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*GEO Data Sharing Task Force Meeting, Geneva, 27-28 May 2009*

# Current Status of the Process Paper and Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles

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# Overview of Activities 2006-2007



- **2006: CODATA agreed to lead GEO Task DA-06-01**
  - Held initial expert meeting at the CODATA Conference in Beijing in October 2006 to solicit inputs
- **2007: Developed initial White Paper**
  - Established international core author team and set of reviewers
  - Reviewed past experience with data sharing principles & policies
  - Drafted specific guidelines for implementing the Data Sharing Principles
  - Held discussions with GEO committees
  - Participated in November 2007 Plenary & Ministerial in Cape Town

## **The 2007 GEO Ministerial Summit noted:**

***"We support the establishment of a process with the objective to reach a consensus on the implementation of the Data Sharing Principles for GEOSS to be presented to the next GEO Ministerial Summit"***



- Core Author Group

- Paul F. Uhler, Chair of Core Author Group
- Robert Chen, DA-06-01 lead
- Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz
- Katleen Janssen
- Jack Hill
- Charles Barton

- Review Group

- Santiago Borrero
- Dora Ann Lange Canhos
- V.P. Dimri
- Yukiko Fukasaku
- Huadong Guo
- Alexei Gvishiani
- Bernard Minster
- Steve Rossouw
- Fraser Taylor



# Overview of Activities 2008



- **January:** White Paper updated. Presented at ADC-6 (Uhlir).
- **February:** White paper updated and sent to Reviewers and Task Participants. Added Appendix E to track written comments and changes.
- **May:** Guidelines updated. Presented at ADC-7 (Cass). Guidelines & white paper circulated to GEO Members, POs & committees.
- **July-August:** More comments received from Members in response to May version (Australia, Canada, EC, Germany, Japan, U.S.)
- **September:** Guidelines updated. Presented at STC (Cass), ICEO workshop (Gabrynowicz), ADC-8 (Chen).
- **October:** Data Sharing presentation & discussion at CODATA conference in Kiev in October (Chen, Uhlir)
- **November:** Side event and presentation at GEO-V Plenary in Bucharest (Gabrynowicz, Chen, Cass)
- **December:** Presentation at AGU in San Francisco (Chen)

***GEO-V Plenary Action 21: Establishment of a Data sharing task force to include the current task team and additional GEO Members***



## Other Developments 2009



- **May:** Presentation to CEOS/WGISS meeting, Toulouse (Cass). Interview with J. Achache in CODATA Newsletter (special issue).
- **May-June:** New ICSU Strategic Coordinating Committee on Information and Data established (chaired by R. Harris, Chen a member). New ICSU World Data System-Scientific Committee also appointed (chaired by B. Minster; several members active in CODATA)
- **June:** Session organized at GSDI-11 in Rotterdam (Chen, Onsrud, Janssen, Fitzgerald). Presentation at upcoming COMMUNIA meeting in Torino, Italy (Uhlir)
- **September:** Presentation at ISDE6 in Beijing (Uhlir or Chen)
- **Fall:** Simultaneous publication of White Paper planned in *CODATA Data Science Journal* and *Journal of Space Law*
- **December:** Information Commons presentation in plenary panel at Antarctic Treaty Summit in Washington DC (Chen) – CODATA working with IPY, WMO, and other partners to develop concept of a Polar Information Commons (supported by ICSU grant).



# Proposed Guidelines in 8 Areas



- 1) Promoting implementation of the principle of **full and open exchange of data** in accordance with the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles
- 2) Encouraging GEOSS users to **reuse and re-disseminate** shared data, metadata, and products
- 3) Ensuring **consistency** in the implementation of the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles with relevant international instruments and national policies and legislation
- 4) Implementing **pricing policies** consistent with the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles
- 5) Reducing the **time delays** for making data available through GEOSS
- 6) Promoting **research and education uses** of GEOSS data
- 7) Developing **metrics and indicators** for GEOSS data sharing activities
- 8) Developing effective **coordination and outreach mechanisms** for implementing the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles



# Selected Comments and Issues



- Need to emphasize the voluntary nature of GEO and for non-binding approaches to increase participation and compliance
  - Terminology: some concerned about use of terms that may imply binding commitments such as “Memorandum of Understanding” and “policy”
- Concerns about consistency between existing practices and the proposed guidelines, e.g., regarding reuse and redissemination
- Need for evolution of guidelines and approaches based on experience and new developments
- Clarification of role of national focal points
- Importance of real-time data access in some situations
- Suggestions for new guideline text:
  - Liability
  - Data quality



# Possible Next Steps for Task Force



- Consider modifications to proposed guidelines, possibly including additions or deletions
- Assess the potential impact of the proposed guidelines on Members' and Participating Organization's current data policies
- Solicit additional feedback on data sharing issues with GEO initiatives such as GEONetcast, Global DEM, CBERS data distribution, GEO BON, and GAM and with key partners, e.g., CEOS and IOC
- Propose and implement plans for reaching consensus on guidelines and associated implementation activities
- Interact with new ICSU WDS-SC and SCCID
- Plan for November plenary in Washington DC
- ...