

African Open Science Platform Side Event for Science Forum South Africa

African Open Science Platform: a forum for conversations on data policy, data training and data infrastructure

The Science International Accord on *Open Data in a Big Data World* presents an inclusive vision of the need for and the benefits of Open Data for science internationally, and in particular for Lower and Middle Income Countries. This side event will assess the progress achieved around the Accord and present for discussion an African Open Science Platform initiative, supported by the South African Department of Science and Technology, directed by CODATA and implemented by ASSAf.

The development of an open science and innovation platform depends not only on the physical infrastructure for acquiring, curating and disseminating data and information, but also on protocols, policies and procedures in the science system that provide the structure and support to ensure that science objectives are achieved. An open science platform is conceived as an integrated set of arrangements that provides a policy, capacity-building and infrastructural framework for enhanced accessibility and impact. Above all, the initiative focuses on the creation of Open Science fora through which policies and coordination can be discussed and established.

Several open science activities are underway across Africa, but a great deal will be gained if, in the context of developing inter-regional links, these activities were to be coordinated and developed through such a coordinating initiative. Outcomes of the side event will include input on the approach and opportunities to connect regional partners with the African Open Science Platform initiative.

Date: Wednesday 7 December 2016
Time: 09:00 – 17:00
Venue: Amethyst Room, CSIR International Convention Centre, CSIR Campus, Meiring Naudé Road, Brummeria

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Programme 7 December 2016
Amethyst Room, CSIR International Convention Centre

09:00-09:15	Welcome	Susan Veldsman (ASSAf, South Africa)
09:15-09:30	Science International Accord on Open Data in a Big Data World: introduction and context	Geoffrey Boulton (University of Edinburgh, UK)
9:30 -9:45	Data coordination and the role of the Research Data Alliance (RDA)	Devika Madalli (Indian Statistical Institute, India)
09:45-10:30	African Open Science Platform: introduction, large scale vision, mission and objectives of the DST project; draft framework of activities; discussion	Simon Hodson (CODATA, France)
10:30-11:00	Break	
11:00-13:00	Expert presentations on issues relating to the themes of the Open Science Platform initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White paper for an Open Research Data Strategy in Botswana • Benefits of Open Data and Policy Developments, perspectives from research institutions and universities • Data and communication of research: incentives and disincentives • Data education and skills initiatives • Data infrastructure and research strategy priorities 	<p>Ina Smith (ASSAf, South Africa)</p> <p>Patrick Molotsi (Country Managing Director and Principal Researcher, Joint Minds Consult, Botswana)</p> <p>Joseph Wafula (Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya)</p> <p>Louise Bezuidenhout (University of Exeter, UK)</p> <p>Magdalena Eriksson (AIMS-Next Einstein Initiative, Rwanda)</p> <p>Nodumo Dhlamini (Association of African Universities, Ghana)</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	Unpacking of themes, short framing presentations and group work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National data fora • Coordinated policy development • Incentives and benefits • Capacity building and training • Infrastructure roadmaps <p>Identification of existing activities, opportunities for collaboration with existing initiatives (and North-South and South-South cooperation)</p>	Simon Hodson (CODATA, France)
15:30-16:00	Break	
16:00-17:00	Discussions and identification of next steps	All
	Evening Function: Dinner at Milkplum Café	http://www.milkplumcafe.co.za/

Brief profiles

Louise Bezuidenhout is a researcher from South Africa with PhDs in both the life and social sciences. Her current research focuses on empirical ethics, and uses sociological techniques to investigate ethical issues within the life sciences. Her research interests relate to issues of responsibility within scientific practices, with a particular focus on how scientists interact with the physical, social, and political aspects of their research environments. In particular, her research has focused on how the daily practices of laboratory research influence and shape how scientists conceptualize and discuss their responsibilities towards their colleagues and society. The majority of Louise's research has involved ethnographies of life science laboratories in developing countries, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. In the context of the Center for Theology, Science and Human Flourishing, she will be working as an ethnographer, collaborating closely with Dr. Dori Beeler and Dr. Tom Stapleford. This research will take her to a number of laboratories within the US and the UK to empirically examine the virtues necessary for effective research within scientific laboratories.

Geoffrey Boulton is Regius Professor Emeritus of Geology at the University of Edinburgh and a former Vice Principal of the University. He is chair of the Academic Advisory Council of the University of Heidelberg, a member of the Strategic Council of the University of Geneva, President of CODATA, the ICSU body responsible for the constants of science, and president of the Scottish Association for Marine Science. Until recently, he was a member of the UK Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology, the UK's top-level science advisory body, a member of the Council of the Royal Society, chaired its Science Policy Centre and was principal author of the influential Royal Society Report on Open Science. He was chair of the Research Committee of the League of European Research Universities and author of many of its reports, such as 'What are universities for?' His research is in the fields of environmental geology and glaciology, and he is currently leading a major project on the Antarctic Ice Sheet. He has won many national and international awards for his research and holds honorary degrees from several UK and European universities.

