

Best Wishes for the December Solstice and Related Holidays



The December solstice was 22:23 UTC on Friday 21 December, so this comes a 'little' late. Nevertheless, I would like to send the warmest best wishes to everyone involved in CODATA activities and to the wider global research data community. **2018 has been a significant year for CODATA and you may find some of the following interesting:**

'A milestone in the history of science': the redefinition of the International System of Units was based on the work of [CODATA and the Task Group for Fundamental Constants](#).

International Data Week, held in Gaborone, Botswana was an enormous success with 850 participants. Selected paper will be published in the [CODATA Data Science Journal](#).

[The vision and strategy for the African Open Science Platform](#) was launched at Science Forum South Africa, in a [presentation by co-chair Khotso Mokhele](#). A founding members' meeting will be hosted at the Biblioteca Alexandrina later in 2019.

The [ISC CODATA initiative on Data Interoperability Integration for Interdisciplinary Research](#) made progress, notably through a very successful [Dagstuhl Workshop co-organised with the DDI Alliance](#): this will result in a series of articles on data integration challenges in cross-disciplinary research areas.

Other notable activities include the work of the [Data Policy Committee](#), a major contribution to the European Commission report on [Turning FAIR into Reality](#) and the ongoing series of [CODATA-RDA Data Schools](#).

Finally, we are grateful for the enormous contribution that Past President Geoffrey Boulton has made to CODATA. The CODATA General Assembly at the University of Botswana 9-10 November elected [a new President, Barend Mons, and a new Executive Committee](#). **We look forward to further increasing CODATA's impact and to promoting international collaboration for Open Science and FAIR data.**