

56th CODATA Executive Committee Meeting

26th-27th February 2011

CODATA Headquarters

5 Auguste Vacquerie, 75016, Paris

The 56th CODATA Executive Committee (EC) meeting took place on the 26th and 27th February, at the CODATA Headquarters, 5 Auguste Vacquerie, 75016, Paris.

It was attended by the following Officers: Huadong GUO, President; Krishan Lal, Past-President, Robert Chen, Secretary General and Michel Sabourin, Treasurer. The following Ordinary Members attended: Niv Ahituv, Israel; John Broome, Canada; Dora Ann Canhos, Brazil; Antony Cooper, South Africa; Françoise Genova, France, WDSSC; Sara Graves, US; Hiro-o Hamaguchi, Japan; Mark Thorley, CODATA Secretariat: Kathleen Cass, and Cecile Carbonell.

Absent: Takashi Gojobori, Vice-President and Fedor Kuznetsov, Russia.

The resolutions will follow the Agenda as adopted.

Professor GUO opened the meeting and invited all members to introduce themselves and give a brief outline on their expectations as members of the Executive Committee for the forthcoming two years. Some of the important issues that arose from these interventions were:

- Importance of interaction with young scientist and involving them in CODATA activities,
- Importance of addressing data challenges in developing countries and involving data scientists from these countries.
- Importance of raising the profile of CODATA and the DataScience Journal.
- Importance of creating a business model for CODATA that could be used to attract new potential members.
- CODATA needs to clearly highlight externally its vision and what exactly it does
- Importance of reaching out to ICSU Scientific Unions and including them within its activities.

Professor GUO presented his vision for CODATA over the next few years. His welcome and presentation can be accessed on

<http://www.codata.org/exec/index.html> (username: ec password: webstuff)

Resolution 1: Finances

The 56th CODATA Executive Committee congratulates the Treasurer on his excellent and clear presentation of the financial standing of CODATA. Further it approves the provisional income and expenditure figures for 2010 and the budget for 2011 and provisional budget for 2012 as presented. (Details can be found in Annex One and Annex Onebis.)

It further endorses the appointment of the Accountancy firm Mizgala & Partners and instructs them to prepare the audit on an accrual basis for 2010, in consultation with

the Treasurer and the Executive Director. This action is to be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting and a decision made on future audits.

(Actions since the Executive Committee meeting: The Secretariat is currently in consultation with the Treasurer by teleconference and they are preparing all necessary documents for the 2010 Audit including addressing all queries and information requests submitted to CODATA by the auditing firm. The audit is scheduled to take place in May 2011)

Resolution 2: Reserve fund

The 56th Executive Committee accepts and approves the recommendation from the CODATA Officers to commence as soon as possible the process of establishing a CODATA reserve fund equivalent to approximately one year of CODATA operational funds 250 000US\$. It directs the Treasurer in consultation with the Officers to put this in place as soon as possible. It is further agreed that an initial sum of 100 000 US\$ will be placed immediately in the reserve fund. When the fund is established and if an emergency occurs then withdrawal of funds from the reserve between now and the 28th General Assembly is conditional on approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Further the Executive Committee recommends to the General Assembly that access to the fund should be subject to two thirds majority vote by the Executive Committee. If approved, it recommends to the General Assembly that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

(Actions since the Executive Committee meeting: The Treasurer is currently discussing the necessary issues with the auditing firm in order to ensure that the reserve fund is put in place in accordance with the decision of the Executive Committee. The Secretariat is looking into any constitutional issues that will have to be addressed concerning conditions of access to the reserve fund by the Executive Committee)

Resolution 3: Evaluation of CODATA Dues

In accordance and in compliance with the Resolution approved by the 27th CODATA General Assembly concerning the evaluation of CODATA Dues, the 56th Executive Committee hereby appoints the following Committee to examine this issue.

Chair: Michel Sabourin

Members: Antony Cooper

Mark Thorley

Niv Ahituv

The first draft of the findings of the Committee will be circulated to the Executive Committee for its consideration in September 2011. Input will be considered by the Committee and it will then circulate the updated report to the Executive Committee for detailed review and discussion at its meeting in early 2012.