Nodumo Dhlamini is a Zimbabwean by nationality. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science & Mathematics and a Master of Business Administration. She has over twenty-two years continuous working experience in the following: Information and Communication Technology - related sectors - secondary education, banking, railway industry, higher education and agricultural development sectors. She has experience in strategic leadership, management and administration. She has designed and implemented management information systems, supervised and mentored technical and non-technical teams, worked with consultants and monitored the implementation of research projects and other projects related to innovations in education and agriculture. She has coordinated a number of regional events and projects. She is currently the Director of ICT Services and Knowledge Management at the Association of African Universities based in Accra, Ghana. Her responsibilities at the Association include developing and implementing the Association's impact strategy, leading the communication services, supervising publications of the Association, coordinating the Database of African Theses and Dissertations Project, supporting open access to African research outputs and coordinating the Research and Education Networking Unit project.

Magdalena Eriksson is the director of academic development for AIMS. She also assists AIMS' Global Secretariat with academic development and coordination, and assists advancement initiatives in the Nordic countries. Magdalena served as the first Centre Director of AIMS Ghana.

Prior to joining AIMS, Magdalena was the founding head of the Department of Medical Biochemistry at the School of Medical Sciences of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. She

spent many years as an academic research scientist and has extensive experience in partnership building and public engagement programs.

Magdalena holds a Doctorate Degree in biophysical chemistry from Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden, and a Master's Degree from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York City. She is on the board of Molecular Frontiers Foundation, an organisation she helped launch in 2006, and is a queen mother in a traditional village in Ghana.

Simon Hodson has been Executive Director of CODATA since August 2013. CODATA exists to promote international collaboration for Open scientific data. Supporting the mission of ICSU, the International Council for Science, CODATA aims to strengthen international science for the benefit of society by promoting improved scientific and technical data management and use. Related to this role, he sits on numerous project Steering Boards and strategic Working Groups in the area of research data. These include the GEO Data Sharing Working Group, the GEO Data Management Principles Task Force and the Scientific Advisory Board of CESSDA, the European data infrastructure for the social sciences. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Dryad Data Repository, a not-for-profit initiative to make the data underlying scientific publications discoverable, freely reusable, and citable. As well as these strategic activities, Simon is directly involved in hands-on activities and research in a number of data related areas. He is co-chair of the RDA-WDS Data Publication Working Group on Cost Recovery for Data Centres; co-chair of the CODATA-RDA Data Working Group for Data Science Summer Schools in Developing Countries. He is an expert on data policy issues and research data management and has recently contributed to reports on 'Current Best Practice for Research Data Management Policies, A Report for the Danish e-Infrastructure Cooperation and the Danish Digital Library' and on strategic research data management infrastructure development for a consortium of UK research institutions. Simon has a strong research background, as well as considerable project and programme management experience: from 2009 to 2013, as Programme Manager, he led two successful phases of JISC's innovative Managing Research Data programme in the UK.

Devika Madalli is a Professor of the Documentation Research and Training Centre, Indian Statistical Institute, India and Adjunct faculty, DISI, University of Trento, Italy. Prof. Madalli is also the co-chair of the Agriculture Data Interest Group [IGAD], Research Data Alliance [RDA]. Her interest lies in the area of Open Data Repositories and Data Management, Knowledge Organization and application of facetization in Information Systems, Information Infrastructures, Digital Libraries, Semantic Web technologies, Faceted Ontologies, Content Management System, multilingual information services and OERs [e-learning]. She served as a member of a high level evaluation committee of UNFAO statistical database and information services, FAOSTAT. She is a member of the Karnataka Evaluation Authority. She contributed to UNESCO's Global Open Access Portal (GOAP). She is on the advisory board of Universal Decimal Classification. She served as a member of the G8+05 Data infrastructures working group.

Prof. Devika Madalli is a member and consultant to several international organizations, committees and initiatives including UNFAO, UNESCO, OECD, Global Science Forum experts group on International Coordination of Data infrastructures and GSF/CODATA experts committee on Business Models for Data Repositories. She is the CO-PI and member of International research projects including EU FET Living Knowledge and EU Aginfra projects. She served on the advisory panel and scientific committees of several international conferences such as ICADL, MTSR, SCIDATACON LODLAM and ICSD. She serves as a member on editorial panels of prestigious journals such as Knowledge Organization (ISKO), Program and IFLA journal



[issue on Research data]. She is a technical advisory board member [elect] of the Research Data Alliance.

