



## TENTATIVE AGENDA

### A Side Event at the United Nations World Data Forum

#### *Innovative Ways for Increasing Timeliness and Coverage of SDG Indicators*

- **Date & Time:** Tuesday April 25th, 2023 | 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm (Hangzhou Time, UTC+8)
- **Location:** Hangzhou International Expo Center, Conference Room 2 (3rd floor)
- **Language:** English and Chinese
- **Background:** At the mid-point of the time foreseen for enacting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is an urgent need for more timely information for measuring the progress of SDGs achieved so far and identifying the main bottlenecks and areas lagging behind. In recent years, statistical methodologies, space technologies, and online data tools have been applied to comprehensively address these information gaps. This session will highlight some recent examples of the works utilizing statistical methods, earth observation data, and relevant digital technologies that could contribute to specific SDG indicators.
- **Organizers:**
  - International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS)
  - CAST-UN Consultative Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR)
  - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
  - Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri)
  - PVBLIC Foundation

- **Tentative Agenda:**

1:00-1:30	Pre-session Meet & Greet	Equipment Check
Session Begins		
1:30-1:33	Welcome and Introduction	Qunli Han, Distinguished Professor of CBAS
1:33-1:38	Opening Comments (TBD)	Huadong Guo, CAS Academician, Director of CBAS
1:38-1:43		Yana Gevorgyan, GEO Secretariat Director
Panel Discussion		
1:43-2:25	Key theme 1: Nurturing partnerships that leave no one behind	
	Key theme 2: Addressing the information gaps with innovative solutions	
2:25-2:30	Wrap-ups	



## Questionnaire

### Guiding Theme 1: Nurturing partnerships that leave no one behind

**Context:** Technical cooperation and global partnerships to unite concerned organizations to work together towards shared goals are universally encouraged to accelerate SDGs. However, despite this, many organizations in developing world find it difficult to develop strong productive relationships with international and regional partners.

**Key Questions:**

- What potential collaborative mechanism would you propose to alleviate such difficulties based on your experience and expertise?
- How could we better facilitate data sharing among research institutions in the world and what role could they play to promote cross-sectorial analysis to assess SDG indicators?

**Expected Outputs (Please list your envisioned outputs in bullet points):**

### Guiding Theme 2: Addressing the data gaps with innovative solutions

**Context:** The global pandemic is gradually being stabilized and international activities are resuming. It is true that the pandemic has cost us substantially on the progress of the SDGs but through such global scale emergency, we also find valuable experiences on the utilization of digital technology for virtual education, communication, and distant collaboration on SDG monitoring through online platforms. The world is progressing into a new stage after the pandemic with better understanding towards the power of data as well as the data gaps that hinder this progress.

**Key Questions:**

- What do you think of how digital technology can better support reporting on SDG indicators and address data gaps? What role does a data scientist play in this process?
- What kind of facilities, tools, methods, or networks are available that you would recommend to improve closer cooperation between partners working at different scales?

**Expected Outputs: (Please list your envisioned outputs in bullet points)**



## Participants Information:

### **Charles Brigham, Account Executive, Esri**

Charles focuses on sustainable development and driving the SDG efforts for Esri. Prior to joining Esri, he worked as Knowledge and Technology Manager for the World Bank's PNPM Mandiri Support Facility in Indonesia. Charles is a geographer with expertise in the areas of International Development, Census and Statistics, Geospatial Infrastructure, ICT Innovations, Imagery Analysis, and Humanitarian Affairs. Charles has worked for the United Nations, NASA, The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), as well as a number of countries in Central America, Africa and Asia.

### **Qunli Han, Executive Director, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk - International Programme Office**

Qunli is the executive director of IRDR-IPO, an international scientific initiative launched by the International Science Council. Before joining IRDR, Qunli was working for UNESCO. His last position in UNESCO (June 2013-August 2017) was the Secretary of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and the Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, which oversees a science cross-cutting team on DRR. He has been involved in the major post disaster response actions of UN since 2004 (tsunami and earthquakes in Indonesia, earthquake in Iran and floods in Pakistan). During 1980 to 1989, Qunli was a research fellow in the Commission for Integrated Survey of Natural Resources under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

### **Daniel Hopp, Statistician, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

Daniel is a statistician at UNCTAD with a research interest in now-casting, both methodological and applied, as well as its application to the SDGs. His current works focus on the feasibility survey evaluating all SDGs for their suitability for now-casting and the benchmark analysis comparing different now-casting methodologies as well as providing code for practitioners to work from.

### **Gretchen Kalonji, Dean of the Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction, Sichuan University-The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

Professor Kalonji was the Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences at UNESCO (2010 – 2014), where she had responsibility for multiple intergovernmental scientific programs, including the International Hydrological Program (IHP), the Man in the Biosphere Program (MAB), the International Geosciences Program (IGCP) and the International Basic Sciences Program. Her current focus is on development of multinational, multidisciplinary project-based approaches for better targeting the collaborative research efforts of our universities towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Stephen Keppel, President of the PVBLIC Foundation**

Stephen is a creative and entrepreneurial social impact leader with a background in international development, media, and philanthropy. He is currently President of PVBLIC Foundation, an innovative organization that mobilizes media, data, and technology for sustainable impact. Stephen is leading the organization in its mission to engage global change-makers and mobilize action to



advance sustainable development. Stephen holds a master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University and holds an Executive Certificate in Non-Profit Leadership from Duke University.

### **Jianhui Li, Vice-President of CODATA**

Jianhui Li is a professor at the Computer Network Information Center (CNIC) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). He is also the Secretary-General of the Chinese National Committee for CODATA. He obtained his Ph.D. degree from the Institute of Computing Technology of CAS in 2007. He has mainly engaged in the research of scientific data curation and sharing, data-intensive computing and applications, big data analysis and cloud service. For CAS, he leads and promotes the development of scientific databases sharing and he designed and led the development of scientific data infrastructure and its application environment.

### **Dongmei Yan, Deputy Director of CBAS**

Dongmei Yan is a professor and deputy director of CBAS. She received her Ph.D. degree in Cartography and Geographic Information System from the Institute of Remote Sensing Applications, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), in 2004. She has been working as a Professor of the Aerospace Information Research Institute, CAS, and Director of the Administrative Office for Big Earth Data Science Engineering (CASEarth) since 2018. With her extensive experience in digital earth, sustainable development, and scientific innovation, she has led the Data Sharing Working Group of the Strategic Priority Research Program - Big Earth Data Science Engineering (CASEarth) since its establishment in 2018.