



Highlights of CODATA Activities 2012

Dear friends,

2012 was indeed another busy year for CODATA culminating in a very successful 23rd International CODATA Conference that took place in Taipei in October. Leading to the event some of the major highlights at a glance were:

ICSU-CODATA Workshop on Description of nano-materials

The workshop, with the support of the French Government, took place on 23-24 February 2012 in Paris. It addressed issues associated with developing systems for describing materials on the nanoscale. In attendance were representatives of International Scientific Unions, ISO Technical Committee 229 on Nanotechnology, industry, government, academia and the OECD. Read more about it in the CODATA Newsletter http://www.codata.org/resources/newsletters/Newsletter_103.pdf. Since the workshop, a joint CODATA/VAMAS (Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standards) working group has been established with the objective of developing a pre-normative White Paper setting out the requirements for a description system for materials at the nanoscale, based on the needs of all scientific and technical disciplines on an international and multi-lingual basis.

Forging collaboration with ICSU World Data System (WDS)

A Joint CODATA/WDS session on **Data Challenges for Global Sustainability** was organized within the International Conference **Planet Under Pressure**, London, March 2012 http://pressure.sparks.co.uk/pup_session.asp?19113, A joint CODATA/WDS session on **Data Challenges for Sustainable Development** <http://www.codata.org/Rio/Rio20%20Side%20Event.pdf> was convened within the framework of the **Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development**, 11-15th June 2012 <http://www.icsu.org/rio20/science-and-technology-forum>. This took place before the RIO+20 Summit. WDS-led sessions were organized within the framework of the 23rd international CODATA Conference focussing on data publication and citation issues. Discussions are proceeding with a view to strengthen and build on this collaboration as we move into 2013.

Developing collaboration with Future Earth: A Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability

CODATA participated at a recent meeting of **Future Earth: Global Earth Change Community Workshop** held at UNESCO, Paris. <http://www.icsu.org/future-earth/whats-new/events/gec-project-workshop>. **Future Earth** is being established by a partnership for global sustainability including researchers, funders and users of knowledge. CODATA and WDS chaired a Data Management Break-out Session within the workshop to discuss data management requirements and challenges of **Future Earth**. A report on the Session was presented at a plenary <http://www.icsu.org/future-earth/whats-new/events/gec-project-workshop>.

International Training Workshop for Developing Countries on Scientific Data Management and Sustainable Development (Co-sponsored by CODATA and Chinese Academy of Sciences)

This Workshop was held at the Computer Network Information Center (CNIC) in Beijing, July 2012. All the participants were engaged in scientific data research and came from developing countries, including Vietnam, India, Afghanistan, Thailand, Mongolia, Nepal, Indonesia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. For more details see <http://www.codata.org/archives/2012/index.html>.

Strengthening collaboration with GEOSS, Global Earth Observation System of Systems

CODATA, one of the Co-Chairs of the GEO Data Sharing Working Group (DSWG), continued its collaboration with GEO leading to the IX GEO Plenary Brazil in November, 2012. <http://www.earthobservations.org/geo9.shtml>. A special side event highlighting the work of the DSWG took place on 21st November followed by a cocktail hosted by CODATA.

CODATA Task Groups 2012-2014



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CODATA's Scientific Agenda for 2012-2014 was strengthened by the approval of 12 International Scientific Task Groups at the 28th CODATA General Assembly. (Details can be found [here](#))
Advancing Informatics for Microbiology; Anthropometric Data and Engineering; Data at Risk; Data Citation Standards and Practices; Earth and Space Science Data Interoperability; Exchangeable Materials Data Representation to Support Scientific Research and Education; Fundamental Physical Constants; Global Information Commons for Science Initiative (GICSI); Global Roads Data Development; Linked Open Data for Global Disaster Risk Research (LODGD); Octopus: Mining Space and Terrestrial Data for Improved Weather, Climate and Agricultural Predictions; Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in/for/with Developing Countries (PASTD)

CODATA Prize Award Recipient 2012

The recipient of the CODATA Prize Award 2012 is Michael F. Goodchild. The award acknowledges his outstanding achievements on the world stage to Geo-information Science. He defined Geographic Information System as a science, a system technology, a discipline and an applied problem-solving methodology. More information can be found on <http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/~good/>.
Congratulations Mike!

Newly appointed Officers and Executive Committee

The CODATA Executive Committee for 2012-2014, as elected by the 28th CODATA General Assembly, can be found on <http://www.codata.org/about/executive-committee.html>. Congratulations to Sara Graves, U.S. who was elected Secretary General and John Broome, Canada who was elected Treasurer. This group will be responsible in overseeing the implementation of the CODATA Strategic Plan 2013-2018 as approved by the Assembly delegates in Taipei.

New CODATA Members

CODATA is delighted to welcome Mongolia, represented by the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, as a new member in 2012. Finland and Czech Republic will also come on board as new members in 2013.

CODATA International Conference 2012

The organisation's work in 2012 culminated in the 23rd International CODATA Conference hosted by the Academy of Sciences located in Taipei. It was an outstanding success attended by approximately 300 scientists from around the world. Full details on keynote speakers and all sessions can be found on <http://codata2012.tw/> CODATA would like to take the opportunity to thank the Academy of Sciences located in Taipei and the local organization committee who were directly responsible for this very successful event.

Launch of CODATA@45 years

CODATA launched the publication **CODATA@ 45 years** in Taipei. This publication is a brilliant resource document highlighting CODATA's major work since it was established. It can be downloaded on <http://www.codata.org/about/CODATA@45years.pdf>. Paper copies may be obtained from the Secretariat.

These are only some of the highlights of CODATA activities over the last year. More information can be found on our recently updated website at <http://www.codata.org>. Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you our members. None of the above mentioned highlights could have been achieved without your support. We look forward to working with you in 2013.

In the meantime, the very best wishes to you and your colleagues for the season.

Best regards,

Huadong GUO, CODATA President