

CODATA

Newsletter 94

Committee on Data for Science and Technology

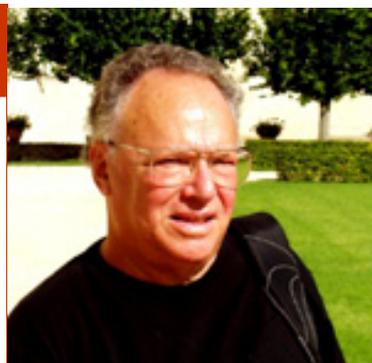
CODATA Announces the Appointment of Professor Paul A. David to its Executive Committee

CODATA is very pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Paul A. David to its Executive Committee. Senior Fellow - Oxford Internet Institute, Senior Fellow - Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, Professional Fellow of Merit - University of Maastricht and member of the Board of Directors of Saint Gobain are but some of the professional hats Paul wears. More information on his profile, including publications, can be found on <http://www-econ.stanford.edu/faculty/david.html>

June 2007

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As an Executive Committee Member, Paul will take the lead, on behalf of CODATA, to develop the *Global Information Commons for Science Initiative (GICSI), Europe*. As many of our readers are aware, GICSI was launched by CODATA, in collaboration with other international scientific organizations at the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, WSIS which took place in Tunis in November

2005. The idea of the Initiative was conceived at an international workshop held in UNESCO, Paris, in September 2005, co-organized by Paul David and Paul Uhlig. See <http://www.codataweb.org/UNESCOmtg/index.html>. A series of follow up meetings on the Initiative took place in 2006- most notably in Dublin, Brussels, Washington and Beijing. Paul David participated in many of these follow up meetings and he was the lead organizer of the meeting in Brussels. This meeting brought together many people from the European Commission, representatives of leading Academic European institutions and organizations to focus, within a European perspective, on the issues that GICSI is striving to address.

Given his understanding of GICSI, his academic reputation of the issues within the European Research Area, indeed his understanding of the European Research Area itself and based on his previous collaboration with CODATA, the 52nd Executive Committee saw Paul David as an obvious choice to take the lead on the development of GICSI within Europe.

CODATA is very pleased that he has accepted this challenging role. He will be supported by a small working group, yet to be appointed, who will work with him on the development of the GICSI, EU activities.

Welcome on board Paul! ☐

The Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) was established in 1966 by the International Council for Science (ICSU). The mission of CODATA is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society by promoting improved scientific and technical data management and use.

<http://www.codata.org>
<http://dsj.codataweb.org>

Prime Minister of India presents the “S.K. Mitra Birth Centenary Award” to Dr. Krishan Lal

CODATA congratulates its President Dr. Krishan Lal, who was presented with the “**S.K. Mitra Birth Centenary Award**” by the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh. The award honours key individuals for their significant and lifetime contribution to the development of Science and Technology in India. The Indian Science Congress Association has always admired the tenor of Indian scientists – who brave against various odds and still shine as luminaries and set examples for future generations.



Dr. Lal was honoured not only for the key role he plays in the development of Science and Technology – specifically in the area of Physics, but as an institution builder who has shaped the way this area of science and technology should develop in the future.

This prestigious award carries a **Gold Medal**, which was presented to Dr. Lal by the Prime Minister during the inaugural session of the 94th Indian Science Congress which was held at Chidambaram in January 2007. □

Topics of the 21st International CODATA Conference include the following fields of interest:

- The role of the information society in sustainable development;
- Long - term data stewardship and digital preservation: institutional approaches and technical concerns;
- Enhancing the transformation of data to knowledge;
- Information society and innovations;
- Addressing linguistic barriers to scientific data integration and application;
- Organizing disaster and health risk in support of disaster management;
- Regional and global e-science and cyberinfrastructure developments;
- Progress and problems in geoscience data management ;
- Artificial Intelligence applications in science - based decision-making;
- Theory, models and methods of distributed data processing and archiving;
- Data assimilation approaches and the role of interoperability standards in modeling and simulation applications;
- Grid infrastructure and standards for resource sharing across networks and institutions;
- World Data Centers for the benefits of society;
- Sensor webs and networks for real-time monitoring and analysis;
- Lessons learned in the development of virtual observatories;

21st International CODATA Conference News



The 21st International CODATA Conference will take place from October 5th to October 8th 2008. It will be immediately followed by the 26th CODATA General Assembly October 9th –October 10th 2008.

