

CODATA REPORT TO THE IAU

CODATA continues to ramp up initiatives relevant to astronomy, including exploring a number of cross-cutting initiatives in which astronomy can benefit from expertise and processes developed in other disciplines.

Highlights include:

- **New National Members.** Both UK and Australia have joined CODATA in 2008
- **CODATA International Conference Oct. 2008** The 21st International CODATA Conference in Kiev, Ukraine was attended by about 400 scientists from around the world, and focussed on the role that IT plays in cultivating and nurturing an open access environment to scientific data and information. See <http://www.iucr.org/resources/data/meeting-reports/codata-2008> (which includes some highlights of the astronomy sessions) and <http://www.codata.org/resources/newsletters/newsltr97A4.pdf> .
- **Building European Activities in Public Domain data.** CODATA activities expanded under the EC-funded Thematic Network COMMUNIA on the “Public Domain in the Digital Age.” CODATA is taking the lead, in collaboration with other partners of the network, on the second international conference in 2009 on Global Science and the Economics of Knowledge-Sharing Institutions (G-SEKSI). See <http://communia-project.eu/about>.
- **Collaboration with Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).** CODATA continues as scientific lead on GEO Task “Review of GEOSS Data Sharing Principles”, culminating in the GEO-V Plenary in Bucharest in November 2008. See <http://www.earthobservations.org/meetings/geo5.html>.
- **New Task Groups** CODATA’s Scientific Agenda for 2008-2010 was strengthened by the approval of 10 International Scientific Task Groups and 1 Working Group. See <http://www.codata.org/taskgroups/index.html>
- **CODATA Strategic Plan** CODATA’s Strategic Plan for 2006-2011 was endorsed by the 26th CODATA General Assembly in Kyiv, October, 2008. ICSU have requested CODATA to focus its efforts on implementation of the three main initiatives in its strategic plan - the Global Information Commons for Science Initiative, Advanced Data methods and Information technologies for Research and Education, ADMIRE and Scientific Data Across the Digital Divide. See http://www.atnf.csiro.au/people/rnorris/WGAD/CODATA_Plan.pdf

While not formally part of CODATA, the IAU delegate to CODATA also participated in the Strategic Committee on Information and Data of ICSU (International Council for Science), whose report has now been endorsed by ICSU. Amongst other things, the report recommends restructuring of the World Data Centre (WDC) system, and the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical analysis Services (FAGS). This recommendation is now being implemented by the merging of WDC and FAGS into a new ICSU body, the World Data System. It is hoped and expected that this new body will deliver identifiable value to Data Centres and their users. See <http://www.atnf.csiro.au/people/rnorris/SCIDReport.pdf>

*Ray Norris, IAU Delegate to CODATA
30 April 2009*