

## President's Message – December 2015

Dear members,

Another year is coming to a close. This is the time of the year when we typically pause to take stock, to plan for the future and to renew our energies to face the challenges that lie ahead. This is the magic of the calendar, as a Brazilian poet has described it (see below a free translation of the poem 'Slicing the time').



This is precisely what the ISI is doing, having started our Strategic Planning exercise for 2016-2019. We have now agreed on the process, and one of the first steps involves carrying out a short online survey to seek your input on the strategic planning process. We count on your support by sharing your thoughts and by providing your valuable input. So when the survey invitation reaches you, please be sure to engage and participate.

We have also been working to establish formal partnerships with sister societies. There are on-going discussions to establish memorandums of understanding with the **International Biometric Society (IBS)** and the **Federation of European National Statistical Societies (FENStatS)**. In addition, ISI is part of the **International Prize in Statistics Foundation**, created in 2013, a joint venture with the **American Statistical Association (ASA)**, the **International Biometric Society (IBS)**, the **Royal Statistical Society (RSS)**, and the **Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS)**. There are exciting developments on this front, that will soon be announced to the membership of all partner societies.

On the meetings front, we are pleased to report that the team who will host ISI2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 18-23 August 2019, held a two-day strategic planning seminar, working towards developing the detailed plans for the event. Save the dates in your calendar. We are also happy to report that the EC has agreed with a proposal to hold an ISI Regional Statistics Conference (ISI-RSC) in Bali, Indonesia, in March 2017. More details about this conference will be made available throughout the year 2016. ISI will also provide support from the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building to a number of meetings in 2016. Keep an eye on the ISI news and events pages for details about such meetings. Last but not least, please consider submitting proposals for Invited Paper Sessions of the 61<sup>st</sup> World Statistics Congress that will take place in Marrakech, Morocco, from 16-21 July 2017. To submit visit the website at [www.isi2017.org](http://www.isi2017.org). Submissions will close on 15 February 2016

On behalf of the ISI EC, I wish you all a peaceful end of 2015, and a happy, healthy and successful year in 2016.

Pedro Silva

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Free translation of the 'Slicing the time' poem, attributed to Carlos Drummond de Andrade, but whose authorship has not been confirmed.

"Slicing the time

Whoever had the idea to cut time into slices called years was a genius.

He/she industrialized hope, making it work on the limit of exhaustion.

Twelve months are enough for any human being to give up. That's when the miracle of renewal takes place and everything starts afresh, with another number and another will to believe that from now on everything will be different."

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