

## President's Message – December 2016

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am writing hours before we will have our last **ISI Council virtual meeting** of the year. This is the third time we convene such a meeting, and the focus will be on reviewing the latest draft of the **ISI Strategy for 2016-2020**, which will soon be circulated for comment to you, the wider ISI membership. While we would like more opportunities for face-to-face meetings of the ISI Council, having frequent and focused virtual meetings has so far worked well to facilitate live discussion and feedback, and to move forward with matters such as the survey of members and the Strategy document.



We very much appreciated the effort by all the members who participated in the survey, particularly in providing feedback to the open-ended questions. The formal analysis of the responses greatly informed preparation of the Strategy document. The President-elect is currently preparing a summary report of the survey responses to be placed on the ISI website together with the more formal analysis.

We can certainly celebrate several achievements in 2016. The winner of the first [International Prize in Statistics](#) has now been announced, and we are immensely happy that this award will be presented to **Prof. Sir David Cox** during the ISI WSC 2017 in Morocco.

We have established memorandums of understanding with the [International Biometric Society](#) (IBS) and the [Federation of European National Statistical Societies](#) (FenStatS) which will enable increased collaboration with these societies. Meanwhile, discussions are ongoing for the establishment of collaboration agreements with the [International Chinese Statistical Association](#) (ICSA) and the [Centre for International Research on Economic Tendency Surveys](#) (CIRET). Such collaborations aim to extend our reach and enable increasing our networking opportunities.

Preparations are in full swing for the [61<sup>st</sup> ISI World Statistics Congress \(ISI2017\)](#) in Marrakech, Morocco. The selected proposals for Special Topic Sessions will be announced soon, and submission of Contributed Papers is open until 15 February 2017. Do not miss the opportunities still available to submit a paper and take active part in the programme of the Congress. The venue and location are splendid and it promises to be an outstandingly memorable event.

We have recently signed the formal agreement with the Government of Malaysia to host the [62<sup>nd</sup> ISI World Statistics Congress \(ISI2019\)](#) in Kuala Lumpur in August 2019. We held the first preparatory meeting with the Local Organising Committee (LOC), and are very pleased with the progress made in planning for the event. The venue and location are superb and the LOC are enthusiastically preparing for their visit to Marrakech to participate in the 61<sup>st</sup> WSC.

Preparations are also in motion for the [2<sup>nd</sup> ISI Regional Statistics Conference \(RSC2017\)](#) which will take place on the beautiful island of Bali, Indonesia, from 20-24

March 2017. The ISI President, President-Elect and Director met with members of the Local Organising Committee in Bali to review progress of the meeting preparations and visit the meeting venue. Details of a strong scientific programme are being finalised, and its combination with the beautiful venue make this a hard to miss event. Join us there in March if you can.

Finally, we have been engaged in contributing to shape the programme of the [United Nations World Data Forum](#), which will soon take place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 15-18 January 2017. ISI is organising several sessions in the event, and we will be contributing to the debate in this important arena where governments, businesses, civil society and the scientific and academic communities will join to:

- “EXPLORE innovative ways to apply data and statistics to measure global progress and inform evidence-based policy decisions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- CONTRIBUTE to important discussions, data labs and interactive platforms aimed at improving the use of data for sustainable development;
- LAUNCH new initiatives and solutions that will deliver better data for all.”

Let me take this opportunity to thank you all for your renewed commitment to the ISI and its family of Associations, as well as for your contributions to our many activities and events, and all your efforts in promoting the understanding, development and good practice of statistics worldwide. On behalf of the ISI EC and the ISI Permanent Office, I wish you all a joyful end of 2016, and a happy, healthy and successful year in 2017.

Pedro Silva  
[president@isi-web.org](mailto:president@isi-web.org)