



## International Year of Statistics News

July 15, 2013

### ***Statistics2013 Newsletter Going on Temporary Hiatus***

We normally publish the *Statistics2013 Newsletter* every other Monday, a schedule that would mean the next newsletter after this one would be distributed July 29. However, the Joint Statistical Meetings will begin later that week in Montreal, requiring our full, undivided attention for last-minute preparations. Therefore, there will not be a newsletter the week of July 29. We will resume publication August 12 and will return to the normal biweekly schedule at that time.

### **Participation Sets Sights on 2,100**

The push is on for 2,100 participants in the International Year of Statistics. As of today, there are 2,062 participants in Statistics2013 and still more organizations are signing up every day. The country count is at 124. To check out the current participant and country lists, go to the [Statistics2013 website](#).

You can help us recruit new participants by encouraging other organizations, secondary schools, universities and businesses in your area to join this worldwide celebration. It's easy for them to join. Simply tell representatives of these groups to go to [www.statistics2013.org](http://www.statistics2013.org) and click on the "Join Statistics2013" icon on the top right-hand side of the homepage to become an official International Year of Statistics participating organization.

### **Nominate a Statistician of the Week**

Do you know an outstanding statistician deserving of recognition for his or her work? If so, nominate the person for the Statistics2013 Statistician Job of the Week. To do so, simply send us a 250-to-300-word article about your colleague along with a photograph of the person. In the article, explain the person's job as well as his or her contributions to the overall mission of your organization. We'll feature the profile on the Statistics2013 website homepage for a week. Send your submissions to Jeff Myers at [Jeffrey@amstat.org](mailto:Jeffrey@amstat.org).

### **2013 Will Come to an End (Eventually), But Statistics Rides On!**

Now that we are into the second half of the International Year of Statistics, most of you likely are already planning activities for 2014. If so, please send us information about the events so we can post these to the [Statistics2013 Activities Calendar](#). Scroll to page 9 below to learn how to submit event info.

## Participating Organization: News & Events

Here's the latest news on upcoming and recently concluded meetings and events hosted by Statistics2013 participating organizations:

**Malaysia**—In conjunction with the International Year of Statistics, the Statisticians Association of the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) successfully staged an “Executive Talk” session recently. The talk highlighted the importance of statistics and its usefulness for external users. Chief Statistician of Malaysia, Dr. Hj. Abdul Rahman bin Hasan, officiated the opening ceremony. Guest speaker Mr. Suhaimi bin Ilias, the group chief economist for Maybank Investment Bank, shared his real-life knowledge and experiences as an analyst who uses DOSM’s data extensively in analyzing the economic outlook of Malaysia. During his presentation, Suhaimi shared that Malaysia was in the process of economic transformation through government efforts such as the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP). As a conclusion, DOSM realized how users use the data, which was in line with the government efforts in policy-making.



*DOSM Executive Talk attendees fill a room to learn about the usefulness of statistics.*

**Australia**—Dr. Clio Creswell, senior lecturer at the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Sydney, recently was featured two times on Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio and talked about statistics and why these are so powerful. You can listen to the interviews [here](#) and [here](#). Kudos to Creswell for a job extremely well done in carrying the message about the impact of statistics to the public in Australia!

**United States**—In observance of the International Year of Statistics, Mark Hansen, a New York-based statistician and artist who directs the David and Helen Gurley Brown Institute for Media Innovation at Columbia University, spoke recently to more than 100 people at Smith College about the intersection of data science and art. The lecture, organized by the Five College Statistics Program with co-sponsorship from the Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association, Smith College and athenahealth, was preceded by introductory remarks by Amy Wagaman, director of the Five College Statistics Program, and



