



International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS)

IAOS 2016 Annual Report

December, 2016

Contents

IAOS President Message

Chapter One: IAOS Strategy Progress (2015-2017)

Chapter Two: Delivering Conferences and Workshops:

1. IAOS2016 Conference
2. IAOS2018 Conference
3. ISI-WSC 61st 2017

Chapter Three: Developing and Supporting IAOS Membership:

1. Young Statisticians Prize (2016 & 2017)
2. IAOS Membership Publicity

Chapter Four: IAOS Communications:

1. IAOS website
2. Statistical Journal of IAOS
3. Relationships with ISI and other Stakeholders

Chapter Five: SCORUS Activities

Chapter Six: Conclusion

IAOS President Message

On behalf of the IAOS Executive Committee, I am pleased to present the IAOS 2016 annual report. This report sheds the light on major achievements the EXCO committee was able to attain, as well as the advancement it could reach. I appreciate all the outstanding contributions made and I would like to thank everyone in the IAOS family who took part in the progress that the IAOS has accomplished during this year. Last but not least, special gratitude to IAOS' partners who have immensely contributed to the strengthening of the IAOS presence and visibility in the international arena.

The report constitutes of six chapters that correspond to six major topics:

1. IAOS Strategy Progress (2015-2017).
2. Delivering Conferences and Workshops.
3. Developing and Supporting IAOS Membership.
4. IAOS Communications.
5. SCORUS Activities.
6. Conclusion.

Ola Awad

IAOS President

Chapter One

IAOS Strategy Progress (2015-2017)

Ola Awad

1. To increase the relevancy of IAOS

The IAOS conducted the IAOS2016 conference in cooperation with SCAD in Abu Dhabi which revolved around partnership and continuous innovation in official statistics. In addition, the IAOS2018 conference will be held in Paris with the collaboration of OECD on September 19-21,2018. At the current time, the IAOS is preparing for the 2017 Young Statisticians Prize (YSP) competition which aims to encourage young statisticians in proposing solutions to challenges faced in the field of official statistics. The SJIAOS addresses issues that are of interest to the official statistics community worldwide. Moreover, there has been a 20% increase in membership across all membership class compared to membership in 2015.

2. To increase the visibility of IAOS at regional and international levels

For the purpose of increasing the visibility of the IAOS at regional and international levels, a new IAOS brochure was designed and circulated during the IAOS2016 conference and two promotional videos were produced and presented on the World Statistics Day when celebrated by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics as well as at other international and regional events. Moreover, news about the IAOS were published in different articles.

As for the new IAOS website, it was launched on May 12, 2016. It comprises sections for News, IAOS library, IAOS conferences, SJIAOS, etc. Furthermore, tools are made available for users with no prior knowledge of web programming to create and manage content easily.

3. To invest in creating mutual beneficial partnerships

The IAOS became a stakeholder of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) which is led by the UN and strives to achieve sustainable development through encouraging the development of new data principles, expanding access to data and promoting increased use of data. On another note, the IAOS is now included on the GPSDD portal. It is needless to mention that the IAOS is supporting the International Statistics Institute (ISI) on ethical questions of practical concerns, like the Andreas V. Georgiou legal defense fund. For many years, the International Association for Statistics Education (IASE) is organizing themed conferences held immediately before the ISI World Statistics Congresses. The IAOS will cooperate with the IASE in organizing the IASE2017 as the Satellite to 2017 World Statistics Congress in Morocco.

4. Institutionalize IAOS functions

The IAOS finalized the Young Statisticians Prize (YSP) manual which encompasses the criteria for the eligibility, content and disqualification of participants in the IAOS's YSP. The current web site acts as instrument to archive and manage IAOS related documents with access privileges to EXCO members to selected sections. Content management of IAOS web site can be now delegated to EXCO members.

Chapter Two

Delivering Conferences and Workshops

IAOS2016 Conference: The Spirit of Official Statistics

“Partnership and Continuous Innovation”

Eric Rancourt

The conference explored a wide variety of themes centered around partnerships and innovation. It was dynamically organized between the Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) team in Abu Dhabi and the Programme Committee. The program offered a good mix of plenary and parallel sessions. Each day started with plenary sessions containing a special presentations or session followed by series of parallel sessions. Sessions offered lecture style presentations some with, some without discussants as well as panel discussions. Over 200 proposals for invited and contributed presentations were received. After screening, arranging the papers into coherent themes and confirming presenters, the program consisted of 4 special/keynote sessions, 13 invited sessions and 9 contributed sessions. In addition, there were two workshops: one on how to make presentations, and one on how to write papers. As usual there was also time secured for the general assembly and presentation of the Young Statisticians Prize winners.

