

Minutes of the IAOS General Assembly 2014

Time: Thursday 9 October 2014 (12:30 – 13:05)

Place: Lotus 3 Room, Annex Building, Pullman DaNang Resort, DaNang, VietNam

Attendance:

(Executive Committee)

Shigeru Kawasaki (President)

Ola Awad (President-Elect)

Angela Me (Member)

Mario Palma (Member)

Nancy McBeth (Member)

Stephen Leung (SCORUS Chair)

Ada van Krimpen (Director of ISI PO)

Nancy Gordon (Adviser)

Stephen Penneck (Editor-in Chief Emeritus,
SJAOS)

Naoki Makita (Secretary)

Sakuya Iijima (Assistant Secretary)

(Attendees)

Approximately 30 members attended the General Assembly (GA). Approximately 30 non-members also attended as observers.

Agenda

Item 1. Briefing on the IAOS Annual Report (5 minutes)

Item 2. New Goals for the Statistical Journal of the IAOS or SJAOS (20 minutes)

Item 3. Questions and Answers (5-10 minutes)

Documents

0. Annotated Agenda of the IAOS General Assembly

1. IAOS GA Slides

2. Statistical Journal of the IAOS – Making More Impact

Introduction

Shigeru Kawasaki welcomed the attendees, and gave a brief explanation of the agenda. The main objective of the Assembly was to share information on the current status of the IAOS with the members, and to gain input from members for considering future directions for the SJAOS. There was no agenda item requiring decisions. To allow sufficient time for members to give their views, the explanation for Item 1 was made briefly, and most time was spent on Item 2.

Item 1. Briefing on the IAOS Annual Report (5 minutes)

Shigeru focused his explanation on publishing the SJAOS. Since 2013, contents of the SJAOS have been significantly improved under the editorship of Fritz Scheuren, and this year three issues with 44 articles have been published so far. The publishing contract with IOS Press, initiated in July 2007 and renewed in 2010 for five years, will expire in July 2015. In January 2014, to gain more time for considering a new publishing arrangement after expiration, he requested IOS Press to extend the contract for one year until July 2016. IOS Press agreed to the extension. The Publishing Committee, chaired by the Chief Editor, is considering a modified arrangement.

Item 2. New Goals for the SJAOS (20 minutes)

Stephen Penneck and Nancy McBeth led the discussion on future directions for the SJAOS. Following an introduction by Shigeru, they presented the accompanying slides. Steve opened the presentation, with apologies from Fritz, and then turned it over to Nancy.

The slides covered:

- Changes in the Journal

- Emerging Goals

- Immediate Challenges (Improving Readership, Promotion and Flow of Articles)
- Selected Facts from the September issue
- Discussion points on content in the Journal

Participants were also invited to sign up to submit Journal articles, and several people did so.

Among the attendees, about 50% indicated they had read at least one article in the Journal this year. They were asked for suggestions for the SJIAOS, including the strategic role of the SJIAOS and preferred contents. The following suggestions were made:

Strategic Role of the SJIAOS

- SJIAOS needs to focus on Applied Research and Techniques appropriate to Official Statistics
- SJIAOS needs to have a clear niche - standing out from the crowd, especially for example in relation to the ISI Review and the Journal of Official Statistics

Suggested Contents of the SJIAOS

- There were mixed views about whether conference papers should be considered for publishing. At least one speaker felt this would lead to a lowering of quality.
- The following special topics were suggested:

- Innovation
- Survey Data
- New Technologies
- Integrating Data
- Data Mining
- Modelling of Official Statistics - specific example Predictive Models
- Historical Developments in Official Statistics
- Administrative Data Developments
- New Concepts of Organising Statistical Offices
- Implications of the Post 2015 Development Goals
- Training and Development in Official Statistics

Business Model for the SJIAOS

Some members commented that the journal should move to an Open Access Model, although it was not discussed in detail.

Item 3. Questions and Answers

There were no questions or comments on other topics received from attendees due to the time limit. Shigeru said he would welcome questions and suggestions after the assembly.

The General Assembly closed at 13:05.
