**Annex A**

**IAOS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AUGUST 2013**

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR 2011 TO 2013**

In my incoming Presidential address two years ago I made two points about the IAOS.

FIRST, it is the International Association for Official Statistics, not the International Association of Official Statisticians. As such it is a unique opportunity for all those who value official statistics to come together and discuss issues of interest and concern. SECOND, it is a professional organisation, outside the control of governments. And I set out some of the benefits from all this.

I pledged to use the opportunities of our conferences and the next Nominating Committee to broaden our membership and leadership. I also looked to build on and consolidate the work of my predecessors, make our procedures effective and sustainable, run the Association using an open and transparent approach, and use our web site to communicate with our members.

I also wanted to develop a budget strategy that improved our effectiveness and helped deliver our mission.

The first thing the new Executive Committee did was to develop a strategy for delivering its mission. It is on the web site and includes a set of priorities for the two years of my Presidency.  They were:

·delivering successful conferences and workshops;

·developing and supporting the membership;

·producing successful publications and communications; and

·improving our effectiveness.

These are fairly modest goals, but we thought them to be 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, again on the web site and updated each year. So what have we done against each of these headings? Much of the detail of our activities is in separate reports. This report gives an overview.

**A. Conferences and workshops**

**1. ‘Getting our messages across’ in Kiev, Ukraine, 12 to 14 September 2012**

The IAOS 2012 conference, attended by 160 delegates from 53 countries, plus over a hundred from the Ukraine, focused on the need to distil and disseminate simple messages from official statistics using modern approaches and technology.  There was a high level of discussion and engagement. The main themes were:

• statistical story telling;

• enhancing access to information;

• marketing, promotion and customer focus;

• new information media; and

• statistical literacy.

The conference papers are on the IAOS web site at <http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/conferences/2012KievPapers.htm>

The conference led to lively debates on these topical subjects and was successful in attracting a large number of delegates not already members of IAOS, giving us a platform for expanding our membership. A selection of the papers is being prepared for our Journal.

**2. Training course for official statisticians, Kiev, 11 September 2012**

The opportunity of the IAOS conference was taken to hold a training event primarily aimed at young statisticians on the day before the main conference, attended by 46 participants, mainly from the Ukraine and the CIS region.

**3. Governance workshop, Kiev, 11 September 2012**

As is becoming traditional, a governance workshop for Director Generals in the region of the host NSI was held the day before the Kiev conference. This was valued by participants. A report and the papers are here: <http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/conferences/2012KievGovernanceWorkshop.htm>

**4. WSC Hong Kong 2013**

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.

**5. Joint workshop with IASE ‘Statistics education for progress’ in Macau, 22 to 24 August 2013**

We have worked with IASE on last week’s joint workshop ‘Statistics education for progress’ in Macau. The Friday (23 August) of this satellite conference was a joint IASE/IAOS session promoting collaboration between official statistics and statistical education under the title ‘Youth and Official Statistics’. I am grateful to Sharleen Forbes for her work in coordinating the IAOS papers for this workshop. Read more at <http://www.conkerstatistics.co.uk/iase2013/>

Shigeru Kawasaki, the President-elect, will update you on plans for the **2014 IAOS conference** shortly. We have appointed Rolando Ocampo (INEGI, Mexico) to be the IAOS representative on the Programme Committee for **WSC 2015** in Rio.

**B. Developing and supporting the membership**

**Young Statisticians Prize (YSP)**

The prize has been put on a regular, sustainable basis, and is now awarded annually. Developments are set out in a **separate report**.

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 provided opportunities for discussion on this important topic at the last IAOS conference.

A separate report on **membership** sets out the growth in membership numbers and describes the membership campaign we have been undertaking. We have continued to encourage members to get involved with the work of the Association.

**C. Publications and communications**

The development of the Statistical Journal, which has strengthened over the last year, is the subject of a **separate report**.

The **website**needs regular management to ensure it is up to date and its potential is used.  I am pleased that Nancy McBeth is leading the work on this, though I know she is keen to have some help.

We have kept in touch with our members by regularly posting items on our web site and producing a ‘Members update’ after each Executive Committee with links to new information items. These are at <http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/newsletter.htm>

**D. Improving effectiveness**

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 were subject to a consultation through our web site last winter and have recently been put to a formal vote. At the time of writing voting had not concluded. I will report the result orally at the General Assembly.

Up-to-date budgets and estimates of expenditure are now produced. The latest figures are in our **financial report**. A strategy for future management of reserves has been agreed. This enabled increased support to be given to conferences and workshops. We have had discussions with the Standing Conference on Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS), a part of the IAOS, on financial support and have given them a grant of €1,000 in each of the last two years. This has enabled them to develop a new web site [www.scorus.org](http://www.scorus.org)

The Executive Committee met five times a year in the last two years, usually by telephone, but also in the margins of the UNSD in New York and at the WSC or IAOS conferences. Our minutes are published on the web site, and we publish an update for members after each meeting.

In accordance with our statutes, we set up a Nominating Committee for the 2013-15 Executive Committee, a **report** on which is covered in the agenda.

All told it has been a busy two years and I have been especially grateful to colleagues on the Executive Committee and others who have played an active part in supporting me, especially

Ada Van Krimpen for her personal support and the support of her office

Nancy McBeth for her work on the web site

Frank Nolan and now Fritz Scheuren for their editorship of the Journal

Siu-Ming Tam as Programme Chair for IAOS 2012 Kiev

Sharleen Forbes for her work on the IASE/IAOS satellite Macau 2013

Hilkka Vihavainen as IAOS member of the Programme Committee for WSC Hong Kong

Nancy Gordon for her work on the Young Statisticians Prize and the Membership campaign

Shigeru Kawasaki for his general support and for getting IAOS 2014 Vietnam up and running, and

Jo Green for her work and tireless help supporting the Executive Committee

Stephen Penneck

President IAOS

July 2013