The registration system opened in May 2016 and the programme was available from September. To obtain more information, please visit the conference website (<https://iaos2016.ae/>).

Indeed, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) and its team for hosting this conference.

IAOS2018 Conference

Mario Palma

IAOS will organise its 16th conference edition together with OECD. The conference will take place at the OECD headquarters located in Paris, France from September 19 to 21, 2018. The OECD aims to promote policies to help improve the economic and social wellbeing of people around the world. Statistics are, therefore, a vital component to developing evidence-based policies. Due to this reason, this partnership offers the opportunity of liaising with a leading organisation which takes official statistics into practice and ensures the IAOS efforts to reach its objectives.

Due to the size and complexity of the conference, IAOS and OECD already organised the first meeting of the logistic and administrative teams. This session took place on October 6th - 7th 2016 on the premises of the OECD. During this two-day session, the IAOS team (President-elect and his staff and Ada Van Krimpen, ISI Director) and the OECD staff were able to book the rooms which will serve as conference spaces. The teams also settled several relevant issues such as the final date for the 2018 conference (19-21 September 2018) and the general theme (Better Statistics for Better Lives). The official announcement of the 2018 conference will take place during IAOS 2016 Conference in Abu Dhabi.



IAOS Delegation visit to OECD on 6 and 7 October 2016.

Left to right: Peter van de Ven, Mario Palma, Pilar Garcia Velaquez, Rodrigo Reyes Muguerza, Omar Berrospe Marquez, Ada van Krimpen, Suzanna Grant-Kejairi, Anne-Lise Faron.

ISI- World Statistics Congress

61st ISI WSC 2017, Marrakech

Rolando Ocampo

A total of 44 IPS proposals were registered directly at the ISI WSC 2017 webpage, under the sponsor of the IAOS and as joint sessions of IAOS and another or other ISI associations.

The IAOS Executive Committee made a list with the most relevant ones based on different aspects such as the broadness and importance of the subject, quality of organization and preparation and within this list, 15 IPS proposals were automatically approved by the SPC at the first round of selection of IPSs for the WSC program.

The SPC members reviewed and scored the rest of the proposals received from all ISI Associations to discuss their inclusion at the WSC program and at Marrakech's meeting.

At Marrakech meeting the SPC selected 17 additional IAOS Invited Paper Sessions, to have a total of 32 IPS approved sessions for the 61st ISI World Statistics Congress.

The ISI contacted the session organizers of each IPS to inform them of their acceptance into the conference program. The SPC also met with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) at Marrakech to visit the venue and talked about hotels, facilities and activities planned for the WSC.

The Short Course Committee (SCC) for the 2017 WSC received 46 proposals from the ISI members and other sources, to be reviewed by the SCC whom developed the short course program of 22 Short Courses.

The Lunch Round Table Discussion (LRTD) Committee, invited all members and representatives from ISI Associations at the SPC to be members of the LRTD for the 61st WSC 2017.

The LTRD will occur during lunch time the days of the Congress with 8-10 people attending each one, and one member of the Committee will oversee the discussion. Submissions for the LRTD have just opened on November 15th, 2016, through the Submission System of the 61st ISI WSC webpage, and will close on January 24th, 2017. The final decision will be made by February, 7th, 2017.

Chapter Three Developing and Supporting IAOS Membership

Young Statisticians Prize (2016 & 2017)

Leslie Tang

For the Young Statisticians Prize 2016, a call for papers was opened in August 2015, and closed in January 2016. Out of the total 42 submissions (from 54 entrants) from 23 countries, three best papers were selected for the award.

