

Director's Message – August 2015

It was a great pleasure for me and the ISI staff to meet with so many of you at the [60th ISI World Statistics Congress](#) (WSC) in Rio de Janeiro. For those who attended, and even more for the ISI members who could not make it to Rio, we have made a [summary report](#) highlighting the main events of the Congress.

Organising a WSC is a huge undertaking and we can't thank Pedro Silva, in his capacity of Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, the team of IBGE, and Escala Eventos enough for their efforts in making the Congress a success.



The scientific programme was very rich and diverse in content, and was highly valued by the participants. The [Scientific](#) and [Local](#) Programme Committees did an outstanding job in organising the programme. The newly introduced lunch round table discussions turned out to be very successful, even though they had to compete with the attractive cultural performances during lunchtime.

Owing to the sponsorship of several organisations – including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Free Trade Association, Statistics South Africa and the American Statistical Association – many individuals from developing countries, young people in particular, got a chance to participate in the WSC, follow a short course, or attend a satellite meeting. For many of them it was a memorable experience and, we are sure, a worthwhile one for their professional career.

The WSC is the moment when the ISI leadership changes. Vijay Nair ended his two-year term as President and handed over the presidency to Pedro Silva. The PO staff has worked closely with Vijay since the time he became Vice-President in 2007 and witnessed his energy and dedication only increasing over time. We are grateful to Vijay for his inspiration and the many new ideas he brought to the organization.

We also said goodbye to Victor Perez-Abreu who was Vice-President for two years. We thank Victor for all his contributions and pleasant cooperation.



ISI staff at the WSC. L-R back: Gerrit Stemerding, Ada van Krimpen, Michael Leeuwe. L-R front: Margaret de Ruiter-Molloy, Olivia van Dijck-Timbol, Liliana Happel, Shabani Mehta, Justin van der Veeke.

We will now proceed at full speed with the preparations for the [61st WSC](#) scheduled for 16-21 July 2017 in Marrakech, Morocco. The Moroccan booth in Rio was just fabulous, providing a foretaste of things we can expect in Marrakech. The performance of a Moroccan band playing a fusion of traditional Moroccan music with the jazzy Brazilian beat at the closing ceremony in Rio was very impressive too.

The ISI General Assembly endorsed the bid from Malaysia to host the [62nd WSC in 2019](#) in Kuala Lumpur. We hope you won't miss the chance to come to the congress with its venue at the foot of the majestic Petronas Twin Towers.

The [new ISI EC team](#) is ready to start their work. At the ISI Permanent Office we look forward to continue our service to the ISI and Association members as well as their leadership.

Ada van Krimpen