



Director's Message – February 2016

With the New Year still fresh in our minds and the Year of the Monkey commencing, it is the right moment to look ahead. There are a number of exciting events to look forward to.

First, the ISI will be part of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) scheduled for 8-11 March in New York. In conjunction with the UNSC, ISI is organizing a [panel discussion 'Official Statistics and Partnerships on Sustainable Development Data'](#) taking place on Wednesday, 9 March.

As you may know already, ISI is a partner ('champion') of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) launched in September 2015, and ISI's side event in New York will provide a platform for discussing the involvement of official statistics at all levels in the Global Partnership.

In the context of our Statistical Capacity Building Programme, the [next ISI Workshop on Leadership and Management](#) for Heads of NSOs in Francophone Africa will take place on 6-8 April in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The theme of the Workshop is 'Building a Strong Community of Innovative and Forward Looking Leaders in Official Statistics'. It will follow the format of a similar workshop which took place [in April 2015 in Dar es salaam, Tanzania](#) and was very successful.

The ISI connects statisticians from academia, official statistics, research and businesses from all over the globe. Bringing statisticians together and providing platforms for useful interaction is a key element in our mission. But travelling is time consuming and costly especially for our business meetings. We are now using an online video and teleconferencing tool in order to have more frequent interactions with the EC and the Council.

Technology develops fast and it won't take long until it can be used for bringing our members from all parts of the world together. Despite this technological development, meeting fellow-statisticians in person and getting inspired by new people remains one of the main assets of the ISI events. One of such events is [the next World Statistics Congress \(WSC\)](#) taking place in July 2017 in Marrakech, Morocco. For those of you who are concerned about hot summer weather, please do not worry as I am sure you will still be charmed by the magic of Marrakech and inspired by the rich scientific programme of the WSC. I'd like to invite you to start preparing your participation in the Congress.

Last but not least, you will have received the renewal notifications for your membership for 2016 and I hope you will complete the renewal at your earliest convenience. Your contribution is vital for keeping the ISI going!

If you are still in need of a good intention for 2016: share with me the name of at least one person you find eligible for ISI membership!

I wish you a successful and healthy 2016!

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