

Director's Message – December 2016

Dear ISI members,

The Spirit of Official Statistics: Partnership and Continuous Innovation - this was the theme of the [IAOS 2016](#) Conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE, that I attended earlier this month. The theme reflects the developments official statistics is undergoing. Big Data, Open Data, the Data Revolution and the Data for Sustainable Development require innovative approaches in official statistics. It also calls for new partnerships with other data producers and intense and immense innovations in the methodology and statistical data production processes.



The IAOS conference covered all of these themes very well. The ADNEC venue with its state-of-the-art technology certainly contributed to the success of the event.

The IAOS conference is an example of the current developments in the statistical profession. Yet, we are all aware that more and faster developments will follow. The availability of the enormous amount of data and its usage in producing relevant and high quality statistical outputs ask for new skills and methodology. The relationships between data producers and statisticians in academia and business are to be intensified in order to gain solutions which are very much needed.

The relationship between different areas of statistics is very well reflected in the ISI and its events, where members with different backgrounds and from different places come together, connect and interact. The 6^{1st} [ISI World Statistics Congress 2017](#) in Marrakech, Morocco, is therefore the place to be and I'd like to use this opportunity to invite you to come to Marrakech in July 2017 and be part of this bustling and energetic event!

For the statisticians in Asia, our second [Regional Statistics Conference](#) (RSC) in March 2017 will be a fantastic opportunity for inspiration and building new relationships. Over the last year, we have welcomed many new members from Asia and especially young members. The RSC is the place where they can meet other young statisticians and interact with experienced statistical leaders. Bali, *island of the Gods*, is one of the most inspirational places on earth and this location will definitely contribute to a wonderful experience.

The [UN World Data Forum](#), which will take place in January 2017 in South Africa, will be a major event where data producers and users will come together to discuss new solutions and explore new opportunities. ISI will be present there and organise some of the main events which will reflect our slogan *Statistical Science for a Better World*.

Connectivity and innovation are also key for the [Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data \(GPSDD\)](#) which brings together more than 150 champions from different sectors and countries in order to connect and collaborate. Have a look at the [Digital Marketplace](#) for connecting with partners, sharing resources and solutions for sustainable development data needs.

Despite all the energy and positive developments there are reasons for concern. Scientists are pulled into political debates and conflicts, and this is also true for statisticians. The world needs more than ever indisputable and independent statistical data to monitor progress or to reveal the lack of progress. This shows the relevance of the ISI Declaration on Professional Ethics and the UN Principles of Official Statistics and it is our mission to ensure that they remain relevant in this changing world.

I end this month's message in the spirit of hope and inspiration and would like to wish you and your beloved ones a happy holiday season and peace, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

Ada van Krimpen
Director@isi-web.org