

## Director's Message - December 2019

Another year has come to an end and looking back, it was a year filled with exciting events for the ISI community. The World Statistics Congress in Kuala Lumpur in August was the most significant event of 2019. Many participants praised its organisation – both the scientific content and the impressive social and cultural programme. What still stays in mind is the stunning song specially composed for the congress and so beautifully performed by [Adibah Noor](#).



You will know that the next [ISI WSC in 2021](#) will be held in [The Netherlands](#). Many of our members respond positively to the fact that the [Congress](#) comes to Europe this time. We have joined forces with the local scientific community and our strategic partner Statistics Netherlands to make it an outstanding event. We have many ideas and plans which we will be putting into action. Keep an eye on our website to stay updated on the recent developments and please start thinking about session proposals you would perhaps like to submit. Submission of Invited Paper Session (IPS) proposals will start early 2020.

At the end November ISI and IFC organised [a High Level Meeting on Data Governance](#) back to back with the meeting of the Committee of Director Generals of National Statistics Offices (CoDG's) in Tunis. Our High Level Meeting was characterised by interesting presentations and discussions. We only had only one day at our disposal, but the discussions will certainly continue at future events.

Right after my return from Tunis I attended the 'SDG Inspiration Day - The power of data to enhance the SDGs' in Amsterdam.' It was a truly inspirational day with more than a hundred representatives from business, NGOs, academia and civil society. It was fascinating to hear about the many initiatives that contribute to achieving the SDGs and the crucial role of data. It is evident that it is not just something governments are keen on, but that it is an initiative at all levels, cross-cutting all aspects of society. It made me realise that we, the ISI and statisticians, could do more and better in contributing to the SDGs. In addition to producing data and developing methodological concepts for measuring the status and progress towards the SDGs, we should think of practical actions that could contribute to the SDGs. One thing the ISI will certainly do is work towards an environmentally friendly WSC in 2021. Will you do the same for any conference, meeting or other event you might be organising?

Looking towards the year 2020, it is time to ask the ISI and Associations members to renew their membership. Very soon you will receive an e-mail from us with the request to renew your membership through the ISI webshop. This year we will be also offering a possibility to donate to one or more of the [ISI & Associations projects](#). With the help of members' donations we will be able to achieve more in promoting the statistical profession through awards and prizes, travel grants and specific projects such as the Women's Statistical Literacy Project. Please donate and make a difference.

Let me end my message by wishing you a happy festive season and a prosperous 2020!

Ada van Krimpen  
ISI Director