Population Day 2013. The one-day conference was attended by 200 participants and brought together 10 experts in the field of demography and development from the United States, Australia, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia. Papers presented covered the flow of migration trends; impact of migration on urbanization and development; and strategy and policy in the root issue of migration so that benefits are maximized and disadvantages minimized. Among presenters were Professor Graeme Hugo, University of Adelaide, Australia; Associate Professor Charles Hirschman, University of Washington, United States; Dr. Yap Mui Teng, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore; and Associate Professor Dr. Tey Nai Peng of the University of Malaya. The opening ceremony was presented by YB Datuk Hajjah Azidah Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohd Dun, deputy minister of Women, Family and Community Development. Also present were Dr. Hj Nor Edzan. Che Nasir, chief librarian, University of Malaya; Dr. Anjli Doshi Gandhi, deputy director general (policy), NPFDB; and Associate Dr. Rajah Rasiah, acting dean, Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya. This is the third conference organized by the two institutions. Also, in April the University of Malaya and NPFDB signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct and promote population, family and reproductive health development research.

**France**—The International Year of Statistics is so exciting and important that the celebration is stretching into the first month of 2014. The French Statistical Society (SFdS ) is organizing a special event titled Horizons de la Statistique (English: Horizons of Statistics) that will be held January 21 next year at the Institut Henri Poincaré in Paris. The goal of this event is to discuss the issues at stake for statisticians in the coming years, with a particular focus on economics and social questions. Talks will be presented by renowned scientists, intellectuals and enterprise representatives, who will present their own point of view on statistics and its future. The SFdS said the event will be original and open to a broad audience. Confirmed speakers are:

- Cédric Villani, Fields Medal honoree and director of the Institut Henri Poincaré
- Emmanuel Candès, statistician, Stanford University
- Valérie Masson-Delmotte, paleoclimatologist, Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, CEA Saclay
- Robert N. Rodriguez, specialist of numerical technologies, SAS Institute and 2012 American Statistical Association president
- Jean-Luc Starck, astrophysicist, CEA Saclay
- Emmanuel Todd, demographer, INED

**Slovakia**—Ekostat—the School of Statistics—is an important event organised by the Slovak Statistical and Demographical Society (SSDS) since 1988. This year the conference took place in late May in Trenčianske Teplice, a spa town that is the conference's traditional location. This event fulfills several objectives. The main authors present the results of their work and show their research methodology. Younger participants obtain experience presenting in front of an audience and responding to questions. Contributions are mainly focused on the topics of the statistical methods, qualitative analysis, economic statistics, macroeconomic analysis, management practices and procedures, and other topics. The main lecturers and their topics this year were:

- Ján Luha: Confidence intervals for proportions
- Viliam Páleník: The feasibility of introducing stability bonds in terms of the European Union
- Ján Haluška: Quick estimates of employment
- Alena Kaščáková: Gabriela Nedelová: Methods of preparation and processing of questionnaires
- Marek Radvanský: Estimation future needs and costs of health care in Slovakia
- Jozef Chajdiak: Entering and results of statistical analyses to increase the effectiveness of international cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises in the field of innovation
- Boris Frankovič: Calibration of weights statistical surveys

More than 20 contributions from other participants also were presented. In all, 32 participants from universities, research organizations, economic practice and the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic attended the event.

**Canada**—The CASUL Committee at Laval University in Québec City, Québec has painted a fresco of the International Year of Statistics logo on the wall of the campus's underground passage. In this high-traffic area, the Statistics2013 logo is viewed by large numbers of students, faculty, staff, visitors and community members every day. CASUL enlisted the support of the Department of Statistics and Mathematics at the university; the Office of Student Statistics 2013; and the Statistics2013 Steering Committee for their special project. We say kudos to all CASUL Committee members for a implementing a creative way to introduce the International Year of Statistics to their entire university community!



*Members of the CASUL Committee leadership pose with the group's fresco of the Statistics2013 logo on display in an underground walkway. From left to right are Samuel Tremblay, Sebastian Matte, Marc-André Thivierge, and Jessica Bach.*

**Brazil**—[A recent survey by the Institute of Applied Economic Policy](#) (IPEA) reveals that statisticians are the second highest paid professionals in this country. In considering 48 occupations across Brazil, IPEA

considering four variables—wages, working hours, social security coverage and occupancy rate—to rank the professions. “Statisticians in Brazil have the second highest salaries, behind only doctors. This is due to appreciation of this professional in our labor market associated with the lack of this professional; there are few statisticians here. Stats are hot here!!” wrote Marco Siqueira Campos in the email he sent alerting us to this great story.