Patrick D. Molutsi is an educationist-sociologist in History and Sociology with concurrent Diploma in Education. He was trained as a High School Teacher but before he could go to teach he was recruited to join the University of Botswana's Department of Sociology as a Staff Development Fellow (SDF). There he was sent for his postgraduate diploma in Population Studies, in University of Ghana, Legon. He proceeded to do M.Phil and D.Phil in Sociology at Oxford University. He also holds a post-graduate Diploma in Public International Law from Holborn College of the University of Wolverhampton, UK. Upon completion of his studies abroad, he returned to UB where he taught for close to 20 years. He left UB when he was Dean of Social Science in 1999 to Head a Research Section of the International Institute for Democracy (IDEA) in Stockholm, Sweden. This international assignment involved supervising a global university research project involving universities in Bangladesh, South Korea, Kenya, Malawi, Peru, Costa Rica and United Kingdom on the subject Research Methodology for Measuring Democracy in countries around the world. After five years in Sweden, Dr Molutsi returned to Botswana in 2003 to start and lead the State Enterprise Agency called Tertiary Education Council (TEC). He headed TEC for eleven years and later helped to transform it into the now Botswana Human Resource Development Council (HRDC). A researcher and scholar of repute in his own right, Dr Molutsi retired from the CEO position of HRDC in May 2016. He now heads the Country Office of Joint Minds Consult (JMC). JMC is an independent research institution that is working on issues of open science and unrestricted research data. JMC is leading the initiative to mobilise government, universities and high education colleges as well as the private sector to embrace the ideas of opening up research data and promoting international partnerships on this subject.

Ina Smith is currently preparing for further studies on the adoption of open access publishing in the global South, with specific emphasis on Africa. She holds a Masters' Degree from the University of Pretoria in Computer-Integrated Education, a Higher Education Teaching Diploma, and an Honours Degree in Library and Information Science. She has vast experience working in open access during her employment at the Univ. of Pretoria and Stellenbosch University – in repositories, journal publishing and conference publishing. She is currently employed as a planning manager at the Academy of Science of SA, where she is working on a DST/ASSAf/ICSU/CODATA project for an African Open Science Platform. She is also a DOAJ Ambassador for the southern Africa region. In 2014 she received the LIASA President's Acknowledgement for Exceptional Contribution (2014), in 2011 she was a Runner-up in the international EPT Award for Open Access, and in 2016 she was awarded LIASA Librarian of the Year. She has a keen interest in the research process in general, and are actively promoting all to become digital citizens and to remain lifelong researchers and self-learners.

Susan Veldsman was appointed to the position of Director: Scholarly Publication Unit at the Academy of Sciences in South Africa, in January 2009. She is responsible for raising the visibility, discoverability and accessibility of South African scholarly journals through Open Access and online journal content management; improve the quality of SA scholarly journal, books & conference proceedings through expert peer review panels in the field; find ways and solutions to further support the development of policy frameworks in order to facilitate optimal use and access to publicly funded research. She received the Electronic Publishing Trust (EPT) award for her outstanding contribution to the promotion of Open Access in Developing Countries. Early in her career she started off as an Information Librarian, at various Higher Education Libraries in South Africa where she eventually was promoted to Assistant Director: Client Services, Library Services at the University of Johannesburg. During 2002 she moved to a national project, South African National Library and Information Consortium (SANLIC) where she was responsible for negotiating access to commercial databases and was actively involved in promoting Open

Access and setting up Institutional Repositories. She continued this work, in 2006, in an international consortium, eFL.net.

Joseph Muliaro Wafula is a member of the CODATA executive committee. And the Chair of CODATA Kenya. A member of the editorial board of the Data Science Journal; committee of the AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project Taskforce Project sponsored by JICA and the committee of the United Nations SDGs on Agriculture and Climate Change Pillars of Kenya. He holds a BSc. Science (Hons) (Kenyatta University), MSc. Physics (University of Nairobi), M.Phil. Microelectronic Engineering and Semiconductor Physics (University of Cambridge –UK), Summer Doctoral Program (Berkman Centre for Internet & Society/Oxford Internet Institute's -Harvard University Law School), and PhD Information Technology (JKUAT). He is a recipient of two IBM awards namely: the 2016 IBM Shared University Research Award on Open Data Cloud Project for JKUAT for building an open data platform for researchers in Africa, and the 2014 IBM MEA Award, for capacity building in Mobile Application development. He is a fellow of the Computer Society of Kenya and the Cambridge Commonwealth Society and has published book chapters, a book and research papers in peer reviewed international journals. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computing at JKUAT and the founder Director of the ICT Centre of Excellence and Open Data (iCEOD).