



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OFFICIAL  
STATISTICS



# IAOS Newsletter

## May 2018

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dear Colleagues,**

I hope you all have had an excellent start of the year. We have been through a lot of work during these first months of 2018, focusing our efforts on the 16<sup>th</sup> IAOS Biennial Conference, jointly organised with the OECD, which will be celebrated in September at the OECD premises in Paris. I would like to share with you in this newsletter, some of the progress we have made in the preparations of the Conference. We are all looking forward to a successful and rewarding event.

The call for papers resulted in more than 200 proposals. I would like to thank all IAOS members for their support. The programme committee has decided to open more slots for sessions and panels. The Young Statisticians Prize (YSP) closed submissions in February with a total of 37 papers received. Soon we will know who will be the winner in this the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of our internationally renowned prize. The Young Scholars for Better Statistics Award (YSBS), in its first edition, closed in mid-April. We have been actively promoting this award, as it is potentially a great way of attracting young members to our community.

In this newsletter you will also find information about the ISI - World Bank Trust Fund. I am pleased to share with you that, thanks to this fund we will be able to support the attendance of participants from developing countries to the IAOS-OECD Conference.

Once again, I encourage all members to be ambassadors of IAOS and to promote our activities in your countries and regions. I look forward to seeing you in our upcoming biennial conference in September in Paris.

**Mario Palma**  
President 2017-2019

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## Update on the 16th IAOS Conference, jointly organised with OECD.



### Call for papers

The call for papers for the 16th IAOS Conference, jointly organised with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), received a very positive response with a total of 227 proposals.

The Scientific Programme Committee of the 2018 Conference have selected and allocated the successful papers that will be presented in the conference according to the five themes that the event will cover:

1. Sustainability;
2. Well-being and Quality of Life;
3. The Future Role of Official Statistics;
4. Communication and Statistical Literacy;
5. Digitalisation and Globalisation.

Due to the high volume of papers, the Committee has decided to expand the number of sessions to accommodate even more relevant papers.

Thank you to all members who submitted or encouraged colleagues to prepare proposals, your support has been invaluable to make 2018 a successful edition of the IAOS conference.

The provisional programme of the event is expected to be published in the conference website by early May. We will keep you posted of its release!

### Young Scholars for Better Statistics Award (YSBS).

The first "Young Scholars for Better Statistics Award" (YSBS) closed in mid-April. The YSBS is jointly organised by IAOS and the OECD as part of the activities of the 2018 IAOS-OECD Conference and seeks to recognise the academic work on statistics from students and to encourage them to take an active interest in official statistics.

With the active support of INEGI and IAOS Executive members, we have been actively promoting the YSBS among graduate students, seeking to attract young members to the organisation. Invitations and reminders about the prize have been sent to more than 760 leading academic departments at universities around the world. The Award has also been actively promoted in international forums such as the 49th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), and in a recent presentation for graduate students in the UK at The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

The first-place winner will receive a monetary prize, a certificate, as well as travel funds for the winner and the academic advisor to present their paper at the 2018 IAOS-OECD Conference.



IAOS Promotion at the 49th United Nations Statistical Commission



IAOS Promotion at LSE

## ISI – World Bank Fund Support for attending the IAOS-OECD 2018 Conference

Aiming to expand statistical capacity building in developing countries, the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and the World Bank (WB) have granted funds to the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) to support participants from developing countries to attend the IAOS-OECD 2018 Conference in September in Paris. Our thanks to the ISI and the World Bank for their support.

To be eligible for support, applicants must:

- a) be a permanent resident of a developing country (as defined by the World Bank);
- b) be a member of the ISI and the IAOS;

Preferably, applicants should:

- c) have a role in the conference such as speaker, session organiser or chair;
- d) have not received funding from the ISI-WB Fund to attend a statistical conference previously.

Priority will be given to people having an active role in the conference and who have not received before support from the ISI-WB Fund. Applicants who will only attend the Conference will require to submit a personal statement on how their attendance will impact their work and benefit Official Statistics in their institution, country or region.

Awardees will be granted funding support up to a maximum of \$1,000 USD as a contribution to cover the costs of participating in the Conference (e.g. registration to the event, travel, accommodation, per diem, etc).

