



The 60th ISI World Statistics Congress 26 – 31 July 2015 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This report presents the highlights as well as some facts and figures about the WSC in Rio de Janeiro. Additional information including the official WSC Proceedings will become available later.

Participation

A total of 1,586 participants from 106 countries attended the Congress at Riocentro. The table below shows the distribution of participants by continent.

Continent	Participants	Percentage
Europe	442	27,9%
South America	364	23,0%
North America	315	19,9%
Asia	278	17,5%
Africa	141	8,9%
Oceania	46	2,9%
Total	1.586	100,0%



Riocentro Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place during the afternoon on Sunday, 26 July 2015. The ceremony was held in the Riocentro Convention and Exhibition Centre, a magnificent venue which was our home for almost a week. The ceremony started with a welcoming speech by Wasmália Bivar, IBGE President, followed by remarks from Dyogo Oliveira, Deputy Minister for Planning. This was followed by a speech of ISI President Vijay Nair. After the official opening there was an enthusiastic presentation of the IBGE Choir. The opening ceremony ended with an entertaining cultural performance by Grupo Baqueta and a cocktail reception, which offered a great opportunity for participants to meet old friends and make new acquaintances.



The performance of the IBGE choir during the Opening Ceremony.

Scientific Programme

The technical programme consisted of over 1,250 papers that were presented in 282 sessions. There were 141 Invited Paper Sessions, 86 Special Topics Sessions, and 54 Contributed Paper Sessions, covering leading-edge research and practice, emerging topics of broad interest, expository and overview talks, and panel discussions. The Scientific Programme Committee and the Local Programme Committee, chaired respectively by Francisco Samaniego (USA) and Nancy Lopes Garcia (Brazil) did a wonderful job in organising a programme that was very rich and diverse in content.

Reception for ISI Members

The ISI hosted a reception for ISI members on Monday evening, 27 July, in the Exhibition Hall of Riocentro. The reception was well attended and many members were accompanied by their partners.



Reception for ISI Members with ISI President Vijay Nair (left on the photo).

Reception for Young Statisticians

There was also a reception for Young Statisticians at the same time in the Poster Area of Riocentro. The reception was kindly sponsored by Wiley. This was a great opportunity for young statisticians to meet and greet other participants, both young and experienced.



Reception for Young Statisticians.

Authors' Workshop

The Young Statisticians' reception was preceded by the ISI/RSS Author Workshop "Getting your paper published". Editors of established journals Stat, ISR and RSS A, B, and C gave short presentation about their journals and an overview of best practice in terms of submitting and reviewing papers.

NSOs and ISOs Lunchtime Event

On Wednesday, 29 July, a lunchtime event for representatives of National Statistical Offices and International Organisations was held. The theme of the event was "Are NSO and ISO top managers ready to lead the change process requested by the data revolution?" The discussion focused among other things on the need of legal foundation for safeguarding the professional independence and integrity of statistical authorities and ISIs role in this. The concept with breakout sessions turned out to be very effective.

Networking Event for Women in Statistics

On Tuesday morning, 28 July, there was a Women's Networking Breakfast organized by the ISI Committee on Women in Statistics. An informal networking session with breakfast was combined with round table discussions. The event was generously sponsored by Elsevier and was very well attended.

Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony took place on Friday, 31 July. Similar to previous years, it was a celebration of all the Awards and Prizes of the ISI and its Associations which reflected the scale and reach of Statistics and of the ISI family. All awards and names of the winners can be found in the [Awards Ceremony Presentation](#).



Incoming ISI President Pedro Silva with the 2015 Jan Tinbergen Award Winners Ajmery Jaman, Katiane Silva Conceição and Arun Kumar Kuchibhotla.

Karl Pearson Lecture

The 2015 Karl Pearson Prize was awarded to Kung-Yee Liang and Scott Zeger for their paper “Longitudinal data analysis using generalized linear models” published in *Biometrika* in 1986. Scott Zeger gave the Karl Pearson lecture on Friday morning. The ISI thanks Elsevier Publishers for sponsoring the award and supporting travel costs for the Karl Pearson Lecture.



Scott Zeger receives the Karl Pearson Prize from President Vijay Nair.

Mahalanobis Lecture

The winner of the 2015 edition of the Mahalanobis International Award in Statistics is Dr. Carlos Jarque. Dr. Jarque won the award for his extensive and pioneering contributions to research, practice, statistical development, and capacity building. The Award was given by the Ambassador of the Government of India to Brazil. The ISI acknowledges with gratitude the on-going support and sponsorship of the award by the Government of India. The Mahalanobis Lecture presented by Dr. Jarque on Thursday, 30 July, was titled “Development and Statistics – Challenges for the 21st Century Digital World”.



Dr. Carlos Jarque with Mr. Sunil Kumar Lal, Indian Ambassador to Brazil (left) and ISI President Vijay Nair (right).

President's Invited Keynote Lecture

Hal Varian, Chief Economist at Google, delivered the President's Invited Keynote Lecture. His talk "Google Tools for Data" described several tools, including Google Trends, Google Correlate, and Google Consumer Surveys, and explained how they can be used for various types of statistical analyses.

Hal Varian is an emeritus professor at the University of California at Berkeley. He has published numerous papers in economic theory, industrial organization, financial economics, econometrics, and information economics.



Hal Varian delivers his speech as President's Invited keynote Lecturer.

Exhibition Hall

There were 17 exhibitors who presented an overview of products and services during the conference. The group included well-known statistical societies, academic institutions, vendors of commonly adopted statistics software as well as sizable publishers of statistics journals and books.

Rio by Night

On Tuesday evening, 28 July, the participants could enjoy the company of their fellow participants, experience a typical Brazilian dancing party and caipirinhas at Nailia Beach Club, animated by a fantastic Brazilian band.



Rio by Nigh dancing party.

ISI General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA) was held on Thursday afternoon, 30 July. The GA approved the 2014 Annual Report. Morocco issued the formal invitation of Morocco to hold the 61st ISI WSC (2017) in Marrakech. The General Assembly approved the bid from Malaysia to hold the 62nd WSC (2019) in Kuala Lumpur.

Closing Ceremony

The ceremony took place on Friday, 31 July and was very well attended. President Vijay Nair thanked the Brazilian team for their efforts in making the congress a success. Vijay Nair handed over the presidency to the incoming President Pedro Silva. The ceremony ended with a delightful performance of a Moroccan band representing the organisers of the 2017 WSC in Marrakech.



Ms. Wasmália Bivar, IBGE President, receives a gift from ISI President Vijay Nair and ISI Director Ada van Krimpen during the Closing Ceremony.



A flavour of what we can expect at the next WSC in Marrakech in 2017.

Farewell Dinner

This event, on Friday evening, was the 'Grand Finale' of the Congress. The congress participants enjoyed an unforgettable evening with delicious food, cocktails and a magnificent drum and dance performance from a Samba School. It was a fitting end to a wonderful conference and a memorable visit to Rio.

Remark: There were many administrative meetings and other events that were organized by the ISI and Associations during the WSC. These are not covered in this report.