Resolution 4: Membership

In accordance with and in compliance with the resolution approved by the 27th CODATA General Assembly concerning CODATA membership issues, the 56th Executive Committee hereby appoints an adhoc Committee to address these issues.

Chair: Niv Ahituv
Members: Antony Cooper
Sara Graves
John Broome

The first draft of the findings of the Committee will be circulated to the Executive Committee for its consideration in September 2011. Input will be considered by the Committee and it will then circulate the updated report to the Executive Committee for detailed review and discussion at its meeting in early 2012.

(Actions since the Executive Committee meeting: An initial draft of a plan to increase membership was sketched by the Chair and circulated among the ad hoc committee members for improvements and comments)

Resolution 5: Strategic Plan

In accordance with the directions of the 27th CODATA General Assembly the 56th Executive Committee appoints a Strategic Planning Committee charged with carrying out an internal review of the current CODATA Strategic Plan 2006-2012 and the status of its implementation. The Planning Committee is also charged with drafting the next CODATA Strategic Plan 2013-2018 for discussion and approval by the 28th CODATA General Assembly in 2012.

Chair: Robert Chen
Members: Mark Thorley
John Broome
Niv Ahituv
Dora Ann Canhos
Antony Cooper
Françoise Genova
Takashi Gojobori

Major Action deadlines of the Committee

September 2011: Internal Review of the current CODATA Strategic Plan to be complete.

September 2011: Identify new priorities/themes for the next Strategic Plan

Jan/Feb 2012: 1st Draft of the next Strategic Plan to be completed. Circulation of 1st draft to CODATA delegates with a request for feed back before the next Executive Committee.

As issues of the Strategic Plan will directly or indirectly impact on considerations that will have to be addressed by the Membership, Funding and Dues Evaluation

Committees, the Executive Committee directs the Secretariat to liaise with the Chairs of these committees in order to synchronise their respective recommendations.

Following on from discussions regarding the International Data Academy the Strategic Planning Committee is tasked with evaluating the impact, role and feasibility of the establishment of an International Data Academy in the context of the overall Strategic Plan of CODATA 2013-2018.

Resolution 6: Funding Committee

In accordance with and in compliance with the resolution approved by the 27th CODATA General Assembly concerning CODATA funding issues, the Executive Committee hereby appoints an adhoc Committee to address these issues.

Chair: Takashi Gojobori (TBC)

Niv Ahituv

Robert Chen

Hiro-Hamaguchi

Mark Thorley

Michel Sabourin: Ex-officio

General Comments:

Following on from the presentation of Deliang Chen, the Executive Committee noted the importance of reaching out to funding agencies in order to source additional funds for the activities of the organization. To this end they welcomed the input from the UK Committee member on this issue. In support of this the following resolution was approved:

Inter-action with Research Funders.

The 56th Executive Committee strongly encourages and welcomes Mark Thorley's proposal to informally explore how CODATA could directly or indirectly liaise with the relevant funding agencies in order to raise scientific data challenges and concerns within this community and how these agencies can contribute towards alleviating these challenges.

(Actions since the Executive Committee meeting: The Secretariat is liaising with ICSU on the feasibility of raising the importance of data scientific issues and data scientific challenges within ICSU initiatives and programs and having these issues raised at meetings involving funding agencies)

Resolution 7: Task Groups

The 56th Executive Committee appoints the following Executive Committee members as liaisons to the Task Groups:

Task Groups

Anthropometric Data and Engineering

Data at Risk

Data Citation Standards and Practices

Data Sources for Sustainable Development in SADC Countries

eGy Earth and Space Science Data Interoperability

Exchangeable Materials Data Representation to Support

T. Gojobori

H. Hamaguchi

N. Ahituv

M. Thorley

J. Broome

<i>Scientific Research and Education</i>	F. Kuznetsov
<i>Fundamental Constants</i>	K. Lal
<i>Global Information Commons for Science Initiative</i>	
<i>EU Activities</i>	F. Genova
<i>Global Roads Data Development</i>	A. Cooper
<i>Polar Data Policy and Management</i>	S. Graves
<i>Preservation and Archiving of Scientific and Technical Data in Developing Countries</i>	D. Ann-Canhos

