

# Executive Committee Report 2009-2011 to IAOS General Assembly

## Executive Committee

### President

Ms. Irena Križman, Director General  
Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

### President-Elect

Mr. Stephen Penneck, Director-General,  
ONS, United Kingdom

### Members

Ms. Nancy M. Gordon, Associate Director for Strategic Planning and Innovation  
U.S. Bureau of the Census

Ms. Zulma Sosa de Servin, Director General  
National Institute of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay

Ms. Haishan Fu, Director of Statistics  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### SCORUS representative

Mr. Dominic Leung  
Hong Kong

### Treasurer

Ms. Ada van Krimpen, Director of the ISI

## Number of Members

	2009	2010	2011 (July)
Personal members	277	279	294
Institutional members	36	41	36

## Activities in the period 2009 - 2011

- **The Eurostat-IAOS-IFC Conference on Residential Property Price Indices**  
held on 11-12 November 2009 at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland, brought together more than 100 experts from 43 countries, working for national statistical offices, central banks, academic institutions, international organisations and the private sector. Feedback from the meeting was given to Eurostat to help them draft a handbook on residential price indices.
- **IAOS 2010 Conference, Santiago, Chile**  
The theme of the 2010 IAOS Conference was "Official statistics and the environment: approaches, issues, challenges and linkages". The conference started on first-ever World

Statistics Day, 20 October 2010 in Santiago, Chile and concluded on 22 October 2010. Nearly 500 participants attended the conference hosted by INE Chile. The programme of the conference reflected the diversity of environmental issues in 5 main topics: 1) Compiling environmental statistics – sources, methods and quality, 2) Challenges and innovations in the dissemination of environmental and related information, 3) Integration of environmental information – frameworks, standards and classifications, 4) Environmental and socio-economic linkages – drivers, impacts, adaptation and instruments, 5) The environment and sustainability. The conference presented challenges to develop a standard for environmental information. Participants of the conference exchanged views on the strategic issues, presented best practices and innovative approaches to environmental data collection and measuring sustainable development, and discussed how to achieve the integration of environmental information, why this integration is important and also how to timely disseminate environmental data, yet assuring all the quality standards.

- **Workshop on governance of statistical systems**

The workshop was held in the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile on 19 October 2010. The aim of the workshop was to share good practices and to discuss challenges in governing and sustaining a modern statistical system. Directors General and representatives of top management from Latin American and Caribbean National Statistical Institute (NSI), and NSIs outside the region and some representatives of international organisations participated in the workshop and discussed the three important pillars of any good statistical system: legal and institutional framework; governance of a statistical system and relationships with stakeholders; and challenges in building and sustaining a modern statistical system.

- **Contribution to ISI World Statistics Congress in Dublin**

The IAOS member of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) for the ISI WSC in Dublin is Oyvin Kleven. The IAOS is organising several IAOS events during the ISI WSC 2011, among them

- 11 IPS sessions:
  - Social problems, official statistics and social science
  - Research on the use of registers in producing statistics
  - Recession and Recovery – measuring the impact and situation in cities, neighbouring areas and regions within countries
  - Using the Internet as a Data Collection Mode
  - The use of paradata in response analysis, response monitoring and responsive design
  - Legal, ethical and privacy issues arising out of increasing use of linked administrative files
  - Setting priorities for a statistics service across government
  - Autonomous Statistical Agencies: Lessons learnt and new challenges
  - Fundamental challenges for international official statistics
  - Measuring well-being
  - Integrating the environment and the economy + Water
- 2 short courses:
  - Analysis of Living Standards in Less-Developed Countries
  - Conduct of Informal Sector Surveys
- IAOS members contributes also to the Special Topics Contributed Paper Sessions.
- IAOS ExCo will participate in a lunch time meeting for heads of NSIs and international organisations on the role that ISI might play in case of apparent breach of the ethics or principles relating to official statistics.

- IAOS President will participate
- Preparation of the IAOS Belfast satellite conference  
A theme of the conference which takes place from 17 to 19 August 2011 in Belfast is population ageing and the various challenges this brings both in the developed and developing world. The conference is locally organised by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), in association with the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (CARDI) and Queen's University, Belfast.
- Young Statisticians Meeting (YSI 2011),  
IAOS encouraged all young statisticians to take part in the 2011 ISI Young Statisticians Meeting (YSI 2011), to take place in Dublin, from 19-21 August 2011. President of the IAOS sent the letter in this respect to Directors-General of all national statistical institutes.

