

# **Annotated Agenda of the IAOS General Assembly**

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

**Lotus 3 Room, Annex Building, Pullman DaNang Resort  
DaNang, VietNam**

## **Introduction**

The General Assembly is a precious opportunity to share information with members and gather ideas and views from them. Active engagement of members will, therefore, be appreciated.

Because of limited time of GA, briefing on general matters of the IAOS will be based on the Annual Report which was already circulated in July 2014, and it will be orally supplemented. There will be a question-and-answer session at the end. The main focus of this year's GA will be placed on the future of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS).

## **Item 1. Briefing of the IAOS Annual Report (5 minutes)**

Shigeru Kawasaki will give a briefing on the current status and the activities of the IAOS, using the 2014 IAOS Annual Report. Members are requested to refer to the Annual Report posted on the IAOS website ( <http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/> ) and Annex 1 IAOS GA Slides.

Shigeru will focus his explanation mainly on the Statistical Journal of IAOS (SJIAOS) because of its importance in the future of IAOS. Contents of SJIAOS have been significantly improved since 2013 under the editorship of Fritz Scheuren. The journal is a very important medium for IAOS in disseminating innovative ideas and achievements not only among IAOS members but also to wider international community of official statistics. It is, therefore, essential for IAOS to keep improving the quality of SJIAOS for providing good value to IAOS members and enhancing the profile of IAOS in the statistical community. 2014 IAOS General Assembly

SJIAOS is published by a Dutch publisher, IOS Press. The publishing contract was initiated in July 2007 lasting three years, and renewed in 2010 for five years to expire in 2015. In January 2014, IAOS requested IOS Press to extend the contract for one year until July 2016 in order to gain more time for revising the contract. IOS Press agreed to the extension.

## **Item 2. New Goals for SJIAOS (20 minutes)**

In view of its important role for IAOS, new directions for SJIAOS will be discussed under this agenda item.

Stephen Penneck and Nancy McBeth will lead the discussion on the future direction of the SJIAOS.

Annex 2. Statistical Journal of the IAOS – Making More Impact

## **Item 3. Questions and Answers (5-10 minutes)**

Suggestions and questions from members are welcome. In case time runs out and you couldn't ask questions, Shigeru will answer you individually after the meeting.

## **Annex 2.1. Note by Fritz Scheuren, Chief Editor, SJIAOS**

### **Recent IAOS Statistical Journal History**

1. The Journal has undergone a lot of small changes, most would say welcome ones recently. For someone, like me, who has been privileged to be a part of this, it has been lots of fun, even. Despite some failures, a joy!
2. A KAISEN strategy has been employed. Roughly translated from the Japanese this means we have been making small continuous improvements, building towards a culture of innovation and increased responsiveness to the Official Statistics Community.
3. If you were not following and, say, last looked at the Journal 2 years ago, you would think we made revolutionary changes. Not so. Still the cumulative effects are large and can be predicted to grow. Why?
4. The key word here is "culture." Now, I cannot define this word explicitly but we sought and obtained widespread cooperation from many, many individuals. People were ready. They just needed to be asked. Given a NUDGE!
5. And, as part of this, we slowly restructured the Journal's Editorial Board. The new Board built on the earlier Boards was doubled in size, to deal with the Journal's expanded mission.
6. The restructured permanent Board was announced in the September issue of the SJIAOS and details can be found there. I will have to URL shortly and will share it.
7. Greater emphasis was placed on papers given at the Association's Conferences. Special Editors were added, even, to strengthen this Journal role. For example, we did this after the Hong Kong meetings.

### **Viet Nam Conference Initiatives**

8. To increase the linkage between the Journal and our IAOS Conferences we asked Paul Brown who is running the Viet Nam Conference for the Association for the mail addresses of the presenters.
9. A simple two-question survey was then sent to all participants. We had two action "takeaways": One was to better help presenters with publishing their work in the Journal. The second was to clarify what the Journal's goals were seen to be.
10. The first of these action items was addressed in a note to Paul Brown and his team in Viet Nam. You already have a copy of what Paul got.
11. Depending on what is learned there may be some additional support steps added, perhaps for the Rio meetings.
12. Notably, there may be a possible publication workshop for Rio presenters who want to publish their work?
13. This paper publication workshop idea is not on anyone's radar screen right now for Rio but might be requested after the Viet Nam Conference.
14. One of the new IAOS Statistical Journal editors has already volunteered to lead the workshop and others may help here too. Please stay tuned.
15. Regarding the second action item a set of 8 goals for discussion was developed and shared with the Editorial Board to see if the ideas were even feasible.

### **Eight (8) Proposed Discussion Goals for Journal**

Below are the eight Journal Goals offered to the Editorial Board for discussion. They have been renumbered here as Nos, 16-23. They were first shared with the IAOS Journal Board in a search for clarity of expression, feasibility in execution, and appropriateness of mission.

What we learned from the Viet Nam Presenter Survey was that there was a need for an explicit set of goals.

As you rightly pointed out, to call them "new" would not be accurate. I would argue they have been at least implicit all along.

That review of these now more explicit goals is still going on, incidentally; but, as a brash American, I like your *Carpe Diem* style of "Seizing the Moment" now. One last observation, please?

Steve, you have seen these goals already but no one else copied here may have them, so forgive my redundancy. I had hoped that Shigeru would send them eventually to the full EXCO; but maybe only after some editing and amendments. Not my call.

16. To support the IAOS Annual Conferences by increasing the retentiveness and clarity of the good ideas presented there.

17. To share the good practices of our fellow Official Statisticians across the world, so we can learn faster from each other.

18. To raise the level of awareness we have of other Official Statisticians and their good proven ideas -- ideas that might work in other countries.

19. To seek out and bring to our community practices that come from outside the Official Statistical Community but that also might work well in our settings too.

20. To encourage innovation within our fellow NSIs by sharing their experiences in achieving net positive change, including how other NSIs minimized the inevitable negative consequences that always accompany change.

21. To improve the prestige of Official Statisticians within the larger World Statistical Community.

22. To give individual prospective Official Statistical authors an opportunity to increase their own professional prestige by publishing in a highly regarded refereed journal.

23. Lastly, to raise the quality of our professional communications generally, supporting the efforts of other IAOS initiatives, like our IAOS website and the historical archive of past Journal issues, now that the Journal is beginning its 31st year of operation.

### **Potential Next Steps**

Possible next steps might best be determined by the discussion in Viet Nam. But let me provide a "straw man" or "starter set" here anyway.

24. Record orally the discussion taken, identifying the speaker (for follow up?) and, if possible, also summarizing in writing the "gist" or basic sense of the discussion that arose before, during, and after the meeting?

25. Move from the Viet Nam discussion to a wider group, say with an editorial in the Journal itself? I will volunteer here?

26. Seek more systematically information on what other journals are doing to improve their inputs/papers, refereeing, and other services (e.g., Our Journal is still not coming out as timely as wanted.)

27. Since most IAOS members are not academics the quality path to a better journal for IAOS, unlike elsewhere, must go mainly thru coaching and not just thru a high rejection rate.

28. There will be an EXTRANET set up for the Editorial Board and this should be a good source of further ideas which should be reported on to the EXCO regularly.

29. More surveying of our IAOS Members, if only out of respect for their views, should be undertaken after the Viet Nam Conference. We have a long way to go, so let's get going?