

# CODATA

## Newsletter 95

Committee on Data for Science and Technology

### **CODATA Participates at the Global Earth Observation (GEO) Summit, Cape Town, November 2007**

*CODATA took a very active part in the recent GEO Summit that took place in Cape Town 27-30 November 2007. These activities culminated a long series of activities dating back to early 2006 when GEO established Task DA-06-01, "Furthering the Practical Application of the Agreed GEOSS Data Sharing Principles." GEO invited its Members and Participating Organizations to help implement the task, which CODATA agreed to do.*

#### December 2007

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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>

In October 2006, in conjunction with the 20<sup>th</sup> International CODATA Conference in Beijing, CODATA convened a meeting of experts to discuss the data sharing task and associated implementation issues. This meeting provided important inputs into the structure and content of a *White Paper on Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles*. Following the that meeting, CODATA appointed an international team of authors and reviewers to draft and refine the White Paper, and to coordinate its activities with various GEO Committees.

In conjunction with the Summit meetings in November, CODATA organized a side-event on 29 November focusing specifically on the White Paper. CODATA Vice-President Steve Rossouw opened the event followed by short interventions from Thomas Rosswall, Executive Director, ICSU; Michael Rast, GEO Secretariat and GUO Huadong, Director General, Centre for Earth Observation and Digital Earth and member of the CODATA Executive Committee. Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz, Director, National Centre for Remote Sensing, Air and Space Law, University of Mississippi, one of the international team of authors who drafted the document, gave an outline of the document and the events leading to the current draft.



*Professor GUO, speaking at the recent CODATA side-event on 29 November at the GEO Summit Cape Town. The event was Chaired by Professor Steve Rossouw.*

## **CODATA Participates at the Global Earth Observation (GEO) Summit, Cape Town, November 2007** (continued from page 1)

This White Paper was highlighted at the GEO Plenary meeting on 29 November as an information document. Professor Gabrynowicz was asked to give a short presentation to the Plenary Members. The document, which will be updated over the coming weeks to reflect the comments of the Delegates, was subsequently discussed at the Architecture and Data Committee meeting of GEO held on Saturday, 1 December. A paper on the follow up process is currently being discussed by the CODATA and GEO secretariats.

CODATA also shared an Exhibition booth at the GEO Summit with ICSU, DIVERSITAS and WCRP.

CODATA would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the authors and reviewers who voluntarily gave their time in bringing this document together. Without their support and commitment to this activity this document would never have come to fruition.

### **Thank you to:**

**Lead Author:** Paul F. Uhler, Director of International S&T Information Programs at the US National Academy of Sciences.

**Core Authors:** Robert Chen, Director, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN); Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz, Director National Center for Remote Sensing, Air and Space Law, University of Mississippi; Katleen Janssen, Legal Researcher, K.U. Leuven, Belgium; Charles Barton, President of the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy; Bernard Minster, ICSU, Chair World Date Centre Panel.

**Reviewers:** Santiago Borrero, Secretary General, Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH); Dora Ann Lange Canhos, CRIA, Centre in Environmental Information, Sao Paulo, Brazil; V.P. Dimri, Indian Academy of Sciences; Yukiko Fukasaku, Director Innvomond, OECD Consultant; Huadong GUO, Vice-President, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Alexei Gvishiani, Director Geophysical Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences; Steve Rossouw, Vice-President CODATA and Fraser Taylor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University. ■

*IUGG Secretary General Alik Ismail-Zadeh (left), CODATA Secretary General Bob Chen (center), and CODATA Executive Committee member Mikhail Zgurovsky (right) in Suzdal, Russia (September 2007).*

## **CODATA Becomes a Partner in a European Thematic Network: COMMUNIA**

In November 2007 CODATA signed a European Thematic Network Agreement with the Politecnico of Turin, Italy on the "Public Domain in the Digital Age." This 36-partner project, known as COMMUNIA, aims to build a network of organizations to become the single European point of reference for high-level policy discussion and strategic action for all issues relating to the public domain in the digital environment. The network will cover the whole geographical territory of the European Union as well as neighboring and accessing countries. It also aims to build strategic relationships with third countries such as the United States and Brazil where similar policy discussions on the above topics are ongoing. The activities of the COMMUNIA Network will include thematic workshops and conferences with a goal of maintaining a strong link between all the participants and use face-to-face meetings as a source of material for the analytical and practical work of the project.