The winners were as follows:

First Prize: Rolando Gonzales Martinez (Bolivia), *Balancing Input-Output tables with Bayesian Slave-raiding ants.*

Second Prize: Thomas Zimmermann (Germany), *Variance reduction using a non-informative sampling design.*

Third Prize: Antoine Rebecq and Thomas Merly-Alpa (France), *CURIOS: A framework to optimize CAPI surveys using paradata.*

The winners received certificates and cash prizes. Apart from publishing the winning papers in the Statistical Journal of the International Association for Official Statistics, the first winner was also invited to present the paper at the IAOS Conference in Abu Dhabi on 6-8 December 2016 and the second winner also attended the said conference and presented his paper.

As for the Young Statisticians Prize 2017, a call for papers has been opened in August 2016, and closed in December 2016.

A variety of means were used to advertise the competition, including social media and letters to Heads of NSOs and ISOs. Information about the competition is now regularly provided in all official UN languages.

Same for the YSP2016, besides the certificates and cash prizes, the first winner will receive travel funds to present the paper at one of the sessions of the next World Statistical Congress in Marrakech, Morocco in July 2017.

IAOS Executive Committee takes this opportunity to express its gratitude and appreciation to the members of the YSP Selection Committee for their dedicated contributions to this program.

IAOS Membership Publicity

Oliver Chinganya & Mario Palma

Membership

The table below provides information on the membership from 2013 to mid- October 2016, showing a steady increase over the years. A modest increase is also observed among the developing countries. As of mid-October 2016, there were a total of 441 IAOS members of which 37 were either institutional or corporate members; overall representing an increase of 29 members from 2015 and 122 from 2013 respectively. Worth noting in the table is number prize winners, which skyrocketed from 3 in 2014 to 8 in 2016. The figures include members who are both ISI and IAOS members, and honorary members.

We would like to thank the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS) team as they were highly impactful in attracting new members by their extensive marketing campaigns.

Over the next months it will be important to mount a campaign to attract members, especially statisticians from the developing countries, including those working in private and quasi government agencies as well as university students.

Member of IAOS from 2013 to 2016

Membership category	2016*	2015	2014	2013
Developed countries	104	100	80	78
Developing countries	64	48	46	34
ISI+IAOS Developed countries	126	121	125	121
ISI+IAOS Developed countries – Retired	39	36	29	24
ISI+IAOS Developing countries	43	38	38	30
ISI+IAOS Developing countries - Retired	6	5	4	4
Free: Honorary Members – ISI life exempt	12	12	17	18
Free: Prize winners	8	4	3	
Free: SJIAOS Authors	2	1	1	
IAOS : Institutional & Corporate Developed	30	-	-	-
IAOS : Institutional & Corporate Developing	7	-	-	-
Total	441	365	343	309

*Membership as of mid-October 2016

Student Strategy

IAOS is currently undertaking a project to attract young members – mainly post-graduate students – interested in official statistics. The IAOS President-elect presented a first draft of the project during the IAOS Executive Meeting in New York in 2016. In the following months, we will design the package that is going to be offered to the students. This strategy will be presented to the IAOS EXCO during the Statistical Commission in New York in 2017. The IAOS members are most welcome to recommend universities or departments that could be approached.

Chapter Four

IAOS Communications

IAOS website

Nancy McBeth

Thanks to the great efforts of the team at the Palestinian Central Bureaus of Statistics, the IAOS Executive and the ISI Head Office, the new IAOS website <http://www.iaos-isi.org/> went live in mid 2016. The new website enables enhanced communication with members and others interested in official statistics. The dynamic nature of the website means information is now more up to date.

Remember if you have news to share, send your contributions to the IAOS President at (contactIAOS@gmail.com).

Statistical Journal of IAOS

Kirsten West

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the SJIAOS associate editors and reviewers for their contribution to their profession, the organization and the journal. Without charge, they give freely of their time and expertise. I also want to recognize the support over the past year of the IAOS EXCO members, and the invaluable help with the management of the manuscripts from Greta Cherry and the editorial staff at IOS Press. Without the assistance of these individuals, there would be no journal.

The number of published manuscripts increased throughout the year. This year we published more than 70 manuscripts in four issues. Again, without the support of the editorial board, the editorial staff and the IAOS, it would not have been possible to achieve these improvements.

