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ICTs for Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Societies and Economies
(WSIS Action Lines for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals)

Special Session
DRR and SDGs Information Deficits
-Disaster Risk Reduction Management and Sustainability Synergy-

virtual, 24 February 2021 at 12:00-13:00 CET
Moderator/Convener Horst Kremers, CODATA-Germany, Berlin

Scope of Session

The DRR and SDGs holistic and systemic approach broadens the view from "Resilience-as-aservice" to whole-of-society mutual responsibility and action. In consequence, synergy in governance and in technical terms can be reached.

Without concise and comprehensive Information Management, preventing, managing and learning from disasters will not be possible at the level that members and organizations of information society would expect in striving for a responsible, secure, safe and reliable development.

Types of Deficits (non-exhaustive list)

- Information Types and Coverage (Phases, Situations, Stakeholders, Affected Citizens)
- Definition and operational Implementation of Data and Analysis Standards
- Large infrastructure information access and accountability
- Quality Information (completeness, FAIR principles, appropriateness for use-cases, trust)

- Natural, Technical and CBRN-E threats
- Monitoring and Analysis of Free Trade Contracts
- The role of Media (TV, Radio, Journalists, Organizations)
- Information Deficits in the aftermath of humanitarian tragedies
- Structuring and Screening of DRR national reports
- The role of National Platforms in the interest of Information Society

The interest of Information Society

Information management best practice methods support the principles of "critical thinking", enabling extensive reporting, transparent analysis, compliance to regulations and other boundary conditions. Information control obligations include phases of retrace, audit, reexamination, analysis, avoidance of malpractice, and indications on weaknesses/vulnerabilities. Improving / Enabling just-in-time foresight, situation management and ex-post evaluation. Application of informatics state-of-the-art methods and technology that meet the demands of complex multi-actor and cross-organizational information management is urgently required for organizationally as well as technically implementing treaties, frameworks and programs and for granting coherence in the required holistic way.

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Moderator

Horst Kremers, CODATA-Germany, Secretary General, Berlin (Germany)

Panelists

Prof. Dr. (Mrs.) Liu Chuang
Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research,   Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing (China)
A New Mechanism for Poverty Free Geo-Ecosystem Protection and Sustainable Development

Dr. (Ms.) Rachida Houssa
Directeur de Recherche, National Institute of Fisheries Research, Casablanca (Morocco)
Protecting the Ocean through Marine Protected Areas: Which Role can Play Good Communication to Attain the Objective 30% of MPAs by 2030?

Dr. (Mr.) Kassim S. Mwitondi
Senior Lecturer, Sheffield Hallam University, Industry&Innovation Research Institute, Sheffield (United Kingdom)
Identifying and Filling Data Gaps for Sustainable Development Goals Modelling

Prof. Dr. (Ms.) Daisy Selematsela
Department of Library & Information Services,University of South Africa
Information and Knowledge Management, University of Johannesburg (South Africa)
The Transitionary Role of Research and University Librarians/Knowledge Specialists in Developing Countries in Facilitating Access and Information for Sustainable Development Goals

Mr. Giacomo Mazzone
Journalist, RAI – global coordinator project WBU – UNDRR, Geneva (Switzerland)
Teaching Resilience, Saving Lives

Target Participants:
Sustainability and Risk Science and Technology Experts, Governmental Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, SDGs and Risk Reduction Experts, National and International Risk and Sustainability Support Organizations, Civil Society Stakeholders, Journalists.

A New Mechanism for Poverty Free Geo-Ecosystem Protection and Sustainable Development

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Abstract.

With the urbanization and socio-economic development of China, many places keeping clean water and beautiful ecosystem but poverty are normally located in far from developed regions. How to balance the poverty free and geo-ecosystem protection?

The project of show case network on geo-ecosystem protection and sustainable development linking products of geographical indications, geographical characteristics and geographical Traditions creates a new mechanism for poverty free, geo-ecosystem protection and sustainable development. The cases from black soil region, dry sand-grassland region, mountains region, small island region demonstrated the success experiences.

