

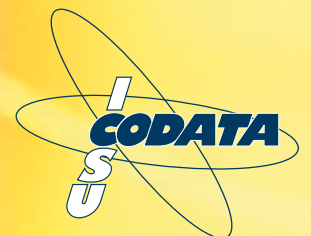
SCIENCE IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Science has a crucial role to play in the Information Society. In preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society, (Geneva 2003, Tunis 2005), ICSU, the International Council for Science and CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology, organised an online discussion forum 10 February to 10 March 2003 on **Science in the Information Society***. 53 articles were posted and 110 registered users participated. Following this event ICSU, CODATA and UNESCO, organised a Workshop on **Science in the Information Society*** on 12 March 2003 in UNESCO. More than 60 invited experts—leading scientists and representatives of international organisations gathered to consider the role of science in the information society. Participants developed an overall **Agenda for Action** for consideration by all parties interested in using information and communication technologies (ICTs) for a better society.

This Agenda has been formally endorsed by 14 International Scientific Academies, 10 International Scientific Unions and 6 International Scientific Organisations.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- >> Ensure that all universities and research institutions have affordable and reliable high-speed Internet connections to support their critical role in information and knowledge production, education and training.
- >> Promote sustainable capacity building and education initiatives to ensure that all countries can benefit from the new opportunities offered by information and communication technologies (ICTs) for the production and sharing of scientific information and data.
- >> Ensure that any legislation on database protection guarantees full and open access to data created with public funding. In addition, restrictions on proprietary data should be designed to maximise availability for academic research and teaching purposes.
- >> Promote interoperability principles and metadata standards to facilitate cooperation and effective use of collected information and data.
- >> Provide long-term support for the systematic collection, preservation, and provision of essential digital data in all countries.
- >> Promote electronic publishing, differential pricing schemes, and appropriate open source initiatives to make scientific information accessible on an equitable basis.
- >> Encourage initiatives to increase scientific literacy and awareness of how to interpret web-based scientific information.
- >> Support urgently needed research on the use of information technologies in key areas, such as geographical information systems and telemedicine, and on the socio-economic value of public domain information and open access systems.
- >> Recognize the important role for science in developing and implementing the new governance mechanisms that are necessary in the information society.



*Further information on the discussion forum and workshop can be found at www.icsu.org and www.codata.org. See also www.unesco.org/wsis.

The following international scientific organisations have considered and have formally endorsed the Agenda for Action

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ACADEMIES

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy
National Academy of Engineering, USA
National Academy of Sciences, USA
National Research Council (NRC), Canada
National Research Council, Thailand
The Academy of Sciences of Moldova
The Chinese Association for Science and Technology (CAST)
The Georgian Academy of Sciences, Georgia
The Royal Society, UK
The Royal Society of New Zealand
The Science Council of Japan
The Scientific Research Council (SRC), Jamaica
The Scientific and Technical Research Council, Turkey
Third World Academy of Sciences

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC UNIONS

IGU - International Geographical Union
IMU - International Mathematical Union
ISPRS - International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
IUGS - International Union of Geological Sciences
IUHPS/DHS - International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science/Division of History of Science
IUPAB - International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics
IUPAC - International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
IUPAP - International Union of Pure and Applied Physics
IUPESM - International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine
IUPsyS - International Union of Psychological Science
URSI - International Union of Radio Science

OTHER SCIENTIFIC ORGANISATIONS

CERN - European Organisation for Nuclear Research
COSPAR - Committee on Space Research
DIVERSITAS - An International Programme of Biodiversity Science
ICTP - International Center for Theoretical Physics
IGBP - International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
WDC - Panel on World Data Centres



the role of science in the information society

CERN, Geneva, 8-9 December 2003

Achieving the agenda's goals will be among the topics addressed at the Role of Science in the Information Society conference from 8-9 December at CERN, the European particle research laboratory, just outside Geneva. ICSU-CODATA, TWAS, and UNESCO together with CERN are co-organising the conference, which will bring together scientists, policy makers, and stakeholders from around the world. Participants will discuss how the benefits of ICTs developed for science (such as the particle physics-driven Web) can be fully realized by all.

<http://www.icsu.org>
<http://www.codata.org>
<http://cern.ch/rsis>
<http://www.unesco.org>
<http://www.twas.org>
<http://www.ictp.trieste.it>