**United States**—The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) and the Division of Mathematical Sciences of the National Science Foundation (NSF) hosted an open house in celebration of the International Year of Statistics July 10. The event highlighted some of the statistical activities at NSF through a number of poster presentations. The posters were developed by science assistants and NCSES staff to showcase their research and analysis of NSF data. NCSES Division Director John Gawalt welcomed attendees from the various NSF directorates to the festivities. Refreshments included M&Ms and bottles of water emblazoned with the Statistics2013 logo, cupcakes and other tasty treats. Several members and staffers of the American Statistical Association, including Vice President-Elect Jeri Mulrow; 2010 President Sastry Pantula, who is a member of the Statistics2013 Steering Committee; and ASA Director of Programs Lynn Palmer attended the event that attracted 100 people. Other dignitaries who attended the celebration included Joan Ferrini-Mundy, the assistant director of NSF’s Directorate of Education and Human Resources; Joanne Tornow, deputy assistant director of NSF’s Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate; and statistics program officers from various NSF divisions.



*NSF Open House attendees listen to a poster presentation.*

**Colombia**—Bringing statistics to the people was the most inspiring call of the International Year of Statistics for the School of Statistics at the Universidad del Valle in Cali. Looking to being a part of the celebration, the university organized a program of presentations oriented to a broad audience. Conferences are taking place every month at the Departmental Public Library. Recently, Professor Daniel Arbelaez, who founded the school 35 years ago, presented a wonderful speech on the beginnings of statistics in Colombia. According to Professor Arbelaez, the pioneers were two Colombian engineers—Alejandro López and Jorge Rodríguez—who were instructors at the Mines National College 100 years

ago. Their main goal was to work on social statistics. Now the university community is in the middle of its own celebration and still has several conferences to present until Statistics2013 is over.

**United States**—In celebration of the International Year of Statistics, the University of Akron and the Cleveland Chapter of the American Statistical Association are planning two events that will be staged later this year. Those are:

- [A one-day workshop](#) titled “Introduction to Statistical Computing with R and Bioconductor” to be held October 4.
- [A one-day symposium](#) titled “Statistics at the Crossroads: Its Multifaceted Impact on the Society”, which will be held October 5.

Both events will be held at the University of Akron. [Go to the event website](#) for more information, the announcements for both events, and a registration form.

**United States**—In celebration of the International Year of Statistics, the Department of Statistical Science at Baylor University hosted Dr. Ron Wasserstein, who is a Statistics2013 Steering Committee member and executive director of the American Statistical Association, for the capstone lecture of its 2012-2013 Colloquium Series. Wasserstein’s visit brought campus-wide attention to professional opportunities in statistics and to the global practice of statistics. In advance, his visit was advertised through campus media to undergraduates in various honor societies and undergraduate research communities, statistics courses, and mailings to departments. This promotion helped attract a diverse audience. Wasserstein’s colloquium was attended by faculty from several departments and by students in a variety of disciplines. The College of Arts and Sciences provided space in the Baylor Science Building for the colloquium and reception, which was sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. Judge Kenneth Starr, the president of Baylor University, attended the reception and welcomed Dr. Wasserstein. [Click here to learn more](#) about department, the master’s and doctorate degrees, and the undergraduate bachelor’s of science and minor programs in statistical science at Baylor University.



