

25th CODATA General Assembly, 26-27 October 2006, Beijing

National Member Report – Canada

1. Activities of the Canadian National Committee for CODATA (CNC/CODATA)

National Consultation on Access to Scientific Research Data

CNC/CODATA and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) led the organizing of a *National Consultation on Access to Scientific Research Data* (NCASRD), which was held 22-23 November 2004 in Ottawa. Partnerships were arranged with the three major funding agencies in the natural and medical sciences to finance the venture and a blue-ribbon Task Force met in June 2004 to give oversight. The main work of the Consultation was conducted at a national Forum consisting of about fifty invited scientists. The Science Advisor to the Prime Minister opened the Forum, and the Presidents of the partner agencies were present as well. The formal objective of the NCASRD *is to help Canada maximize the value received from its publicly funded natural and medical sciences research by recommending an appropriate framework, including guidelines, which will facilitate open and long-term access to data coming from that research.* The recipients of the framework and guidelines will be the partnering agencies and appropriate government departments. Information about NCASRD is available at: http://ncasrd-cnadsr.scitech.gc.ca/home_e.shtml.

The final report of NCASRD was released in January 2005 and can be found at: http://ncasrd-cnadsr.scitech.gc.ca/NCASRDReport_e.pdf. It is also available in French at http://ncasrd-cnadsr.scitech.gc.ca/NCASRDReport_f.pdf. The report recommended the creation of a Task Force and identified 18 specific areas of action and concern. Identification of the Task Force leader was the first priority but has been unfortunately delayed.

Sangster Award

CNC/CODATA instituted this award as a means of stimulating interest of young Canadian scientists in data activities. Dr. James Sangster of Sangster Research Laboratories, who has been a long time member and supporter of CODATA at both national and international levels, funds the award. It is targeted at graduate students whose field of study supports the goals and activities of CODATA. The award, up to a maximum of CAN \$3000, covers costs associated with the winner attending the next CODATA Conference and presenting a paper. The 2004 winner, Mr. Jau-Hsiung Wang, gave his paper at the 19th CODATA Conference in Berlin, and the 2006 winner, Mr. Bo-Yong Liang, will in turn give his paper at the 20th CODATA Conference in Beijing. Applications for the award were received from graduate students attending universities across Canada and the responses indicated that data activities within Canada are in very healthy shape for the future. More details concerning the Award may be found at: http://www.codata.org/canada/sangster/sangster_e.shtml.

Annual Meetings

CNC/CODATA continued its practice of annual meetings with one in October 2005 and the next in September 2006. Both were held in Ottawa, the capital of Canada, and attracted near record numbers of participants (both Members and guests). As a means of extending CNC/CODATA's reach into the Canadian community, these annual meetings are also open to representatives from the national Committees of ICSU related organizations to which Canada is affiliated. This has proven to be an effective means of communication.

2. World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

In 2004, we had mentioned that detailed comments on the draft recommendations from a scientific and data management perspective were given to the Canadian WSIS representatives. In particular our Delegates were briefed on the scientific community's concerns and on our efforts to promote access to scientific data coming from publicly-funded research grants. In addition the Canadian WSIS representatives were not only informed about the NCASRD initiative but were also invited to participate.

Although CNC CODATA did not have its own representative attend either the Geneva or Tunis conferences, it kept informed about the issues discussed, mainly through the activities developed under the CODATA umbrella, and three of its members/observers plan to attend the UNESCO WSIS follow-up entitled Consultation meeting on WSIS Action Line C7 "E-Science" in Beijing on October 21st, 2006. It thus intends to monitor closely with the other stakeholders the progresses being made toward the implementation of an E-Science.

3. Publications

One of the chief products of the Committee is the preparation and production of its biannual *Report on Data Activities in Canada*. A snapshot, rather than an exhaustive survey, of data-related activities, this report also exists in database form, thereby greatly facilitating updating and production. It is distributed in hard copy to the CODATA General Assembly as well as to all Canadian recipients of the CODATA Newsletter. The report for 2006 is posted, along with previous reports, on the CNC/CODATA web site at (<http://www.codata.org/canada/> and, in particular, http://dac.cisti.nrc.ca/data_activities.cfm).

The CODATA Newsletter continued to be sent by the Committee to some 350 addresses in Canada. Furthermore, the Committee maintains a general web site which contains not only items of Canadian interest but links to the main CODATA site.

Canada continued to host the main CODATA web site as it has done since the site's inception. It may be seen at <http://www.codata.org>.

4. Organization

CNC/CODATA is sponsored by the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI, <http://cisti.nrc.gc.ca>), part of NRC. Sponsorship includes the

provision of a small secretariat, including the part time services of an Executive Secretary and Secretary, costs for the annual meetings, postage charges for the Newsletter and hosting of the web site. The International Relations directorate of NRC's Corporate Services pays dues for Canadian membership in CODATA.

The Committee's mandated six regular members are selected from the Canadian scientific and technical community to represent as broadly as possible the disciplines served by CODATA as well the geographic expanse and linguistic diversity of our country. Travel and subsistence expenses to the annual meeting are provided by CISTI to regular members from the non-profit sector. In addition, the Committee is fortunate to be able to expand its influence and input by drawing upon a number of observers. (Appendix A is a listing of the current roster of regular members and observers.) The official Delegate to CODATA is usually, although not necessarily, the Chair of the Committee.

Liaison with CODATA's scientific program and activities is assisted by enlisting Canadian members of CODATA Task Groups, Commissions and Committees to take part in the annual meetings of CNC/CODATA. Current involvement in these groups is summarized in the following table:

Task Group/Commission/Committee	Representative	Participation level
Access to Biological Collection Data	Dr. Guy Baillargeon	Member
Anthropometric Data and Engineering	Dr. Eric Paquet, Mr. Marc Rioux, Dr. Zouhour Ben Azouz	Members
Data, Information and Visualization	Prof. P. Mezey	Member
Data on Natural Gas Hydrates	Dr. J. Ripmeester	Member
Data Sources in Asian-Oceanic Countries		
Fundamental Constants	Dr. Barry M. Wood	Member
Global Species Data Networks	Dr. Guy Baillargeon	Member
Low dimensional (including nano scale) materials and technologies data network		
Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in Developing Countries	Dr. D.R. Fraser Taylor	Member
Virtual Laboratories in Earth Physics and Environmental Sciences		
Scientific Activity Advisory Board	Dr. G. H. Wood	Member
CODATA Executive Committee	Dr. Michel Sabourin	Member

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michel Sabourin
Canadian Delegate to CODATA

Appendix A
CNC/CODATA - Members and Observers – as of October 1, 2006

MEMBERS	OBSERVERS
<p>Dr. Denise Clark Associate Professor Department of Biology University of New Brunswick Bag Service 45111 Fredericton NB E3B 6E1 Tel: 506-452-6193 Fax : 506-453-3583 E-mail: clarkd@unb.ca</p>	<p>Dr. Gisele Amow Defence Scientist, Air Vehicle Research Section Defence Research and Development Canada c/o National Research Council Canada 1200 Montreal Road, Bldg. M-12, Room 238 Ottawa ON K1A 0R6 Tel: 613-991-2615 Fax: 613-991-2384 E-mail: gisele.amow@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca</p>
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