Interest applicants must complete a Funding Support Application and submit it to [contactiaos@gmail.com](mailto:contactiaos@gmail.com) by **4 June 2018**.

Further details about the application process are available at the [IAOS website](#).

## Registration to the IAOS-OECD 2018 Conference

The registration form is now available in the Conference website: <http://www.oecd.org/iaos2018/registration/>. Registration includes access to the conference, and its exhibition booths, refreshment breaks, the gala dinner, and to other planned social events. Early bird closes on **29 June 2018**. We look forward to your registration!

Please note that there are a number of events happening in Paris at the time of the conference and we strongly recommend making travel and hotel bookings as soon as possible. For hotels near the OECD please check: <https://www.oecd.org/site/conferencecentre/hotels-list.pdf>

## 2018 Young Statisticians Prize (YSP).

Submissions for the 8th edition of the YSP closed in mid-February.

Of the 37 submissions, only 34 of them were eligible to participate for the award. These came from a total of 23 countries. Entrants are global with submissions from Africa (6), Asia (10), Europe (9), North America (1), Oceania (6) and South America (2).

Twenty-four (70.6%) of the papers were sole-authored. Of the 50 authors/co-authors, 28 (56%) were female. The average age of the entrants was 29.5 years (29.6 for females and 29.4 for males).

Eligible submissions are now in the assessment phase. The winning submissions will be announced by the end of May.

On behalf of the IAOS, I would like to wish all entrants good luck. I would also like to thank the YSP Judging panel. Their support is also valued.

## 62<sup>nd</sup> ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC) 2019.



IAOS members and others interested in official statistics are invited to present proposals for Special Topic Sessions (STS) for the 62<sup>nd</sup> ISI World Statistics Congress (ISI WSC 2019), to be held on 18-23 August 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Closing date is **15 August 2018**. For more information see <http://www.isi2019.org/>

## EXCO Meeting

The Executive Committee held its first meeting of 2018 on 5th March 2018 in New York, during the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC).

The meeting was mainly focused on the reports by EXCO members regarding their activities for the Association. This included:

- The advancements on the preparations of the IAOS-OECD Conference.
- Updates on the Young Statisticians Prize (YSP) and Young Scholars for Better Statistics Award (YSBS).
- SJIAOS, including plans for the June 2018 quarter issue.
- SCORUS activities including participations in important international fora, such as the UN World Data Forum 2017 and the ISI 2017 World Statistics Congress, and preparations for the upcoming Scorus Conference for 2018.
- Preparations for the 2019 WSC
- IAOS Promotion activities, including
  - IAOS website update and promotion of activities to IAOS and the ISI family
  - Promotion of IAOS Activities in the Arab, African and South Mediterranean Regions.
- Reports on the support to NSOs in the Caribbean affected by hurricanes.
- Activities undertaken in 2017 in support of the IAOS Capacity Building agenda in Africa

The next face-to-face meeting of the EXCO will be during the 2018 IAOS -OECD conference.



**IAOS Executive Committee**

**Left to Right:** Ronald Jansen (Special invitee), Kirsten West (Editor in Chief, SJIAOS), Mario Palma (President 2017-2019), John Pullinger (President-elect), Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Oliver J.M. Chinganya, Ada Van Krimpen (Director ISI).

**Missing from picture:** Gemma Van Halderen, Nancy McBeth, Teodora Brandmueller, Hasnae Fdhil, Rolando Ocampo.

## SCORUS

The next **SCORUS-GUS conference “New scale – New needs – New statistics” will take place in Warsaw, Poland on 6-8 June 2018** jointly organised by Statistics Poland (GUS), the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) Standing Committee of Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS).

Under each of these themes, sessions will be organised which can each accommodate several papers and presentations. You are invited to submit proposals for papers for these themes by 26 April.

You can find more information at the website: <http://scorus2018.stat.gov.pl/>

## Support for Andreas Georgiou

A fund has been created by distinguished members of the international statistical community to support the legal expenses of Andreas Georgiou.

Contributions are crucial for the defence of an individual who acted under professional and technical considerations and who has been confronted by political and legal consequences as a result.