Volume 32 had a rich content. The topics covered many aspect of relevance to official statistics including:

- Big data, synthetic data, administrative data
- Data quality: linkage error, fabrication (special theme)
- Data issues: confidentiality, disclosure and protection (special theme)
- Data dissemination
- Data collection: census taking (special theme)
- Data management: statistical systems
- Integration of statistical and geospatial information and data (special theme)
- IAOS YSP2015 winning contributions

We invited and published comments to some of the papers.

We welcomed papers on indigenous populations and papers reporting on Statistics without Borders projects.

We published interviews with senior statisticians and managers around the world with the goal of connecting official statisticians globally. Occasionally, we publish conversations about a topic we find to be of special interest to our readers. In Volume 32, we had conversations about science diplomacy, how to create continuing and sustainable volunteer organizations and how to conduct a volunteer project. The views and opinions expressed in the interviews and conversations are those of the interviewee and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the Journal, nor IOS Press.

The IAOS and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) have signed an agreement to publish each other's manuscripts in their respective journals to allow greater dissemination at the international level of papers of interest to both organizations. The first paper appeared in the December 2016 issue.

We continue to have strong outreach efforts in place to ensure that we have a steady stream of submissions to allow us to publish a representative selection of quality

manuscripts from all corners of the world. Our efforts include inviting special editors or sending out call for manuscripts that fit together under an interesting, important and timely theme. We also attempt to have representation at conferences and professional meetings. As an example, the Q2016 European conference on quality of official statistics offered an opportunity to solicit several manuscripts. The 2016 SCORUS conference will be a source for a future special issue as will papers presented at the 2016 IAOS conference. In addition, the IOS Press is very helpful in providing promotional materials to conference organizers. We also benefit from the IAOS and ISI websites and the publicity produced by IOS Press, the IAOS, the ISI and the World Statistics Newsletters.

A very deep appreciation goes to Mr. Fritz Scheuren, SJIAOS Editor-in-Chief 2013-2016 for his devotion towards the enhancement and uplifting of the SJIAOS. We would like to congratulate him on his recognition by the ASA Mentoring Award this year.

Relationships with ISI and other stakeholders

Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski

One of the main intentions of the ISI and the IAOS is to establish and preserve trust in official statistics. Therefore the IAOS, in close cooperation with the ISI, supports statisticians worldwide with regard to current ethical questions of practical relevance. The crowd funding initiative of the Andreas V. Georgiou Legal Defence Fund in support of Andreas V. Georgiou, President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) from 2010-2015, is to be mentioned first. He has been accused of high treason, mainly for inflating the 2009 government deficit and debt figures of Greece. The IAOS supported several statements of the ISI and of the European statistical community, stating their support for Andreas V. Georgiou and expressing their conviction that he acted according to internationally applicable statistical quality standards. The fund finally contained 20,000 Euros. Half of that amount was donated by the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW), in which the management of the Federal Statistical Office is represented.

Within the framework of the IAOS2016 Conference, the session “Implementing the Fundamental Principles: supporting statisticians in developing countries” explained the steps the UN is planning to promote the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and discussed some of the challenges developing countries are facing.

Furthermore, the IAOS attaches great value to promotional activities at conferences like the IARIW Conference in Dresden, Germany in August 2016 and the American Statistical Association conference in Chicago in July 2016. Besides, the IAOS will be present at the ISI WSC in Marrakech in January 2017 with various invited paper sessions and will be represented at the World Data Forum in Cape Town.

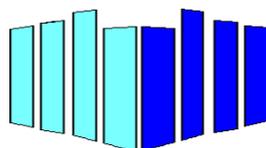
The IAOS also became a stakeholder in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) initiative, which is led by the UN and strives to achieve sustainable development through encouraging the development of new data principles, expanding access to data and promoting increased use of data. As part of that, the IAOS is now included on the GPSDD portal

Chapter Five

Summary of the SCORUS Activities in 2016

Teodora Brandmueller

SCORUS



A. Delivering Conferences

1. SCORUS – INE –OECD Conference: Indicators for territorial policies

The annual conference of the IAOS Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS) co-organised by Statistics Portugal (INE) and OECD took place in Lisbon. The theme of the conference was “Indicators for territorial policies: closing data gaps by using traditional and new sources and methods”. The 2016 conference attracted more than 100 participants from over 20 countries.

