



Welcome address to the International Workshop on Open Data for Science and Sustainability in Developing Countries

GONG Ke

Vice President of World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) and chair of its Standing
Technical Committee for Information and Communication Technology (CIC)

Good morning, dear colleagues!

On behalf of WFEO, and its standing technical committee of information and communication technology, I would like to express our warm welcome to all of you from different parts of the world for your active participation to this workshop and our heartfelt thanks to the local partners, especially the Ministry of information communication technology of Kenya and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and UNESCO office at Nairobi, for they valuable support to make the workshop possible today.

WFEO stands for the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, which is likely to ICSU, an international and non-governmental institution consists of regional engineer's organizations from about 90 countries, e.g. the Institution of Engineers of Kenya is one of our national member, and there are also a number of international members to WFEO, e.g. the Federation of African Engineering Organization, etc. The core missions, in line with the development goals of United Nations, of WFEO is, inter alia, to make information on engineering available to the countries of the world and to facilitate communication between its member-nations about the world's best practices in key engineering activities and to foster socio-economic security and sustainable

development and poverty alleviation among all countries of the world, through the proper application of technology.

Recognizing the importance of Information Communication Technology (ICT) for narrowing the digital divide between developed and developing countries, WFEO has set a standing technical Committee for Information Communication technology (CIC) for fostering the development and application of ICT for sustainable development, especially in developing countries. That tells you why we are so happy to co-organize this workshop with CODATA/ICSU in Africa.

The purpose of this workshop is to review the works of reducing digital divide in past 10 year since the first World Summit on Information Society (WSIS, 2003 Geneva) and to share the good practices we made in the past and, more importantly, to identify the new needs to equal access to and effective use of data collected worldwide in many aspects for development, especially scientific data. By wishing a successful workshop in the following 3 days to strengthening the collaboration between the nations and organizations we are delegated in promoting equal access to and effective use of scientific data in the time of “big data”, I will conclude my address with an additional call to all of you for active participation to the activities organized or co-organized by WFEO.

Thanks for your attention!