



Committee on Data for Science and Technology of the International Council for Science

To the Chair of each CODATA National Committee

Dear Mrs Bonnie Carroll,

I am following up with you on discussions regarding early career scientists¹ that took place at the 26th CODATA General Assembly in South Africa last October and at the recent CODATA Executive Committee meeting in Paris in February. You will find attached to this letter the relevant draft resolutions discussed at both meetings.

Following the successful young scientists activities that took place in Kyiv in 2008 and South Africa in 2010, CODATA is committed to creating an even stronger bridge between CODATA and young data scientists through the activities of its National Members and Task Groups. CODATA would like to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of these events given by the CODATA National Committee in Ukraine and the National Research Foundation of South Africa. This sponsorship was a catalyst in making the events the success they were.

CODATA acknowledges the need for scientists to take part in its activities at an early stage of their careers today as they will carry the mantle of CODATA tomorrow. If any organization is to constructively evolve and successfully meet the challenges of the future then it must incorporate a core group of young experts who will be capable of meeting these challenges.

To this end we would like to invite the CODATA National Committee of the USA to consider appointing an early career scientist to its Committee. As CODATA prepares for its 2012 International Conference in Taipei it would also like to invite each National Committee to consider sponsoring one early career scientist to participate. I would like to highlight here an activity of the CODATA National Committee of Canada. Every two years, the Canadian National Committee organizes a special competition for Canadian graduate students and recent graduates for the "Sangster Award". The winner, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Dr. James Sangster, receives financial support to present their research and participate at the biennial CODATA Conference. You may want to consider a similar competition within your country.

¹ An early career scientist 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 3 years of appointment of the group or committee. However national committees have discretion to use their own definition or modify the CODATA definition if they prefer.

Executive Committee:

President: Huadong Guo, China

Past President: Krishan Lal, India

Vice-Presidents: Takashi Gojobori, Japan and Fedor Kuznetsov, Russia

Secretary-General: Robert Chen, U.S.A.

Treasurer: Michel Sabourin, IUPSY/C/Canada

Elected Members:

Niv Ahituv, Israel – John Broome, Canada – Dora Canhos, Brazil – Anthony Cooper, South Africa – Francoise Genova, France – Sarah Graves, U.S.A. – Hiro-o Hamaguchi, Japan – Mark Thorley, UK

Executive Director: Kathleen Cass



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My sincere wish as President of CODATA is that I can build on the work commenced by my predecessor, Dr. Krishan Lal in this area and that when my term expires in 2014, CODATA will have a strong, thriving, active community of young scientists within its network. I rely on your help and support in making this happen.

Yours sincerely,

Professor GUO Huadong
President CODATA

Cc CODATA Officers

Dr. Sara Graves, EC liaison to the Early Career Scientist Working Group
CODATA Secretariat, Paris.

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Draft Resolutions

27th CODATA General Assembly October 2010, Stellenbosch, South Africa

The 27th General Assembly applauds the activities of the young scientists within the scientific program of the 22nd International CODATA Conference. Further it extends the Young Scientist Working Group for an additional period of two years.

Pursuant to Resolution 5 of the 2010 Executive Committee Meeting, the 27th General Assembly encourages all National Members to appoint one or more young scientist to their National Committee at the next intake of new members. It further encourages that these young scientists participate at the 23rd International CODATA Conference.

56th CODATA Executive Committee Meeting, 2011, Paris, France

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 encourage 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.

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