A members’ meeting was held in Kiev during the 2012 IAOS conference.  The following items were discussed.

1.       The President gave a [report on recent activities](http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/aboutus/2012-09-18-LatestReportPresident_2011-2012.htm).

2.       A report was given on the [financial position](http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/aboutus/2012IAOS-Expenditure%2BBudgetWebsiteDoc.pdf) emphasising that the priorities of the Executive Committees, with respect to the financial balance, are:

       Funding a membership campaign

       Support for governance workshops

       Support for future IAOS conferences

       Increasing the number of prizes for Young Statisticians

       Supporting attendance at our conferences.

3.       The president reported that the IAOS statutes are currently under review to bring them into line with Dutch law, reflect recent changes to ISI statutes and current IAOS practice.  The revised statutes would shortly be placed on the website for consultation with a view to being adopted at the 2013 General Assembly in Hong Kong.

4.       A membership leaflet has been produced and circulated with a view to launching a membership campaign in the next few months.

5.       The President-elect reported that Vietnam had agreed to host the 2014 IAOS conference on the theme ‘Statistics in a Changing World’.

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2011/12**

This report covers the period from August 2011 to September 2012, between [the General Assembly at the 2011 WSC in Dublin](http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/aboutus/GeneralAssemblyDublin.htm) and [the Members’ meeting in Kiev in 2012](http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/aboutus/OtherMembersMeetings.htm).  From the IAOS aims and objectives we developed a set of priorities for the two years of my Presidency 2011 to 2013.  These are:

delivering successful conferences and workshops;

developing and supporting the membership;

delivering successful publications and communications; and

improving our effectiveness.

These are fairly modest goals, but they are within our limited capability: that of a voluntary Executive Committee with a small amount of office support.

Against each of these priorities we have developed a work plan.  This was approved and published on the web site last December.  Progress has been as follows:

**Conferences and workshops**

Much of our focus has been on supporting the organisers of [this week’s conference](http://iaos2012.ukrstat.gov.ua/) here in Kiev.  I have held meetings with the SSSU in the margins of other international meetings, supported the search for sponsorship and taken opportunities to promote and advertise the conference where we can.  We have developed the [Governance workshop](http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/conferences/2012GovernanceWorkshop.pdf) for countries in the region and supported the [training event](http://iaos2012.ukrstat.gov.ua/) for young statisticians.

I am grateful to Hilkka Vihavainen for the work she has done to ensure we have a good selection of topics and papers for the [2013 WSC in Hong Kong](http://www.isi2013.hk/), including discussions on quality, modernising business statistics, social accounts and a core skills framework for official statisticians.  Just before the WSC, on Friday 23 August, we will be hosting a joint workshop with the IASE on ‘Statistics education for progress: youth and official statistics’.

Shigeru Kawasaki, the President-elect, will update you on plans for the next 2014 IAOS conference shortly.

**Developing the membership**

We have taken forward a number of initiatives, largely under Nancy Gordon.  The [Young Statistician’s prize](http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/ProfessionalDevelopment/2012PrizeYoungStatisticians-winners.htm) has been put on a sustainable basis so we will now be offering this prize annually.  The 2012 prize is being awarded at this conference, and we will shortly be announcing the timetable for the 2013 prize to be awarded in Hong Kong.

I have become a member of the ISI [Advisory Board on Professional Ethics](http://www.isi-web.org/component/content/article/44-com/com/496-eth) and we have provided opportunities for discussion on this important topic both in Dublin and at this conference.  We have improved our communications with members, sending out an email after each Executive Committee meeting with links to new items on the web site and continuing to encourage members to get involved with the work of the Association.

After a dip in 2010, personal [membership](http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/aboutus/members.htm) is on the increase, though institutional membership has fallen back.  You will have seen the new membership leaflet which updates what we have to offer our members.  We will be using this to recruit more members over the next few months.

I also have to report that Dr Vera Nyitrai passed away since our last meeting. She was a founder member of the IAOS and its first President, elected in 1987. She was also Director of the Hungarian Statistical Office (KSH) in the 1980s.

**Publications and communications**

We have a list of potential papers for the [Statistical Journal](http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/journal.htm) of the IAOS.  We have introduced new tracking software to enable prospective authors to see the progress of their papers.  The thorough peer review process introduces some delay.  We will shortly be considering a ‘fast track’ procedure for papers which have already been reviewed in some form:  eg Young Statisticians prize papers and papers for conferences such as Kiev.  This should speed the publishing process considerably.

The website needs regular management to ensure it is up to date and its potential is used.  I am pleased that Nancy McBeth has agreed to lead on this, but I know she is keen to have some help.

**Improving effectiveness**

We have set up the Nominating Committee, chaired by Hermann Habermann, which will consider nominations for the Executive Committee (including the next President-Elect) for the term 2013 to 2015.  They will make proposals by next spring, which will be put to you for election at our General Meeting in Hong Kong next August.  If you wish to be considered or to nominate someone please contact hermannhabermann@aol.com

We have reviewed our [Statutes](http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/aboutus/statutes.htm), to bring them into line with Dutch law and changes in the ISI statutes.  We have also sought to make them align more closely with how we currently work.  The changes will be published on the web site shortly, so that having taken your views we can make a decision at the General meeting in Hong Kong.

I would very much welcome your feedback on what we are doing.  It is your Association.  There is much more we could do – let me know if you want to get involved and help us do it!

Stephen Penneck

September 2012