Minutes of the IAOS General Assembly 2014

Time: Thursday 9 October 2014 (12:30 – 13:05)

Place: Lotus 3 Room, Annex Building, Pullman DaNang Resort, DaNang, VietNam

Attendance:
(Executive Committee)
Ada van Krimpen (Director of ISI PO)
Shigeru Kawasaki (President)
Ola Awad (President-Elect)
Angela Me (Member)
Mario Palma (Member)
Stephen Leung (SCORUS Chair)

(Attendees)
Approximately 30 members attended the General Assembly (GA). Approximately 30 non-members also attended as observers.

Agenda
Item 1. Briefing on the IAOS Annual Report (5 minutes)
Item 2. New Goals for the Statistical Journal of the IAOS or SJIAOS (20 minutes)
Item 3. Questions and Answers (5-10 minutes)

Documents
0. Annotated Agenda of the IAOS General Assembly
1. IAOS GA Slides

Introduction
Shigeru Kawasaki welcomed the attendees, and gave a brief explanation of the agenda. The main objective of the Assembly was to share information on the current status of the IAOS with the members, and to gain input from members for considering future directions for the SJIAOS. There was no agenda item requiring decisions. To allow sufficient time for members to give their views, the explanation for Item 1 was made briefly, and most time was spent on Item 2.

Item 1. Briefing on the IAOS Annual Report (5 minutes)
Shigeru focused his explanation on publishing the SJIAOS. Since 2013, contents of the SJIAOS have been significantly improved under the editorship of Fritz Scheuren, and this year three issues with 44 articles have been published so far. The publishing contract with IOS Press, initiated in July 2007 and renewed in 2010 for five years, will expire in July 2015. In January 2014, to gain more time for considering a new publishing arrangement after expiration, he requested IOS Press to extend the contract for one year until July 2016. IOS Press agreed to the extension. The Publishing Committee, chaired by the Chief Editor, is considering a modified arrangement.

Item 2. New Goals for the SJIAOS (20 minutes)
Stephen Penneck and Nancy McBeth led the discussion on future directions for the SJIAOS. Following an introduction by Shigeru, they presented the accompanying slides. Steve opened the presentation, with apologies from Fritz, and then turned it over to Nancy.

The slides covered:
- Changes in the Journal
- Emerging Goals
- Immediate Challenges (Improving Readership, Promotion and Flow of Articles)
- Selected Facts from the September issue
- Discussion points on content in the Journal
Participants were also invited to sign up to submit Journal articles, and several people did so.

Among the attendees, about 50% indicated they had read at least one article in the Journal this year. They were asked for suggestions for the SJIAOS, including the strategic role of the SJIAOS and preferred contents. The following suggestions were made:

**Strategic Role of the SJIAOS**
- SJIAOS needs to focus on Applied Research and Techniques appropriate to Official Statistics
- SJIAOS needs to have a clear niche - standing out from the crowd, especially for example in relation to the ISI Review and the Journal of Official Statistics

**Suggested Contents of the SJIAOS**
- There were mixed views about whether conference papers should be considered for publishing. At least one speaker felt this would lead to a lowering of quality.
- The following special topics were suggested:
  - Innovation
  - Survey Data
  - New Technologies
  - Integrating Data
  - Data Mining
  - Modelling of Official Statistics - specific example Predictive Models
  - Historical Developments in Official Statistics
  - Administrative Data Developments
  - New Concepts of Organising Statistical Offices
  - Implications of the Post 2015 Development Goals
  - Training and Development in Official Statistics

**Business Model for the SJIAOS**
Some members commented that the journal should move to an Open Access Model, although it was not discussed in detail.

**Item 3. Questions and Answers**
There were no questions or comments on other topics received from attendees due to the time limit. Shigeru said he would welcome questions and suggestions after the assembly.

The General Assembly closed at 13:05.