementation Guidelines and Action Plan and the establishment of the operational GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI), which significantly improves access to global Earth observation data and resources*”. Immediately preceding these meeting on the 2nd of November, CODATA organized, in collaboration with the Asian Pacific Network (APN) and Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth(CEODE) a **Symposium on the Data Sharing Action Plan for GEOSS and the Benefits of Data Sharing**. For more information see <http://www.codata.org/GEOSS/Index-agenda%2002112010.html>
- ✚ **Building and Strengthening Scientific Activities**
CODATA's Scientific Agenda for 2010-2012 was strengthened by the approval of 11 International Scientific Task Groups and the extension of two Working Group by the 27th CODATA General Assembly in October.
The Task Groups address the following areas:
Anthropometric Data and Engineering,
Data at Risk,
Data Citation Standards and Practices,
Data Sources for Sustainable Development in SADC Countries,
eGY Earth and Space Science Data Interoperability,
Exchangeable Materials Data Representation to Support Scientific Research and Education,



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Fundamental Physical Constants,
Global Information Commons for Science Initiative-EU Activities,
Global Roads Data Development,
Polar Year Data Policy and Management,
Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in Developing Countries (PASTD).

Working Groups:

Documentation, Archiving and Open Access to Disaster Information,
Young Scientists' Activities.

CODATA Prize Award Recipient 2010

CODATA is delighted to announce that the recipient of the CODATA Prize award 2010 is Paul F. Uhler, J.D. http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/brdi/PGA_045727. The award acknowledges his outstanding achievements on the world stage in scientific data research, policy and management issues while simultaneously nurturing international cooperation and highlighting the many challenges facing data scientists on a global level. As a worldwide scholar in scientific data and information policy and law he has dedicated himself to international cooperation for enhancing open access to and application of scientific data for more than 20 years. Paul was honoured for his achievements at the CODATA Conference in October.

Newly appointed Officers and Executive Committee

The 27th CODATA General Assembly elected Professor GUO Huadong, Chinese Academy of Sciences China as President for the period 2010-2014. Dr. Takashi Gojobori, Japan and Dr. Fedor Kuznetsov, Russia were elected Vice-Presidents for the same period. The complete list of the newly elected Executive Committee can be found on <http://www.codata.org/about/executive-committee.html>

CODATA International Conference 2010 and 27th CODATA General Assembly

Our work in 2010 culminated in the 22nd International CODATA Conference held near Stellenbosch, South Africa in October. It was an outstanding success. The conference was immediately galvanised by a powerful address from the South African Minister for Science, Naledi Pandor. See <http://www.codata.org/10Conf/N.%20Pandor's%20Speech.pdf>. An excellent report on the Conference was prepared by CODATA IUCr Delegate, Brian McMahon and can be consulted on <http://www.iucr.org/resources/data/meeting-reports/codata-2010>. The Conference was immediately followed by the CODATA General Assembly where the CODATA Strategic Plan 2006-2011 was discussed and headway was made on the development of CODATA's next Strategic phase 2012-2016.

These are only some of the highlights of CODATA activities over the last year. More information, including a photo gallery of the Conference, can be found on our recently updated website at <http://www.codata.org>

Finally, on a personal note, my term as President finished at the close of the 27th CODATA General Assembly. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our National Members and Supporting Organizations for your support and collaboration, in particular over the last four years. It has been an honour and privilege for me to serve as President. I know I am handing the reins of command to an excellent and outstanding scientist in Professor GUO Huadong who will, through his commitment and dedication, ensure that CODATA continues to assert a visible and effective strategic leadership role, in relation to the policies, management and stewardship of scientific data and information.

Again many thanks for your support and the very best wishes to you and your colleagues for 2011.

Best regards,

Dr Krishan Lal
President CODATA