Further it approves the following funding allocation for 2011:	US\$
<i>Fund Const</i>	5000.00
<i>EU GICSI</i>	2000.00
<i>eGY</i>	5000.00
<i>IPY</i>	2000.00
<i>PASTD</i>	5000.00
<i>Global roads</i>	3000.00
<i>Data Citation</i>	10000.00
<i>Data at Risk</i>	6000.00
Total	38, 000.00

General Comments:

It was noted that although the funding CODATA Task Groups receive for their activities is quite minimal, it does enable the Task Groups to leverage additional funding from other sources. To this end the Executive Committee instructs the Secretariat to follow up with each Task Group in order to identify any additional funding to date, including in-kind contributions it has received for its activities. Concerning the Task Group solicitation and evaluation process, the CODATA Secretariat will liaise with the Secretary General in preparing the Call for New Task Groups for 2012-2014. Following consultation the Secretariat will circulate the draft Call documentation to the Executive Committee for its input and comments at the start of September 2011. It is noted that the Call should be announced in October 2011.

(Actions since the Executive Committee meeting: After consultation with the President, Secretary General and Treasurer, the Secretariat has followed up with each Task Group confirming the EC liaison for the group and its funding allocation for 2011. It is currently following up with each Task Group in order to identify additional sources of funding or in-kind contributions it receives from sources other than CODATA)

Working Groups:

Resolution 7: Ethics Working Group

The Executive Committee welcomes the outline document received from the German Associate Member. It was clear from the discussions at the meeting that CODATA needs to articulate the scope, content and possible deliverables that the group should address. To this end it appoints Antony Cooper and Michel Sabourin, in consultation with Mark Thorley to draft a scoping document for consideration by the Executive

Committee and then liaise with the proposed members of the Ethics Working Group on the feasibility of follow up actions.

General Comments:

The scope, mandate and feasibility of what this group could address were discussed in detail. Given time constraints these were issues that could not be resolved at this meeting-hence the decision to establish a small scoping group within the EC membership structure that would liaise with the proposed members of the working group and identify how to move forward on this very important topic.

(Actions since the Executive Committee meeting: The Secretariat has followed up with the German Associate Member on the outcome of the discussions.)

Resolution 8: Early Career Scientists Working Group

The 56th Executive Committee strongly supports and promotes the activities of early career scientists within its activities. To this end it confirms the continuation of Raed Sharif and Paul Laughton to lead these activities to the CODATA Conference in 2012. Building on the decision of the 27th CODATA General Assembly it instructs the President to officially contact each CODATA National Committee and encourages them to invite an early career scientist to participate on the National CODATA Committee. Further the 56th Executive Committee encourages each Task Group to invite at least one early career scientist to be a member of the Task Group and participate within its activities.

General Comments:

An early career scientist for this purpose is defined as someone under 35 years. In certain cases exceptions may be made but the absolute age limit cannot be over 40. Ideally he/she should have received a PhD or equivalent within the last three years of appointment to the group or committee. Sara Graves was appointed by the Committee to be the EC liaison to the group.

(Actions since the Executive Committee meeting: The Secretariat has followed up with Raed Sharif and Paul Laughton confirming their lead on these activities. It has also followed up with each Task Group concerning the inclusion of an early career scientist within their membership structure and activities. The Secretariat is currently liaising with the President of CODATA and a letter will be sent to all National CODATA Committees within the next few weeks concerning same. Based on information received from Task Groups and National Committees, the Secretariat has commenced a database of names of early career scientists. The objective is that this will be the core group who will lead early career scientists activities leading to the International CODATA Conference in 2012)

Resolution 9: International Training Workshop on Scientific Data Management

The 56th CODATA Executive Committee warmly welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with CODATA China and the Chinese Academy of Sciences in organizing an International Training Workshop for Developing Countries on Scientific Data Management. It encourages collaboration with other groups doing relevant work in

this area- such as the Global Biodiversity Information facility, GBIF, the Digital Curation Center, DCC and the online clearinghouse of current information on best practice for research data management currently being developed by CNC-CODATA in collaboration with IPY and the Scholars Portal at the University of Toronto.

In accordance with the work plan as presented and after consultation with relevant groups as highlighted above a small Steering Committee will be appointed in April-May 2011 to commence work and oversee this activity. It appoints Secretary General Robert Chen as EC liaison for this activity.

