

President's Message – October 2015

Dear friends and colleagues,

20 October 2015 is the **World Statistics Day (WSD)**, a day designated by the **United Nations (UN) General Assembly** for celebrating Statistics worldwide. UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon pointed out in a letter he sent to the world's heads of state that "statistics are critical for evidence-based decision making across all cultural and historical backgrounds of countries and irrespective of their level of development." The theme for this year's celebrations is "Better data, better lives", and many events will take place around the world to mark the occasion.



ISI Director Ada van Krimpen will take part in the 1st Open Russian Statistical Congress in Novosibirsk (<http://orsc.nsuem.com/>), Vice-Presidents Irena Križman and Steve Penneck will take part in an event organised by the Palestinian Statistics Authority, and I will speak at the event organised by the High Commission for Planning in Rabat, Morocco. Thus, ISI will feature prominently in all of these celebrations. Many more events will be taking place throughout the world – find out more at <https://worldstatisticsday.org/index.html>. It is exciting to witness this prominence of Statistics and its impact across the globe.

In September, two important events took place in New York with our contribution. On 28 September, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) was launched at a big event that took place at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel (find out more at <http://www.data4sdgs.org/>). The leaders of most of the partner organisations gathered to hear several panel discussions, and to present commitments on how their organisations will support the partnership over the coming years. On 11 September, a preparatory meeting took place where representatives of the partners agreed on the programme for the event as well as on work plans for the partnership's first year. ISI took part on both occasions and pledged its commitment to work within this partnership to develop statistical capacity, particularly in the developing world, and to foster statistical literacy across the globe.

Meanwhile the ISI Executive Committee and Permanent Office have been working hard to complete the project that will bring about the new ISI website. Initiated under Vijay Nair's leadership, this project redesigned the site from scratch to bring about a fresher look, increased functionality and to make it more attractive to both the ISI membership and the prospective new members. The launch took place today, on World Statistics Day.

Fabrizio Ruggeri, Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC), and Mohamed Taamouti, Chair of the Local Programme Committee (LPC), for the 61st World Statistics Congress, have launched the call for invited paper sessions for ISI2017. Please start planning your attendance and working with your collaborators to propose sessions, prepare papers, and ensure that you do not miss our next Congress in Marrakech in July 2017.

Let me finish this month's contribution to the news items by inviting you to encourage your younger contacts to join the ISI (Regular membership is open to anyone who shares the values and objectives of the ISI) and to nominate your deserving colleagues for election as ISI Elected members. We wish to reach out and to do more for the profession and for the subject, and to do so, the membership's energy and commitment are essential.

Happy World Statistics Day to you all.

Pedro Silva
isi-president@isi-web.org