

Director's Message – September 2019

I just returned from the ISI World Statistics Congress in Kuala Lumpur. It was a truly amazing event which sets the bar high for the next WSC in The Hague in July 2021. Together with the new ISI EC and Council we look forward to the coming period full of new activities and initiatives.

I just returned from the ISI World Statistics Congress in Kuala Lumpur; it was a truly amazing event and we can't thank the local organisers from the Department of Statistics Malaysia and the Bank Negara Malaysia enough for their efforts in organising it. The congress venue, KLCC, was outstanding and the people were very helpful. The Opening Ceremony set the tone: it was inspirational, innovative and joyful. Did you hear the special WSC song? If not, listen [here](#) and you will agree with me it is just wonderful.



The speech by the Prime Minister Yab Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad was one of the best I have ever heard from a politician. It emphasized the importance of unbiased and transparent statistics for sound policymaking.

The overall experience was very positive although we regret deeply that participants with an Israeli passport were denied access to the country. The ISI maintains the principle that any individual from any part of the world should be able to participate in our scientific events. It is one of the leading principles for the ISI's activities around the world.

A report on the Congress is included in this month's ISI news to give you a flavour of this magnificent event and its highlights.

The 2019 WSC sets the bar high for the next WSC in July 2021, which will be held in the hometown of the ISI Permanent Office, The Hague, The Netherlands. The overall theme of the WSC 2021 is *Statistical Science for a Better World*. This is the current motto of the ISI and it reflects exactly what we are striving for.

The WSC 2021 will be the first one under a new business model whereby ISI will be in the driving seat in terms of organisation and resources but with the support of strategic partners such as Statistics Netherlands, the Dutch Statistical Society (VVS+OR), the Dutch Central Bank and others. We've combined our forces as the National Organising Committee and have successfully started the preparations for the Congress. We will keep you posted about the progress.

I invite you to take a look at the WSC 2021 website www.isi2021.org including the WSC 2021 promotional videos we showed during the WSC 2019 closing ceremony in Kuala Lumpur. We've had many positive reactions on the videos, especially the [Sand Story](#) of The Hague.

The WSC is in the first place a scientific event involving a rich scientific programme. At the same time, it is the place for the EC and me to meet with the Associations, Council, Committees, Special Interest Groups and other active members of the ISI. The meetings in Kuala Lumpur were extremely valuable and gave me a lot of inspiration and ideas for improving the interaction among the members of our 'family' of Associations and ISI services towards the Associations.

The WSC is also the moment when the ISI leadership changes. Helen Macgillivray ended her two year term as ISI President and passed her responsibilities on to the new President John Bailer. In her 4 years of service to the ISI as President-Elect and President, Helen MacGillivray showed an extraordinary commitment to the idea of making the ISI a strong and active organisation – by involving individual members in the work of the committees and other activities, and above all, by contributing an enormous effort in making the WSC 2019 a successful event. We thank Helen for her energy, devotion and guidance for the benefit of the ISI.

We also said goodbye to Natalie Shlomo who acted as Vice-President for two years and has now resumed her position in the Council. Natalie brought a lot of energy to the ISI; she was especially active as chair of the Task Force for communications and the website.

And there were more goodbyes: to the Council members who have ended their term of service and the Association Presidents 2017-2019. A big thank you to all for serving the ISI community! The 'Tableau de la Troupe' of the Council 2019-2021 can be viewed [here](#).

We also have two new members in the EC: Gabriella Vukovich of HCSO Hungary and Byeong Park from Korea. We heartily welcome Gabriella and Byeong.

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 members of the ISI and Associations as well as their leadership.

Ada van Krimpen
ISI Director