Details about the fund can be found at: <https://gogetfunding.com/justice-for-andreas-georgiou-former-head-of-greek-statistical-agency/>

## Statistical Journal of the IAOS.

[The March 2018 issue](#) was dedicated to the Statistics of Income Division (SOI) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the United States. The SOI provides information about the US tax system. Most SOI data are derived from administrative records (tax returns). The information is used to formulate the federal budget. The agency also evaluates the tax laws.

The manuscripts focused on the ways SOI is leveraging administrative records for official statistics, and topics such as sample design, techniques for improving production of cross-sectional estimates and weighting techniques to improve small area estimates. Fritz Scheuren and associate editor Arthur Kennickel provided input.

Nancy McBeth (IAOS EXCO) was the featured interviewee. Michael Radcliffe from the US Census Bureau had a conversation about defining and delineating geographic areas.

[The June 2018 issue](#) is going to print soon. The issue covers many methodological topics, innovative solutions and best practices in official statistics. The theme is ‘IAOS – Past, Present, and Future.’ Ola Awad focuses on the period 2015–2017. Stephen Penneck gives the history of IAOS, and reflections on the future directions is offered by Mario Palma in his interview with Katherine Condon.

Nancy Torrieri talks to Timothy Trainor, former Chief Geospatial Scientist for the US Census Bureau about the role of geography as the framework for statistics, survey design, sample selection, data collection, tabulation, and dissemination of official statistics.

The need for independence of statistical agencies are addressed in manuscripts by Hallgrimur Snorrason, Gerry O’Hanlon, Andreas Georgiou, Jean-Luc Tavernier, Dennis Trewin and Pali Lehohla.

**Other Activities:**

We hope to receive manuscripts for potential publication from the upcoming GUS-SCORUS Conference and the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics (Q2018). The conference organizers have gracefully allowed us to promote the Journal at these events.

Mr. Shigeru Kawasaki, IAOS president (2013-15), has kindly extended an invitation to attend the International Conference on Teaching Statistics held by IASE in July. This will be an opportunity to explore new topics for the Journal.

The Network for International Collaborators (NIC) at the US Census Bureau has asked for a presentation about SJIAOS in June. The NIC is an employee support and advocacy organization promoting collaboration between the Census Bureau and National Statistical Offices or international organizations.

**Key Dates for members**

- Deadline for applications to the World Bank Support Fund. **4 June 2018.**
- Closing of Early bird registration for IAOS-OECD 2018 Conference: **29 June 2018**
- Closing of Regular registration for IAOS-OECD 2018 Conference: **14 September 2018**
- Dates for submission of Special Topic Sessions (STS) proposals for the ISI WSC 2019: **15 April 2018 - 31 August 2018.**
- IAOS-OECD 2018 Conference (Paris, France): **19-21 September 2018**
- Dates for submission of Contributed Paper Sessions (CPS) proposals for the ISI WSC 2019: **1 September 2018 - 31 January 2019.**

**Upcoming Events.**

- **GUS – SCORUS Conference** – June 6-8, 2018 – Warsaw, Poland “New Scale, New Needs-New Statistics”.
- **IAOS - OECD 2018 Conference** - 19 - 21 September 2018, Paris
- **62<sup>nd</sup> ISI World Statistics Congress (ISI WSC 2019)**, to be held on 18-23 August 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## Closing Comments.

Members have received updates on key IAOS activities through email newsletters, IAOS website updates and of course through the ISI monthly news to all ISI family members. We encourage all members and supporters to participate in these activities and promote them in their institutions and with their colleagues.

We welcome short items of interest to members of the IAOS, official statisticians, providers and users of official statistics for publication in this newsletter and/or on the IAOS website. Please send your contributions to [contactIAOS@gmail.com](mailto:contactIAOS@gmail.com).

Finally, I really welcome any feedback and suggestions that you may have on matters relating to Official Statistics and the work of the IAOS in particular. Please feel free to contact me about any issues related to the IAOS, or official statistics in general.

Thank you again for your support.

**Mario Palma**  
IAOS President, 2017-19

## Contact us.

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