The Conference will take place at the National Technical

University of Ukraine-Kiev Polytechnic Institute. The Title of the Conference is **Scientific Information for Society, from Today to the Future.**

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21st International CODATA Conference News (continued from page 2)

- Development of open access data commons: building links between regional, disciplinary and interdisciplinary initiatives;
- New directions in international scientific data coordination: the role of ICSU and its interdisciplinary bodies;
- Measuring people and their health: scientific and ethical issues;
- Crossing the digital divide: recent progress in improving data management in the developing world;
- The emerging Global Earth Observing System of Systems: technical and policy issues;
- Implementing geospatial data infrastructures: progress at local, national and global levels;
- The Fundamental Constants: cross-disciplinary coordination and standards issues;
- Developing community databases: lessons from biodiversity, geochemistry, neurology and health;
- The role of data in climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Informatics in energy resource management;
- New frontiers in human science data integration;
- Materials science data and their multidisciplinary applications;
- Data security in Information and communication systems;
- New approaches to data transfer, storage and processing;
- Panel on issues and concerns of data-oriented young scientists;
- Development of curricula in data management and informatics;
- Building a community of data scientists: promise and pitfalls.

Participation of Task Groups, National Committees and Scientific Unions at the Conference is encouraged. More information is now available from the conference website at <http://www.codata08.org.ua/> and the CODATA website at <http://www.codata.org>. ■

CODATA Executive Committee members Professor GUO Huadong, Professor Fedor Kuznetsov, Dr. Krishan Lal (CODATA President), and Professor Mikhail Zgurovsky outside the landmark CODATA building at 51 rue de Montmorency.

52nd Executive Committee Bids Adieu to Hotel de Noailles!

The 52nd Executive Committee took place in Paris on 26th and 27th of March 2007. Although it was the first meeting of the Committee since it was elected at the CODATA General Assembly in Beijing in 2006, it was the last Executive Committee meeting to take place at current CODATA headquarters, otherwise known to many as Hotel de Noailles. The International CODATA Secretariat will be moving, with the International Council for Science, ICSU, and the Scientific Committee on Problems with the Environment, SCOPE, to a new location in Paris, 5 rue Auguste Vacqueri, near the Arc de Triomphe, later this year.

To mark the occasion, CODATA President, Professor Krishan Lal hosted a cocktail in the building on the evening of the 26th of March. It is indeed a nostalgic period for CODATA as Hotel de Noailles has housed its International Secretariat since the organization moved from Germany in the late 70's and it has hosted many, many CODATA meetings and CODATA social events since then.

If that hushed and hallowed building could talk, revealing the conversations and discussions that took place over the years between good friends, it would no doubt produce a wealth of historic information that was never recorded in books, floppy discs, memory sticks.....

For CODATA the move should mark a celebration of the past and open a new and exciting chapter in the evolution of our organization. ■



CODATA 2006 Conference Proceedings

Volume 6 of the *Data Science Journal* now contains 23 of the accepted conference papers. Additional papers will be released and added to Volume 6 as the review and editing are completed. View the papers and additional information about the *Journal* here:

<http://dsj.codataweb.org>.

Additionally, many of the presentations given are now available online in PPT and PDF formats at

<http://www.codata.org/06conf/index.html> ■

Delegation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences visits Columbia University, New York, May 2007



Professor LU Yongxiang (center), Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress China and President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS); Professor GUO Huadong (left), Vice Secretary-General of CAS and member of the CODATA Executive Committee; and Dr. Robert CHEN (right), Director of CIESIN and Secretary-General of CODATA. ■

Congratulations to Dr. Robert Chen

CODATA would like to congratulate its Secretary General, Dr. Robert Chen, on his recent appointment as Director of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN).

For more information see:

[Dedicated Geographer Takes Helm of Center for International Earth Science Information Network](#) and <http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu> ■

It is with great sadness to tell you that Professor Akira Tsugita, former Vice-President of CODATA, passed away on 31 May. An obituary on Akira will be included in the next Newsletter.

2006 Fundamental Constants

The 2006 CODATA Adjustment of the Fundamental Constants is completed and the results are now available on the web at <http://physics.nist.gov/constants>

The numbers reflect the decisions and procedures that were discussed at the last CODATA Fundamental Constants Task Group meeting in Italy. ■

Upcoming Events

ISGI 2007
2nd International CODATA Symposium on Generalization of Information
Geneva (Carouge), Switzerland
October 1-3, 2007
<http://www.codata-germany.org/ISGI>

PV 2007
Ensuring Long-term Preservation and Value Adding to Scientific and Technical Data
DLR Oberpaffenhofen/Munich, Germany
October 9-11, 2007
<http://www.pv2007.dlr.de>

LCL 2007
International Symposium on LandCover Logic:
From Sensors to Cartographic Products and Business Processes
Berlin, Germany
November 29/30, 2007
<http://www.codata-germany.org/LCL> ■

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