COMMUNIA is funded for three years under the European Commission at a level of one million EUROS. CODATA looks forward to working with the COMMUNIA partners over the coming years. Details on COMMUNIA activities will be available in early 2008. ■

## **CODATA Welcomes the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) to the CODATA Family**

CODATA is delighted to announce that IUGG has formally become a member of CODATA. The recommendation of the IUGG Executive Committee to reestablish IUGG membership was approved at the 24<sup>th</sup> IUGG General Assembly in Perugia, Italy, earlier this year. Dr. Charles Barton, Australian National University, has been appointed the IUGG representative to CODATA.

CODATA looks forward to strengthening its collaboration with IUGG over the coming years. ■



## **CODATA Task Group WEAR Meets in Canada**

*WEAR – making anthropometric data and tools accessible for designers*

WEAR (world engineering anthropometry resource) is an international collaborative effort with the goal to contribute actively to the diffusion and the advancement of knowledge of anthropometry, ergonomics and human factors engineering for health, safety and well-being for all people.

The core group met in Banff (Canada) in August 2007, a meeting supported by CODATA. During this meeting, presentations were given to an audience representing the clothing and automotive industries and academia. The full program can be seen at <http://ovrt.nist.gov/projects/wear/>. There is an increase in the amount of available 3D anthropometric data due to recent surveys in Europe (e.g. France), Asia (Korea, Japan), South America (Brazil) and Australia. In these surveys, whole-body scanners make a 3D copy of the human body with a resolution of about 3 mm. This has the advantage that an endless amount of body dimensions can be calculated from the scans, including shape parameters. An interesting new development presented in Banff is the use of principal component analysis for head scans or whole-body scans. This technique enables workers to identify the most important body characteristics for design. The next meeting will be in Japan: see <http://www.dh.aist.go.jp/event/WEAR/index.php.en>.



## **Call for New CODATA Task Groups 2008-2010**

CODATA is pleased to announce the Call for Applications for New CODATA Task Groups for the period 2008-2010. An explanatory letter from the Secretary General can be found on <http://www.codataweb.org/2008-GA-submissions/newTGletter.html>. The relevant application form can be found on <http://www.codataweb.org/2008-GA-submissions/newTGform.html>. Please note that the deadline for receipt of applications is 31 January 2008. ■

## **CODATA Conference News**

Planning is underway for the 21<sup>st</sup> International CODATA Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine, 5-8 October 2008. Details can be found on <http://www.codata.org/08conf/index.html>. The Call for Papers can be found on <http://www.codata.org/08conf/callforpapers.html>. The Call for Session Organizers can be found on <http://www.codata.org/08conf/callforsessionorganizers.html>. Please note that the deadline for receipt of abstracts and Session proposals is 1 February 2008. ■

## **In Memoriam Akira Tsugita 1928-2007**



Akira Tsugita passed away after his long struggle with chronic pulmonary disease in Tsukuba, Japan, on 31 May 2007 at the age of 78. Professor Tsugita continued to devote himself to his bioscience research, discussing it with his colleagues until just a few days before his death. As he used to say “A scientist never stops doing research until he dies;” he kept his words. His love of science was always infectious and his wit and sense of humor made him a delightful colleague.

