

CODATA

Newsletter 89

Committee on Data for Science and Technology

Happy New Year from CODATA CODATA Highlights of 2004

The year 2004 was indeed very busy for CODATA! Amongst the highlights were:



The 19th International Conference, "The Information Society: New Horizons for Science" took place 7-10 November 2004. This three-day event, attended by 260 participants from 28 countries, included 156 paper presentations, 35 poster sessions and eight keynote speakers covering a wide range of topics including access, data archiving, data quality, data and society, and scientific data for economic development, to name but a few. Electronic proceedings will be available on the CODATA website (<http://www.codata.org>) within the next few months. (Read more about the Conference on page 2.)

January 2005

Highlights

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<http://www.codata.org>

The Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) was established in 1966 by the International Council for Science (ICSU). Working on an inter-disciplinary basis, CODATA seeks to improve the quality, reliability, management and accessibility of data of importance in all fields of science and technology.

World Summit on the Information Society: In an effort to reach out to the broader scientific community a special session on WSIS was organized within the framework of the 19th International CODATA Conference. CODATA was delighted to have the President of the WSIS Preparatory Committee for the Geneva Phase, his Excellency Adama Samessekou, as key speaker at this session. Among the organizations present were: UNESCO, Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the International Council for Science (ICSU), and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). There was also a strong representation from many of the National Scientific Academies from around the world.

CODATA Prize award 2004: The 2004 CODATA Prize recipient is Professor Jean Bonnin, President of the Association "Earth Data Network for Education and Scientific Exchange" (EDNES). Professor Bonnin is recognized for outstanding achievement in the areas of geophysics, seismology and geodynamics. The prize was awarded at the opening ceremony of the CODATA Conference in Berlin. More information on Professor Bonnin and his work can be found on <http://www.codata.org/04conf/prize.html>.



CODATA-Sponsored Meetings 2004: CODATA sponsored approximately 10-15 meetings in 2004. Among them were: the CODATA/ERPANET Workshop on the Selection, Appraisal and Retention of Digital Scientific Data (Portugal, December 2003), the Inter-American Workshop on Access to Environmental Data (Brazil, April 2004), and the Workshop on Strategies for Preservation of and Open Access to Digital Scientific Data in China (China, June 2004).

CODATA and KPMG join forces to review Global Biodiversity Information Facility, GBIF: In 2004, CODATA was successful in the bid it submitted jointly with KPMG, one of the world's largest consulting firms, to review the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). CODATA appointed an expert review panel of six people to carry out the review, which began in May 2004 and is scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2005.

CODATA Data Science Journal: Approximately 30 peer-reviewed papers were published in the *Data Science Journal*. This Journal is free and openly accessible to all. For more details on papers published and on the Journal in general, see: <http://www.datasciencejournal.org/>. ■

CODATA 2004: The 19th International CODATA Conference “The Information Society: New Horizons for Science”

The 19th International CODATA Conference was held in Berlin, Germany from 7-10 November 2004, and was the first major international conference designed specifically to address all facets of how the Information Society is creating new and unprecedented horizons for science.

There were 260 participants from 28 countries, including representatives from organizations such as ICSU, UNESCO, IIASA, TWAS, the WDC system, and the African Academy of Languages. Additionally, there was wide participation from the German scientific and technological communities.

Two of the distinguished speakers were Professor Dr. Johann Gasteiger of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany and Professor Yoshiyuki Sakaki, Director of the Genomic Sciences Center at the Riken Institute in Yokohama, Japan. Professor Dr. Gasteiger, a leading innovator in using databases for discovery in chemistry and drug design, gave a presentation on *“Design and Data in Chemistry: The Interplay of Ideas and Facts.”* Professor Sakaki is a world leader in using large-scale genomic and proteomic databases to understand the strategy of life acquired through biological evolution. His presentation addressed *“Comparative Genomics: A Bioinformatics-based Key Approach for Understanding our Genome.”*



Fiona Ellis (CODATA Secretariat) and Horst Kremers (Local Organizing Committee).