• **IAOS 2012 Conference, Kiev, Ukraine**

The preparations for the IAOS 2012 Conference which will take place in Kiev, Ukraine from 12-14 September 2012 are progressing well. The host of the Conference will be the State Statistics Service of Ukraine. The conference entitled »Getting Our Messages Across« will focus on how statistical offices are ensuring that the key messages in their statistics are getting through to users and are adding value to decision making. In particular it will cover:

- Standards for statistical reporting and commentary writing: using plain and simple language
- Statistical and graphical presentation techniques including the use of trend analysis and data visualisation
- Developments in the use of IT: the web, providing on-line analysis facilities for users, using metadata to improve searches; ipods, wikis and blogs
- How third parties can add value
- Marketing our statistics
- Building relationships with customers, monitoring feedback and setting priorities

IAOS is planning also a workshop for DGs of the NSIs from the region and hoping to arrange a training event and young statistician prize competition in addition to the main conference.

• **Statistical Journal (SJIAOS)**

SJIAOS aims to support the IAOS mission by publishing articles to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and to foster the development of effective and efficient official statistical services on a global basis. The journal publishes papers of wide interest to both users and producers of official statistics. The special issue on Official Statistics and Ethics was published in January 2011 and special issue on Statistical Literacy in June 2011. Concerning the forthcoming issues, a special Special Issue on Reshaping Health Statistics is nearly completed.

<http://iospress.metapress.com/content/120808/?p=2ab985c38c21423db1845cb88237564a&pi=0>

There is a report on SJIAOS published on the website and will be presented as separate item at the General Assembly in Dublin.

• **SCORUS**

IAOS maintained a close cooperation with SCORUS (Standing Committee on Urban and Regional Statistics) in preparing SCORUS biennial conferences and WSC. The question on future cooperation and financing has been discussed and will be on the agenda of the meeting of new ExCo in Dublin.

- **Young statisticians awards**

To encourage more young statisticians to take an active interest in official statistics, the IAOS is sponsoring a competition for the best paper in the field of official statistics written by a young statistician. The selection committee was favourably impressed by the general quality of the papers submitted and judging them was a demanding process. The winner of the Young Statisticians' prize 2011 is Ms Julia Höninger from Research Data Centre of the Statistical Offices of the Länder in the State Statistical Institute Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany. She will present the winning paper "Morpheus: an innovative approach to remote data access" at the WSC STS Future microdata access in Dublin. Second prize winner is Sarah Conn, Australia with the paper Widening the data net: NSO leadership role and the third prize winner Kate Smail, New Zealand, with the paper Trajectory modelling of longitudinal non-response in business surveys. IAOS ExCo is currently considering organising for the first time young statistician award at the occasion of biennial conference in Kiev.

- **Ethical issues**

- IAOS cooperated with ISI in revising and promoting ISI Declaration on Professional Ethics for Statisticians and other common activities. The revised Declaration was presented at the occasion of the World Statistics Day during the IAOS 2010 Conference, Santiago, Chile..

- ExCo also prepared the draft document to stimulate discussion at the General Assembly of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) at the World Statistics Congress in Dublin, Ireland. Its genesis was discussions in the statistical community about whether and how the ISI and the IAOS should respond when the ISI Declaration on Professional Ethics seems to have been violated. Such discussions have a long history. The Malaguerra Report (released in 1999) reflected a fairly full consideration of this matter. In addition to providing some background on this issue, the discussion paper raises one possible course of action. The IAOS' Executive Committee anticipates other options being raised at the General Assembly and expects to benefit from the comments and suggestions that will be made there. The Executive Committee has not decided how to proceed, and is seeking the views of IAOS members. The document is published on the IAOS website.

- Concerning the interventions in specific countries (like Argentina, Canada) IAOS ExCo decided not to react because there has been no clear formal rules how to react against governments and not enough reliable information on this issues available. How to react in these cases should be the subject of the discussion at the General Assembly. IAOS will also participate in the special meeting devoted to Argentinian case organised by ISI during the WSC in Dublin.

- **International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP)**

IAOS actively cooperates with IASE in the International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP). The mission of the ISLP is to support, create and participate in statistical literacy activities and promotion around the world. IAOS president invited NSOs at the occasion of 58th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in June 2010 to support the ISLP and respond to the Call for Country Representatives issued by ISLP. The information about the ISLP was included also in the minutes of the 58th CES session.

- **Committee on Agriculture Statistics**

IAOS participates in the discussion on the future role of IAOS Committee on Agriculture Statistics

- **ICES**

IAOS has a representative/liaison in the International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES) in the Continuation Committee.

- **IAOS contribution to the WSC Hong Kong**

ExCo appointed Ms Hilikka Vihavainen, Statistics Finland as the IAOS member of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) for the ISI WSC in Hong Kong, China in 2013. The first draft of IAOS IPM proposals has been prepared and will be discussed at the new ExCo meeting in Dublin.

### **Thank you note from the IAOS President Irena Krizman**

I appreciate working with many devoted people inside and outside the ISI family and I would like to thank all of them for their valuable contribution. My special thanks go to colleagues from IAOS ExCo and Chile for helping me to organise excellent events as well as to the ISI Permanent Office for their assistance.