

## **ISI Preparatory Meeting of ISI WSC 2019 & MyStats 2017 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

### **ISI Preparatory Meeting of ISI WSC 2019**

Malaysia will host the 62<sup>nd</sup> International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress (ISI WSC) in 2019 on 18-23 August 2019 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC). The Congress will be organised by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) in collaboration with Central Bank of Malaysia (BNM) and Malaysia Institute of Statistics (ISM); and supported by Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB).

In this regard, the 2nd ISI WSC 2019 Preparatory Meeting was held on 27- 28 November at KLCC to discuss the Malaysia's preparation for the organisation of the Congress in Kuala Lumpur. The meeting was attended by the ISI President Helen McGillivray, the Director of ISI Ada Van Krimpen, the National Organising Committee (NOC) and Local Programme Committee (LPC). The meeting was chaired by Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, the Chief Statistician of DOSM and also the Chairman of the NOC.

The discussions cover, among others, the promotional plan (leverage on social media), options for registration fees, feasible venues for social events (Gala and Farewell dinners), conference website and papers submission system, and tentative programmes. The ISI delegates shared their past experiences and expressed their views on the proposals presented by the local committees. The next preparatory meeting will be held in March 2018.

During the meeting, the Chairman of the NOC highlighted that Government of Malaysia has declared every 20<sup>th</sup> October as National Statistics Day in tandem with the celebration at global level as well as other countries.

A memorable moment came at the end of the meeting, when the Chairman of the NOC together with ISI representatives handed over the letter of appointment to the NOC and LPC members. The official Facebook account for ISI WSC 2019 <https://www.facebook.com/isiwsc2019/> was also launched by the Chairman.





## **MyStats 2017 at Kuala Lumpur**

Fifth Malaysia Statistics Conference (MyStats 2017) was successfully organised by DOSM, BNM and ISM on Wednesday, 29 November at Sasana Kijang, BNM. MyStats 2017, themed "From Data to Knowledge: The Journey" was attended by about 600 participants including paper presenters, panelists and speakers for Young Statisticians discussion.

During the opening ceremony, the Chief Statistician of DOSM together with ISI President, Assistant Governor of BNM and President of ISM officially kicked off the ISI WSC 2019 in Kuala Lumpur .

Professor Helen MacGillivray, the President of the ISI, delivered an interesting and insightful talk entitled "Learning for the Future" during the plenary session. Professor Helen also co-chaired the Parallel Session between Young Statisticians and Analysts with a theme "The emergence of Big Data/data science and what it means to statisticians and analysts". MyStats 2017 was concluded with a panel discussion titled "From Data to Knowledge: What Needs to be Done in the Big Data Era?", which was chaired by the Deputy Chief Statistician of DOSM and ISI Director Ada van Krimpen as one of the panelists.

A press conference was also held involving the Chief Statistician of DOSM, ISI President and President of ISM on the progress of ISI WSC 2019. During this conference, the Chief

Statistician had highlighted that the democratization of data increases the opportunity for many organisations and individuals to store and analyse very large amounts of information, and introduce new information beyond that produced by official statistics.

The key observations from the discussions at the MyStats 2017 were:

- i. Data are critical elements for all decision makings, from the establishment of national policies and assessment of achievements (e.g. TN50); understanding of economic conditions and development of policies, as well as evaluating the social environment development;
- ii. Big data is just another source of data. They are useful only if they fulfil the basic specifications and requirements of data i.e. quality, timeliness and relevance; and more importantly, users need to have the skillsets to interpret or analyse them; and
- iii. With the advancement in technology and emergence of unstructured data from the internet or social media, the education system needs to support the learning of new skills e.g. coding to mine the data and translate them into useful information.

The career fair, together with two sessions of one-hour talk, has provided an opportunity for about 200 young statisticians and statistical undergraduates to interact with the industry practitioners and understand/explore their career, including internship opportunities.