Four plenary sessions examined different important aspects of data – data and society, data archiving, data visualization, and scientific data mark-up languages. Amongst the presentations by various leaders in the data community were:

- ♦ Rene Deplanque, *“The Use of Scientific and Technological Data in Today’s Society”*
- ♦ Simone Rieger, *“Towards a Web of Culture and Science”*
- ♦ Roberta Balstad, *“Social Data and Society: Preventing Misuse of Social Data in the 21st Century”*
- ♦ Clifford A. Lynch, *“Digital Libraries and Data Archiving”*
- ♦ Gian Maria Pinna, *“Earth Observation Data: Long-term Archiving and Access”*
- ♦ Milan Konecny, *“Visualization of Geospatial Data”*
- ♦ Bodo Urban, *“Personalized Information Visualization”*
- ♦ Thomas Kirste, *“Ambient Intelligence: The Impact of the Information Revolution on Our Everyday Life”*
- ♦ Brian Matthews, *“The Semantic Web and Science Data Exchange”*
- ♦ Haruki Nakamura, *“XML Description of Protein Structural Data for Data Grid and Computing Grid”*
- ♦ Peter Murray-Rust, *“Chemical Mark-Up Language”*

The parallel sessions on data issues were well attended, which shows the growth of interest in CODATA by the scientific and technological data community. Some sessions had up to 40-50 participants and covered topics such as data quality, infoscience, knowledge discovery, interoperability, data visualization, multi-disciplinary data use and data policy. Each speaker brought significant knowledge about the latest advances in scientific data work.

The CODATA 2004 Prize was awarded to Professor Jean Bonnin at the Opening Ceremony. Professor Bonnin’s current research focuses on IST adaptation for scientific and technological data handling and studies. It includes the projects *“New Methods of Working for IST Programme Promotion to Commonwealth of Independent States”* (WISTCIS) and *“Teleworking as a Tool for Information Society Technologies Program Promotion to Baltic States”* (TELEBALT), which are coordinated by EDNES and funded by the IST Programme of the European Union. CODATA, through its Task Group “Virtual Laboratories for Earth and Environmental Sciences,” participates in the TELEBALT project. This important work encourages EU-CIS teleworking for the benefits of the IST Programme.

The conference also included a very interesting and well-attended session on the *World Summit on the Information Society: The Scientific Road to Tunis*. His Excellency Adama Sammeskeou, President of the WSIS Preparatory Committee for the Geneva Phase,

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CODATA 2004 Conference

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was a keynote speaker and his presentation focused on open access for all. This was followed by presentations from representatives from ICSU and UNESCO describing their WSIS-related activities. In addition, Bertrand de la Chapelle presented WSIS-online.net. This is a community platform to connect all actors addressing the issues of the *World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)*. More information on this platform can be found on <http://www.wsis-online.net>. Wesley Shrum provided an overview of the science-related side events planned for Tunis. These presentations were followed by a roundtable discussion about the issues and challenges related to WSIS with representatives from the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI), TWAS, the U.S. and French Academies of Sciences, and the International Union of Psychology (IUPsyS).

We were entertained at the Tuesday evening CODATA Banquet by a wonderful 16-piece brass pop band, "The Flintstones." We boogied the night away to pop and dance tunes such as Diana Ross's "I Will Survive." A great time was had by all. ■



INASP - <http://www.inasp.org.uk/>
ICSTI - <http://www.icsti.org/>
TWAS - <http://www.twas.org/>
IUPsyS - <http://www.am.org/iupsys/>
US National Academy of Science - <http://www.nas.edu/>
French Academy of Sciences
http://www.academie-sciences.fr/actualites/nouvelles_gb.htm

Attention CODATA 2004 Conference Participants:

Thank you for your participation in the 2004 CODATA Conference! If you have not already submitted your manuscript for the online proceedings to be published in the first quarter of 2005, please do so as soon as possible.

The papers will be reviewed by the CODATA Publications Committee before online presentation.

Submission guidelines can be reviewed here:
<http://www.codata.org/04conf/publguidelines.html>

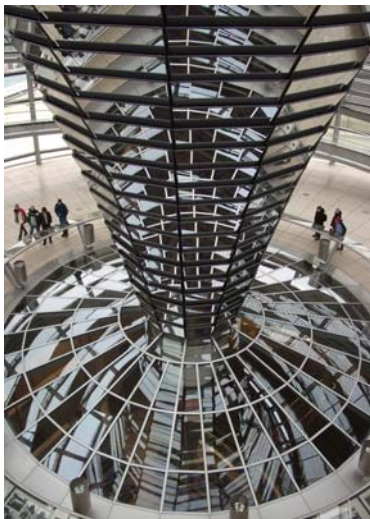
and the electronic proceedings will replace the contents of the current conference website and appear here: <http://www.codata.org/04conf>

Your submission will also be considered for publication in the *Data Science Journal* at <http://www.datasciencejournal.org>.