Protecting the Ocean through Marine Protected Areas: Which Role Can Play Good Communication to Attain the Objective 30% of MPAs by 2030?

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Abstract.

The ocean occupies a crucial place on our planet, preserving it has become a necessity. The preservation and enhancement of the oceans is objective n ° 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This SDG14 is based on 7 priorities, including the preservation of at least 10% of coastal and marine areas in marine protected areas (the Aichi Targets, agreed in 2011).

Many of the Aichi Targets expired in 2020, and in 2018 the CBD began the process of developing a new GBF for the decade 2021-2030, including an ambitious proposal: protect at least 30% of the oceans by 2030.

Will this objective remain a simple enthusiastic statement or will it be achieved thanks to a binding schedule listing the axes and actions and good communication and information sharing?

Identifying and Filling Data Gaps
for Sustainable Development Goals Modelling

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Abstract.

Spanning across the spectrum of our existence are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), signed up by 193 United Nations member states in 2015, as the blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for mankind and planet earth. The complex interactions of the SDGs present both a challenge and an opportunity to researchers and decision makers in understanding the deep and wide spatio-temporal variations across fields and sectors. As country-specific projects, SDG challenges are embedded in unseen and/or ignored gaps in knowledge, that derive from working in silos or on fixed agenda. Measuring SDG attainment levels alludes to data randomness-a standard modelling phenomenon that derives naturally from training, validating and testing models on random data. It inevitably creates knowledge gaps which researchers can identify and fill through coordinated, interdisciplinary ef-forts across related data domains.

Through animated and static data visualization of selected SDGs, we demonstrate the complexity of SDGs interactions and variations within and across fields. Examples from sampled SDGs show that understanding inherent dynamics aligns to application specifics that re-quire interdisciplinary solutions. Treating each SDG as a Big Data source node highlights a unified understanding of data applications across the SDG spectrum. Most importantly, it highlights novel paths towards a unified understanding of the triggers of SDG indicators.

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The Transitionary Role of Research and University Librarians/Knowledge Specialists in Developing Countries in Facilitating Access and Information for Sustainable Development Goals

Daisy Selematsela

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Abstract.

The University and research librarians and knowledge specialists in the global south have of recent been engaged in processes that require them to assist researchers and policy makers with the deployment of information and data. The open science, open data and open access has made the role played by librarians and knowledge specialists critical in understanding knowledge transformation for sustainable development.

University researchers are being encouraged to collaborate as part of their research and aggressively solicit funding for their research that addresses the respective countries grand challenges that impact on the Sustainable Development Goals. The expectation is for university librarians and knowledge specialists to provide information and data that can reinforce or facilitate innovations that can be harnessed for societal benefit; whether the data provided on innovation are conducive to bring policy change and the necessary conditions for transformative innovations to succeed as part of public good.

As governments increase their spend on Research and Innovation, research and academic librarians are in the forefront advocating for the awareness of the research tools and research opportunities within the respective domains at their institutions.

The presentation will provide an analysis of the expected roles academic/research librarians and knowledge specialists assume in the provision of information and data to the complex and interrelated problems that developing countries face.

Keywords.
Research/Academic Librarians, Knowledge Specialists, Developing Countries, Sustainable Development, Roles, Information Provision; SDGs

Teaching Resilience, Saving Lives

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Abstract.

Giacomo Mazzone will present the experience of the WBU project launched by UNDRR in cooperation with WMO, UNESCO, ITU and the World Broadcasting Unions. The project want to train within two years as much possible of media organizations and their journalists and media operators to DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction. Main target countries are those more at risk because of climate changes, in the Caribbean. Asia-Pacific, African and Arab regions.

The project started in the fall 2020 in the Caribbean region and since the beginning of 2021, has expanded its action to Africa and Asia-Pacific. One of the essential keys of the courses is how to cope with the Information Deficits that exists in these vulnerable countries and try to remedy to this gap creating awareness among the operators of media. Media roles in DRR, in fact, is essential before (for the prevention), during (for emergency communication) and after (for recovering efforts and rebuilding community links).