

Thursday, 23 January 2014

Subject: Call for SciDataCon 2014 International Scientific Programme Committee candidates

Dear Colleagues,

Data are essential to all scientific endeavours. The emerging cultures of data sharing and publication, open access to, and reuse of data are positive signs of an evolving research environment. Nevertheless, several cultural and technological challenges are still preventing the scientific and research community from realizing the full benefits of these trends.

The **Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)** and the **World Data System (WDS)**, **interdisciplinary bodies of the International Council for Science (ICSU)** are supporting and encouraging these positive changes by actively promoting effective data policies and good data management practices in the scientific and research community, to produce better science, which ultimately benefits society. Likewise, the challenges and opportunities of 'Big Data' may have ramifications for the conduct of science: the value and importance of data are being recognized more than ever before.

As a major contribution to this effort, the two organizations are co-sponsoring and organizing a high profile international biennial conference on scientific research data. **SciDataCon** will provide a unique platform bringing together international experts and practitioners in data sciences, technologies and management; researchers from the natural, social, health and computer sciences, and from the humanities; research funders; policy makers and advisors.

The sustainability challenges facing society today cannot be solved without multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on global sustainability that requires the use, sharing and integration of data across scientific disciplines and domains and from international sources. The effectiveness and credibility of this research will rely on the availability to the scientific and research community of quality-assessed and interoperable datasets.

To facilitate the work of international research undertakings—including the Future Earth international research programme on global sustainability launched by ICSU and its partners in 2014—and amplify the message of like-minded global data initiatives promoting data sharing and interoperability—including the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the recently established Research Data Alliance (RDA)—**SciDataCon 2014** will highlight the theme of **Data Sharing and Integration for Global Sustainability**.

The conference will take place on **2–5 November 2014** in **New Delhi, India** and will be hosted by the **Indian National Science Academy**. With high-level keynotes, a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, and a stimulating poster session, SciDataCon is conceived as a focussed—yet inclusive—conference to address the issues most important to the global scientific and research community as they pertain to data and information. The International Scientific Programme Committee will play a key role in implementing the scientific programme with innovative online consultation and input from research and data science communities worldwide.

We invite applications for expert members of the **International Scientific Programme Committee**. Please submit applications no **later than 14 February 2014** using the [online form available here](#).

Yours sincerely,

Huadong GUO
President, CODATA



Bernard Minster
Chair, ICSU World Data System