(Actions since the Executive Committee meeting: The Secretariat is currently liaising with the President, Secretary General and relevant members of the Executive Committee with the objective of identifying and appointing a Steering Committee by April/May 2011. As soon as the Committee is in place work will commence immediately by teleconference)

Interaction with ICSU

General Comments

The Executive Committee warmly welcomed the participation of Dr. Deliang Chen, Executive Director of ICSU at the meeting. They noted in particular his input concerning data challenges and their impact within the various ICSU initiatives. They welcomed his acknowledgement of the important role of data management planning. Efforts to recognize the potential data challenges from the start of the programme was crucial if these challenges are to be addressed as the programme evolves. The lesson learned from IPY is an excellent example of this. He underlined the importance of having relevant funding agencies on board from the launch of the Programme. The ICSU Initiative on ***Earth System Research for Global Sustainability*** is an excellent example of this through its interaction with the Belmont Forum and IGFA. A special resolution of thanks to Dr. Chen was unanimously approved by the Committee. (See below)

ICSU Strategic Plan

The 56th Executive Committee welcomed the opportunity to provide comments to ICSU on the ICSU Strategic Plan 2012-2017. Members were asked to send their comments to the CODATA Secretariat by Monday 6th March in order to allow time for the Secretariat to co-ordinate a uniform response to ICSU by the March 18th deadline.

(Status of Action since the Executive Committee: Action Complete. The CODATA Secretariat would like to thank the excellent response it received from the Executive Committee. This really assisted the Secretariat in preparing a very strong response to ICSU)

World Data System Scientific Committee

The 56th Executive Committee appoints Françoise Genova, who is a member of the WDSS, as CODATA liaison to the Committee. It strongly encourages and welcomes collaboration between CODATA and WDSS and it looks forward to participation at the WDS first scientific Conference in Japan in September 2011.

(Status since the Executive Committee meeting: Dr. Genova as official member of the Committee and CODATA liaison attended WDSS meeting on 14th-16th March. Kathleen Cass participated in the morning of the 16th March. The importance of collaboration between the organizations was again emphasized and plans to participate at the WDS Conference in Japan are now currently under discussion)

The *ad hoc* Strategic Co-ordinating Committee on Data and Information, SCCID

A general discussion took place regarding this Committee. It was noted that the term of the Committee will end at the next ICSU General Assembly in Rome in 2011 but there was a possibility of renewal for a further three years. The Executive Committee welcomes the fact that Robert Chen and John Broome are also members of SCCID (though it was noted that they did not officially represent CODATA) Kathleen Cass represents CODATA in an ex-officio capacity. The meeting of the *ad hoc* Committee will take place 16-18 March 2011 at ICSU Headquarters.

(Status since the Executive Committee meeting: Robert Chen, John Broome and Kathleen Cass participated at the meeting on 16th-18th March 2011. Kathleen briefly updated the Committee on CODATA activities since SCCID's last meeting in September 2010, including the current status of the CODATA Strategic Plan and the updated version 2013-2018. There was high interest in the progress of CODATA's Strategic Plan and in planning for the updated version. Discussion also took place on coordination issues among ICSU data-related groups in the future. The SCCID interim Report is currently being drafted by the Committee and will be discussed at the ICSU CSPR meeting in Paris the week of March 28th. The final report will contain a number of recommendations directed to CODATA for its consideration. The report will be circulated to ICSU delegates prior to its General Assembly in Rome in September 2011)

ICSU Unions/ICSU Grant/ICSU General Assembly Rome

General Comments

The Executive Committee acknowledges the importance of outreach to ICSU Unions on data related issues. It encourages the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Officers, to continue these efforts. It was acknowledged that if CODATA is successful in securing the ICSU grant under its Grants Program 2011 on ***Harmonization of Data Standards amongst the ICSU Scientific Unions*** this would indeed be a very useful mechanism to support this strategy. As one of the meetings under this project is planned to take place around the ICSU GA in Rome in 2011, this would also highlight CODATA's presence at the meeting.

