



International Association for Official Statistics

2021 General Assembly Meeting

Thursday 8th July 2021, 14.00 -15.00 (CEST)

Virtual meeting

Apologies: Nancy McBeth, Kees Zeelenberg, Denise Britz

Introduction:

John Pullinger introduced the meeting and reflected on some of the things that had happened during his two-year Presidency – despite the pandemic. He recognised how the pandemic had affected colleagues both professionally and personally and thanked the IAOS community for keeping everything going during this unprecedented time.

Item 1

Minutes of the 2020 General Assembly meeting

No comments were raised on the minutes of the 2020 General Assembly and so they were agreed.

Item 2

IAOS Annual Report 2020-2021

John gave a short reflection on his last two years as President, describing them as amazing. Some of the high points for him were:

- The successful IAOS webinar platform reaching a wider and younger audience. Special thanks to Ada van Krimpen and her team at the ISI Programme Office for their help and technical support for these events.
- The Statistical Journal has made astonishing progress thanks to Pieter Everaers and his team.
- The Young Statisticians Prize has achieved a greater diversity of winners and represented countries thanks to the work of Gemma Van Halderen and her team.
- The IAOS membership has flourished despite no conference and some tough challenges faced during the pandemic. Despite the increase in membership fees, numbers continue to rise, thanks in part to Pieter Everaers encouraging journal authors to take up a free one-year membership.

All in all, John felt that it had been a successful two years and invited the Assembly members to accept the report. Report was unanimously accepted without comment.

Item 3

SJIAOS

Pieter Everaers gave thanks to his editorial team – the emphasis editors and reviewers who all give their time voluntarily. He also offered thanks to those of his team who had since stepped down. Pieter reported that 2020 had been a very good year with the Journal receiving 135 manuscripts

submissions. 2021 is already promising to be another good year as 60 manuscripts have already been received.

The readership of the SJIAOS has increased with the number of downloads indicating the enormous interest in the variety of manuscripts available, in particular the open access manuscripts sponsored by UNFPA and Asia Pacific. In 2020 a special Africa open access issue was sponsored by UNECA. In 2021 a special open access issue on statistical training is being planned which will cover statistical thinking and not just statistical literacy.

Also being considered for later in 2021 is a workshop jointly hosted by Wiley, SJIAOS and Stats Canada will be offered for less experienced manuscript writers.

Item 4

Young Statisticians Prize

Gemma Van Halderen gave a presentation on the success of the YSP in 2020 and 2021. In 2020 the YSP celebrated its tenth anniversary year and the variety of issues chosen by entrants in both years covers subjects such as; Data Access, use of R package, Big Data, Differential Privacy, COVID 19, Machine Learning, Model based estimation and forecasting methodologies.

The Prize was expanded in 2020 to include a new category of special commendation for a paper from a developing Nation which recognised the focus of the IAOS in fostering development of official statistics, particularly in developing nations. This prize in 2020 was awarded to The Gambia.

The 2021 Prize saw first-time winners from the Netherlands, Brazil and Indonesia. This year also features, in conjunction with the ISI Women in Statistics Initiative an invited session at the ISI WSC where female YSP winners will talk about what the prize means to them.

Gemma thanked all prize winners past and present and also thanked their supervisors and the international judging panel. She concluded with a request for help from the IAOS community to reach out to their communities and help increase submission numbers for the 2022 YSP.

John then offered his thanks to all who supported him during his Presidency:

- To the 2019-21 Executive Committee for their dedication and input to all the meetings
- To Ada and her team at the ISI for their support with the webinars, technical support with the website and administering the finances
- To the wider ISI community for their flourish of collaborations and Stephen Penneck as the ISI partner
- Special thanks to Nancy McBeth for her continuous support in guidance, connections and communications
- To Jo Green for her dedicated support during his term

Item 5

Formal introduction of the new President and executive Committee 2021-2023

Misha Belkindas took over the meeting to introduce himself as the new president and introduce his new Executive Committee. He reflected that he was the 18th President of IAOS and also the first non-statistician. He recognised that the IAOS is now no longer just looking at official statistics but is more focussed on data users and he very much looks forward to advancing the association with colleagues.

He thanked John Pullinger for his shared ideas and management guidance during his term as President-Elect. He also thanked the current Executive Committee members who were stepping down

from the role. Thanks too were recognised to Mario Palma for his role in leading the selection committee for the new executive.

Misha introduced his 2021-23 Executive Committee:

EXCO Members

Name	Position	Country	Region
Mr. Misha Belkindas	President	USA	America
Mr. Dominik Rozkrut	President-Elect	Poland	Europe
Ms. Lisa Bersales	First term	Philippines	Asia
Mr. Peter Popoola	Second term	Nigeria	Africa
Mr. Qasem Said Alzoubi	First term	Jordan	Arab
Mr. Gary Dunnet	First term	New Zealand	Oceania
Ms. Ada Van Krimpen	ISI Director	Netherlands	Europe

EXCO Co-opted Members

Name	Position	Country	Region
Mr. Rolando Ocampo Alcantar	Latin American and the Caribbean Representative	Mexico	Latin America and the Caribbean
Mr. Jan Robert Suesser	Programme Chair of the IAOS 2022 Conference Poland	France	Europe
Mr. Steve Macfeely	IAOS Representative to the ISI	Switzerland	Europe

EXCO Special Invitees

Name	Position	Country	Region
Mr. Pieter Everaers	Editor in Chief, SJIAOS	Netherlands	Europe
Ms. Teodora Brandmueller	SCORUS Chair	Luxembourg	Europe
Ms. Nancy McBeth	Special Advisor to the President	New Zealand	Oceania
Ms. Gemma Van Halderen	Young Statisticians Prize	Australia	Oceania
Mr. Ronald Jansen	UNSD	USA	America
Mr. Oliver Chinganya	Programme Chair of the IAOS 2023 Conference in Zambia	Zambia	Africa

Item 6

IAOS Strategic Plan 2021-2023

Misha advised the assembly that the first version of his strategic plan will be based on the two previous plans – 2017-19 and 2019-21 and when agreed with his Executive Committee he planned to share this version for comments in the coming months.

He outlined some specific areas which this strategic plan will cover:

- IAOS Conferences
- Supporting the SJIAOS
- Promoting the YSP
- Plans to increase the membership and boost the associations finances, pushing corporate membership, talking to academia and commercial organisations and supporting NSOs by providing technical assistance and consultancy
- Improved communication with stakeholders
- Further exposure of misuse of statistics continuing the important work from the successful webinar
- Making SCORUS more visible
- Institutionalise the functions of the IAOS

Item 7

Conference plans

Planning for two conferences during his Presidency are underway – the conference in Krakow in April 2022 and the postponed Zambia conference in early 2023.

The scientific programme committee for the Krakow conference, led by Jan-Robert Suesser are starting to build the programme and will soon announce the call for contributions. They hope to have the programme set by October 2021. Dominik Rozkrut (in-coming President-Elect) expressed his pleasure for Statistics Poland to be a partner in this conference which will be jointly hosted with the Third Statistical Conference of Poland – making it a ‘Holyday for statistics’.

The Zambia conference originally planned for 2020 is planned to be held in Livingstone in early 2023 so as not to conflict with the ISI WSC. The Zambian Ministry and Zamstats welcomed the reassurance from IAOS that the postponed conference will be held in Livingstone which had been officially announced in Zambia.

Item 8

Other business

No other business was discussed. Misha brought the 2021 General Assembly to a close.