

*Symposium on the Data Sharing Plans and on the Scientific Benefits of
Data Sharing in GEOSS**

**Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
6th Floor Auditorium
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC**

**Monday, 16 November 2009
Symposium 3:30 – 5:40 p.m. and Reception 5:40 – 6:30 p.m.**

The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) *10-Year Implementation Plan* explicitly acknowledges the importance of data sharing in achieving the GEOSS vision and anticipated societal benefits. The Plan, now endorsed by 80 government Members and 56 Participating Organizations, highlights the following GEOSS Data Sharing Principles:

- 1. There will be full and open exchange of data, metadata, and products shared within GEOSS, recognizing relevant international instruments and national policies and legislation.**
- 2. All shared data, metadata, and products will be made available with minimum time delay and at minimum cost.**
- 3. All shared data, metadata, and products being free of charge or no more than cost of reproduction will be encouraged for research and education.**

The Group on Earth Observations, which is the umbrella oversight organization for GEOSS, is currently developing Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and a related Action Plan. The draft Implementation Guidelines will be reviewed for approval at the GEO Plenary meeting in Washington, DC on November 17-18, 2009.

The *Symposium on the Data Sharing Plans and on the Scientific Benefits of Data Sharing in GEOSS* will present the key elements of the draft Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles, provide an overview of the history and plans of the GEO Data Sharing Task Force, and highlight some of the positive outcomes from the sharing of environmental data for the progress of scientific research, focusing on several of the GEOSS societal benefit areas. There will be time during the session to discuss the Implementation Guidelines draft and the benefits of data sharing with the audience. The *Symposium* will be moderated by Dr. Roberta Balstad of Columbia University, who is chair of the U.S. National Committee for CODATA. The program will be followed by a reception hosted by the international CODATA.

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* The Symposium is organized by the U.S. National Committee for CODATA of the National Academy of Sciences' Board on Research Data and Information, together with the National Committee for DIVERSITAS and the U.S. National Committee on Geodesy and Geophysics, and in collaboration with the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat, the GEO Data Sharing Task Force, and the Environmental Change and Security Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.