Rio Summit 2012 <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>

General Comments

Kathleen Cass briefly updated the Executive Committee on ongoing discussions the Secretariat is having with the ICSU Secretariat on possible interaction with ICSU on activities in and around the Rio Summit 4th-6th June 2012. The Executive Committee supported this interaction and directed the Secretariat to keep it updated on proposed activities.

WSIS <http://groups.itu.int/wsis-forum2011/Agenda.aspx>

General Comments

Kathleen Cass briefly updated the Executive Committee on discussions she is having with ITU and UNESCO on this issue and possible CODATA participation at the WSIS forum in Geneva 16-20 May 2011.

(Status of Action since the Executive Committee: Kathleen Cass is currently following up with the Officers and UNESCO on participation at the meeting in Geneva in May.)

Interaction with other Organizations

General Comments

The meeting was briefly updated by the Secretary General on the status of CODATA's activities with the Asian Pacific Network and GEO. The Committee fully supported the current activities and continued collaboration. Concerning interaction with the ICSU Program IRDR and building on the discussions that took place with the Executive Director of ICSU the members welcomed the opportunity to explore possible collaboration with IRDR on data related issues and challenges. It was noted that the first IRDR Conference will take place later this year. Building on this the following resolution was unanimously approved:

Resolution 10: Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

*Given the importance of accurate scientific data in addressing the impact of the ever increasing number of natural hazards around the world, the 56th Executive Committee welcomes the establishment of the decade-long Integrated Research on Disaster Risk programme co-sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC), and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR). It looks forward to collaboration with IRDR. In building this collaboration it instructs the CODATA Secretariat, in consultation with the Officers to explore the possibility of co-sponsoring special sessions within the forthcoming 2011 IRDR conference on **Disaster Risk: Integrating Science and Practice** focussed on the role of scientific data in disaster mitigation.*

CODATA Anniversary

*To mark CODATA's 45th anniversary the 56th Executive Committee endorses the organization of a high level one day scientific meeting "**Data Intensive Science and Discovery - CODATA 45 years on**" immediately prior to the IRDR Conference.*

(Status since the Executive Committee meeting: Kathleen Cass has contacted the ICSU Secretariat and the IRDR Secretariat informing them of these discussions. The IRDR Scientific Committee will meet the end of April in Paris and it is understood that these issues will be placed on their Agenda for discussion)

Resolution 12: Journal

The 56th Executive Committee instructs the President of CODATA, Professor GUO, to set up a meeting with the editor in chief of the CODATA Science Journal and discuss the implementation of the Journal resolution as decided by the 27th CODATA General

Assembly. It further proposes that role of the Journal should be examined in the context of the CODATA Strategic Plan 2012-2017.

Resolution 13: 23rd CODATA International Conference 2012 and 28th CODATA General Assembly

The 56th Executive Committee acknowledges with appreciation the support of our CODATA Colleagues, Taipei in preparing the 23rd CODATA International Conference 2012 and 28th CODATA General Assembly. It directs the Secretariat to follow up with Executive Committee members after the meeting in order to identify suggested dates for the aforementioned meetings. Further, it directs the Secretariat to liaise with the Local Organization Committee in Taipei concerning the following:

- 1. Suggested dates*
- 2. Conference Theme and*
- 3. Venue*

(Status since the Executive Committee meeting: The Secretariat has polled the Executive Committee members and the suggested dates at present are Sunday 28th October-November 2nd 2012. The Secretariat has followed up with the LOC on the suitability of these dates, possible theme for the conference and general logistics and responsibilities)

Next Executive Committee meeting

General Comments

Given time constraints the Secretariat was instructed to poll the Executive Committee concerning suitable dates for the next meeting.

(Status since the Executive Committee meeting: The Secretariat has polled the Executive Committee members and the confirmed dates for the next Executive Committee in 2012 are: Saturday 24th March and Sunday 25th March. The Officers meeting will take place on Friday 23rd March. The location still has to be confirmed and the Secretariat is liaising with the officers on this issue)

Special Resolution of Thanks

The 56th Executive Committee records its appreciation and thanks to Dr. Deliang Chen for his participation at the meeting. It acknowledges the importance of strong collaborative links between CODATA and ICSU in their respective efforts to address the grand challenges facing the scientific community in order to create an environment that promotes the important role of scientific data within society.