The programme consisted of 7 thematic sessions, 4 keynote speeches and a closing panel discussion. Following the conference, all participants have been invited to give their feedback on the different aspects of the conference using an online survey. Based on the results the most interesting topics discussed were the following:

- Statistical indicators for regional policy monitoring
- Integrating statistical and geospatial information to produce new territorial indicators
- Closing data gaps to enhance territorial indicators

In particular participants appreciated:

- the diversity of the topics
- the possibility to share different studies with so many countries
- the excellent organization
- the very interesting presentations
- the strong engagement of the senior INE management, Ministry officials, OECD and Eurostat, as well as the many delegations from several countries.

All papers and presentations are on the [website of the conference](#).

3. UN World Data Forum 2017

Following the invitation of the Programme Committee SCORUS will organise a session titled: “Data needs at the local level: “Leaving no one behind” – the geographical dimension” co-ordinated by Jagdev Virdee

2. ISI 2017 World Statistics Congress

The proposal submitted by Jagdev Virdee on behalf of SCORUS has been approved. The title of the session will be: “UN Sustainable Development Goals: The Implications for Statistics at a Sub-National Level”

B. Communication

SCORUS is collaborating on a special issue of the SJIAOS to be published in the fall 2017 with the theme: 'Urban, Regional and Small Area Statistics'. Asta Manninen is the guest editor working with the editorial board of the journal and with Klaus Trutzel and Teodora Brandmuller on behalf of SCORUS.

The SCORUS website is available under <http://www.scorus.org>. Suggestions for improvements were discussed and implemented; the content of the website has been enriched.

C. Administrative arrangements

1. Administrative Meeting

In 2016 one in-person administrative meeting was held in Lisbon. The discussion at this meeting was supplemented by frequent email exchanges and telephone calls, where mostly preparatory measures were discussed prior to events.

2. Management

The incoming SCORUS Management of the period 2015-2017:

Chair: Teodora Brandmueller, e-mail: teodora.brandmueller@ec.europa.eu
Secretary: Wendy Thomas, e-mail: wlt@umn.edu
Members: Jagdev Singh Virdee, email: jsvirdee@hotmail.com
Ari Jaakola, email: ari.jaakola@hel.fi
Stephen KC Leung, e-mail: skcleung@censtatd.gov.hk

Previous periods:

The SCORUS Management of the period 2013-2015:

Chair: Stephen KC Leung, e-mail: skcleung@censtatd.gov.hk
Secretary: Wendy Thomas, e-mail: wlt@umn.edu
Vice-Chair: Teodora Brandmueller, e-mail: teodora.brandmueller@ec.europa.eu
Treasurer: Petra Kuncova, e-mail: petra.kuncova@czso.cz

Chapter Six

Conclusion

To summarize, this chapter highlights the most prominent achievements during 2016:

- Designing a new IAOS brochure.
- Successfully conducting the IAOS2016 conference in cooperation with SCAD in Abu Dhabi on December 6-8,2016.
- The IAOS2018 conference will be organized with the collaboration of OECD in Paris on September 19-21,2018.
- Young Statisticians Prize 2016 announced the names of the three winners and in addition to receiving the certificates and cash prizes, the first winner was also invited to present the paper at the IAOS2016 conference in Abu Dhabi. As for the Young Statisticians Prize 2017, a call for papers has been opened in August 2016, and closed in December, 2016.
- The IAOS became a stakeholder of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD).
- There has been a 20% increase in membership across all membership class compared to membership in 2015.
- The new IAOS website was launched with an aim to ensure a more brilliant and user friendly website for the IAOS members.
- The SJIAOS continued its achievements and advancements to grow.

Executive Committee Members (2015-2017)

Ms. Ola Awad (President)
Mr. Mario Palma (President-Elect)
Ms. Nancy McBeth (Member)
Mr. Leslie Tang (Member)
Mr. Oliver Chinganya (Member)
Ms. Sibylle von Oppeln (Member)
Ms. Ada van Krimpen (Ex-Officio)

Others with Special Functions

Ms. Kirsten West (SJIAOS Chief Editor)
Mr. Eric Rancourt (IAOS2016 Program Committee Chair)
Ms. Teodora Brandmueller (SCORUS Chair)
Mr. Rolando Ocampo (IAOS Representative to 2017 WSC Scientific Program Committee)