

News from the ISI Statistical Capacity Building Committee – April 2020

The activities of the ISI SCB (Statistical Capacity Building) Committee have been heavily affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. The ISI SCB had planned, in cooperation with the Data Science Campus at the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS), a satellite short course on “Data Science for Public Good” to be held before the ISI/IAOS Regional Conference in May 2020 in Zambia. The cancellation of the main conference made the course impossible. The SCB Committee hopes that the course will be held in the near future (there were also plans for a similar course in another African country).

The ISI SCB Committee is also planning courses about R in Official Statistics. There are plans about holding them in Colombia, Peru and the Philippines. For the moment, they are kept on hold until it will be possible to travel and meet more safely. For the same reasons, the Committee is postponing its financial support to activities in South Africa aimed to promote the interest of young girls towards university study in Statistics, as well other activities about improving women’s statistical literacy.

Activities are planned in Nigeria (two) and Pakistan in cooperation with LISA (Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis). The activities include workshops on Data Visualization, on Consulting Best Practices Techniques for Women in Statistics and Data Science, and on Tidyverse for Data Science (at Lahore College for Women University). The SCB support will be mostly used to allow the organizers to hold those activities online.

We remind you that it is possible to donate, through the ISI website, for the SCB activities for the women’s literacy project (above you can see some of the activities promoted by ISI).

The ISI SCB Committee has set up a subgroup of three people who are working to prepare videos about statistical courses.

Finally, the ISI SCB Committee has started discussions with two organizations, connected with the United Nations, about contributing sessions to a conference moved online and promoting online courses.