Creating the
Global Information Commons for Science

Why is a Global Information Commons for Science Initiative needed?

From a scientific perspective, access to and use of scientific data and information have never been more important for the progress of society.

The rapid advances in digital technologies and networks over the past two decades have significantly altered and improved the ways that data and information can be
- **produced,**
- **disseminated,**
- **managed, and**
- **used**

both in science and in many other spheres of human endeavour, particularly for societal development.

The adoption of many promising new open access initiatives from the bottom up, coupled with the recent introduction of some new top-down legislative and policy proposals in many countries, make this an appropriate time to undertake a comprehensive review of what has been learned, and to develop an integrating framework and vision for the future.

The International Workshop

The seed of the Global Information Commons for Science Initiative was planted at an international workshop in Paris on 1-2 September 2005 on the theme "Creating the Information Commons for Science: Toward Institutional Policies and Guidelines for Action." This event was organised by CODATA with the joint sponsorship of ICSU, ICSTI, INASP, UNESCO, and TWAS, and with the collaboration of the OECD.

The Global Information Commons for Science Initiative is currently being developed through consultations among these organizations. A special roundtable discussion on the development of the Initiative will take place at a Satellite event in Tunis on Monday 14th November at 11am.

**For more information:
http://www.codata.org/wsis/index.html**

The Global Information Commons for Science

The ***Global Information Commons for Science*** is a multi-stakeholder Initiative arising from the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in November 2005.

The Initiative has the following goals:

- Improved understanding and increased awareness of the **societal benefits** of easier access to and use of scientific data and information, particularly those resulting from publicly funded research activities;

- Wider adoption of successful methods and models for providing **open availability** on a sustainable basis and facilitating reuse of publicly-funded scientific data and information, as well as cooperative sharing of research materials and tools among researchers; and

- **Encouragement and coordination** of the efforts of the many stakeholders in the world's diverse scientific community who are engaged in efforts to devise and implement effective means to achieve these objectives, with particular attention to developing countries.
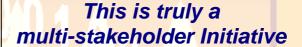
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This is truly a multi-stakeholder Initiative

International Council for Science (http://www.icsu.org/)

International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (http://www.icsti.org/)

International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (http://www.inasp.info/)

Science Commons (http://www.sciencecommons.org/)

The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (http://www.twas.org/)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (http://www.oecd.org/home/)