Also, if you happen to have photos and would like to submit them for possible inclusion in the online proceedings, please contact Cheryl Levey at cheryl@codataweb.org.

There were more than 30 posters presented at the conference, with subjects ranging from Materials Database to Ecological Metadata Standards.

In addition to the conference sessions, there were several outside tours for conference attendees to enjoy, one of which was a short trip to the Reichstag, an architectural marvel of mirrors.



The Reichstag, Berlin

Welcome New National Member

The CODATA family welcomes **Georgia** as a new national member. □

24th CODATA General Assembly

The 24th CODATA General Assembly immediately followed the conference on 11-12 November. Notable decisions coming out of this meeting include:

Appointment of New CODATA Board: The 24th CODATA General Assembly elected two new CODATA Officers and eight members to the CODATA Executive Board.

Officers

President: Prof. Shuichi Iwata (Japan)

Vice-Presidents:

Prof. Alexei Gvishiani (Russia)

Dr. Krishan Lal (India)

Secretary General: Dr. Robert Chen (USA)

Treasurer: Dr. Jean-Jacques Royer (France)

Executive Committee Members

Prof. Helen Berman, USA

Dr. Jean Garnier, France

Prof. Guo Huadong, China: Chinese Academy of Sciences

Prof. Takashi Kunisawa, Japan

Prof. Fedor Kuznetsov, Russia

Prof. Antoni Nowakowski, Poland

Prof. Michel Sabourin, Canada

Prof. Mikhail Zgurovsky, Ukraine

Approval of 10 Task Groups: The 24th CODATA General Assembly also approved the renewal of eight and establishment of two new Task Groups for the period 2004-2006. These groups play a major role in implementing the scientific Agenda of the organization. Among the issues they will address over the next two years are data access issues, data preservation and archiving issues, and data issues and challenges within specific regions of the world.

One new Task Group, *Anthropometric Data and Engineering*, will address anthropometric data and engineering. Anthropometry is the science of human body dimensions. The objective of the group is to create a system called the World Engineering Anthropometry Resource (WEAR). This will unify the data representations and allow easy access to the latest 3D surface anthropometric data from all over the world, along with traditional anthropometric data.

The other new Task Group, *Low Dimensional (Including Nano Scale) Materials and Technologies Data Network*, intends to, among other things, outline the properties of materials and identify groups to stimulate the collection and organization of information on identified materials properties. □

What's Planned for 2005?

Building and supporting the work of the newly appointed and reappointed Task Groups will be a major focus of CODATA during 2005.

Some of the other activities planned are:

- ♦ An international workshop to be held at UNESCO in September 2005 "Moving Towards an Information Commons for e-Science and Innovation: Identifying, Strategic Institutional and Policy Guidelines."
- ♦ Development of an inventory of activities that are currently under way within the scientific community that relate to the Agenda for Action that came out of the WSIS Geneva Summit in 2003. CODATA plans to use several different tools and platforms to bring this inventory together.
- ♦ Highlighting these activities at the Summit in Tunis in November 2005.
- ♦ An International Workshop on *Strategies for Permanent Access to Scientific Information in Southern Africa: Focus on Health and Environmental Information for Sustainable Development*, September 2005.
- ♦ Increased collaboration with international organizations on areas of common interest.
- ♦ Support for the development of the electronic Geophysical Year in 2007-2008. □

Announcing Beijing 2006

CODATA is pleased to announce that its 2006 Conference will be held in Beijing, China. Plans at this point are tentative, but be sure to mark your calendars for October 2006. This will be the 20th CODATA Conference, marking the 40th anniversary of CODATA, so the program will include special tributes to CODATA Then and Now, including topics such as how CODATA started, how far it has come, and what its future plans are for serving the needs of the scientific and technological data communities. If you have ideas, please send them to the CODATA Secretariat at codata@dial.oleane.com. □



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