Akira Tsugita was born on 18 August 1928 in Okayama, and obtained his Ph.D. at Osaka University in 1958. His brilliant scientific works began at the Virus Research Institute, University of California at Berkeley (1958-1961). He and Dr. Fraenkel-Conrat demonstrated that changes in a RNA sequence caused by nitrous acid resulted in chemical changes in its protein product. Their exciting results helped prove the most important fundamental law of molecular biology, currently known as the central dogma of the direction of genetic information flow, and opened the door to decipher the genetic code. They also determined the complete amino acid sequence of the Tobacco Mosaic Virus coat protein, the next sequencing achievement following Sanger’s work on insulin.

He returned to Osaka University in 1961, and continued to investigate the genetic code using frame-shift mutations in T4 lysozyme. His group determined nineteen *in vivo* codons out of 64 codons. He served as Professor at Osaka University Medical School (1963-1978), where he taught and led a number of students and associates. Towards the end of that time, many universities in Japan were facing great turmoil from student movements, which were spreading from those initiated in the United States, triggered by protests to the Vietnam War. Tsugita avoided these difficulties by moving to Europe.

In 1978, Professor Tsugita was appointed Professor at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany, where he made very important contributions to the rapid analysis of amino acid sequences. In 1985, he returned back to Japan to take the position of Professor at the Science University of Tokyo, where he developed both the high-sensitive N-terminal and C-terminal amino acid sequencing methods.

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## **In Memoriam Akira Tsugita 1928-2007**

*(continued from page 3)*

Akira Tsugita has been admired, not only for his important scientific contributions, but also as a powerful facilitator in bringing together people from different countries to advance the field of protein chemistry.

At the request of the late Professor Kotani, Professor Tsugita joined CODATA, where his contributions were many and with great impact. His first activities were to organize a Task Group on Protein Sequence Databases and to establish an international collaboration for Protein Sequence Databases among PIR (USA), MIPS (Germany) and JIPID (Japan). This Task Group initiated a Springer international journal ***Protein Sequence and Data Analysis*** in order to encourage protein chemists.

While the Task Group was functioning, patents were filed for cDNA sequence data. Task Group members thought patenting cDNA would have negative effects in the advancement of science and pushed CODATA and its parent body ICSU to protest. In 1992, ICSU released a statement "ICSU opposes attempts to patent cDNA sequences." Tsugita later chaired two additional task groups: Biological Macromolecules and Data Sources in Asia-Oceanic Countries. He served as an EC member (1986-1992) and as a vice-President (1992-1996, 1998-2002).

After his retirement from the Science University of Tokyo in 1998, Tsugita served as President of the Proteomic Research Laboratory in Tsukuba. He also was the inspiration and driving force behind the inception of the Asia-Oceania Human Proteome Organization (AOHUPO). From its modest beginnings at a small workshop in Tsukuba in the mid-90s, AOHUPO is now an internationally recognized organization with membership of 16 countries around the Pacific Rim. Undoubtedly, its success is a testament to Akira Tsugita's insight and ability to foster international communication for scientific progress.

The scientific community will certainly sadly mourn his loss. ☐

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## **Call for Nominations for Outstanding Achievement in the World of Scientific and Technical Data**

CODATA is pleased to announce the Call for Nominations for The CODATA Prize 2008.

This award:

- Acknowledges outstanding achievement in the world of scientific and technical data (S&T);
- Is for a one time achievement or an achievement over time;
- Is given preferentially to an individual;
- Recognises work carried out in fields of importance to S&T data, such as data management, evaluation, dissemination, access issues, international cooperation, knowledge discovery, archiving or related subjects.

The CODATA award will be presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> International CODATA Conference, 5-8 October 2008, Kyiv, Ukraine. The recipient of the award will be presented with a specially commissioned piece of sculpture and will also receive financial support to travel to Kyiv to deliver an awards lecture at the CODATA Conference 2008.

Nomination form can be found on <http://www.codataweb.org/2008prize/prizenomform.html>

Deadline for receipt of Nominations is 4 February 2008.



*ICSU, SCOPE, and CODATA staff gather on the last day at Hotel de Noailles, August 2007.*