*Wasserstein delivers the capstone lecture of the 2012-2013 Colloquium Series at Baylor University.*

## National Statistical Organization: News & Events

Here's the latest news on upcoming and recently concluded meetings and events hosted by national statistical organizations (NSOs) participating in Statistics2013:

**Philippines**—The National Statistics Office-Southern Leyte Provincial Office has joined the International Year of Statistics celebration. The NSO provincial office launched the official celebration by hanging a streamer and displaying a statistical exhibit in the office's lobby bearing the results from the different censuses and surveys shown in graphs and charts. "Starting July 2013, our office will be conducting seminars on basic statistics among 4<sup>th</sup>-year college students and teachers, information dissemination on official statistics and civil registration among the 4<sup>th</sup>-year high school students," said Provincial Statistics Officer Mae R. Almonte. The office also will be holding a Provincial Data Dissemination Seminar for stakeholders and data users in the province and will conduct a Stats Olympiad School-Wide Elimination contest in select secondary schools in preparation for the Stats Olympiad Provincial Championship that will be held in October during National Statistics Month Celebration. Almonte said that with these activities the NSO, being the primary statistical arm of the government, will help the public become aware of statistics as a key scientific discipline.

**United Arab Emirates**—A survey has been carried out to discover the attitudes of Emirate citizens toward national identity and explore the socio-economic impact of the country's recent and rapid development. The Socio-Cultural Survey 2013, conducted by Statistics Centre—Abu Dhabi, is the emirate's fourth annual socio-cultural survey. Launched by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development in collaboration with a number of statistical bureaus nationwide, the survey is part of a long-term study of society's changes over time. Researchers collected data over the course of five days through interviews with adults from 320 households across Abu Dhabi emirate. Of those interviews, 210 took place in Abu Dhabi city, 80 in Al Ain and 30 in the Western Region. The survey sample represented a wide range of Emiratis, with gender, age, level of education and area of residence considered when selecting the interviewees. The Statistics Centre hopes that the study's findings and recommendations can be used as a key resource for future initiatives aimed at strengthening social values and pursuing the ministry's goals of supporting cultural activities, raise awareness about national culture, preserve national identity and promote partnerships between the public and private sectors.

## Calling All National Statistical Organizations

Statistics2013 is seeking informative, educational and insightful statistics about your country to feature in the "Statistic of the Day" area of the [Statistics2013 website homepage](#). These can be a series of four or five brief statistical facts about your country's population, economy and education systems; the health of its citizens; and similar social, economic, government and other relevant topics. Send your submissions along with a link to your organization's website to Jeff Myers at [Jeffrey@amstat.org](mailto:Jeffrey@amstat.org).

## Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop Info on Website

Organizers are hard at work on preparations for the Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop, the capstone event of the International Year of Statistics, that will be held November 11 and 12 in London,

United Kingdom. The workshop will bring together statisticians from around the world, scientists who collaborate with statisticians, science writers and representatives from funding agencies.

[We have created several new pages about the workshop on the Statistics2013 website.](#) You also can access these pages in the “Statistics2013 Global Supporters” area of the website.

The event will showcase the breadth and importance of statistics and highlight the extraordinary opportunities for statistical research in the coming decade. More specifically, the workshop will tell an important story to a number of audiences:

- To scientists in data rich fields: statisticians are ready, willing and able to engage in deep, long-term collaborations;
- To funding agencies: statistics is *the* data science and can (and does) provide tools to enable progress across a huge range of human endeavors;
- To statisticians: don't let the opportunities for high-impact research pass you by; and
- To future statisticians: engage with a discipline with a huge future.

**Participation is by invitation only** and will involve approximately 100 people. In addition to statisticians, the workshop will involve representatives from other areas of science and practice that involve problems of a statistical nature. The workshop will be organized around presentations and panels.

However, all will be able to view the workshop live as well as recordings of the proceedings via the web thanks to [Wiley Publishers](#).

After the workshop, with input from participants, the organizing committee will publish a summary document that will be widely distributed to the larger scientific community.

### **Event Submission Forms on Website**

Two web-based forms make it easy for you to submit your organization's Statistics2013 events as well as a summary and photos after the event is over.

The first form—called the “Event Submission Form for the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar”—provides you a quick and simple way to submit information about your organization's planned Statistics2013 events. All you have to do is input into the form the requested information and press the “Submit” button. We'll then take your information and post it to the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar. [You can access this form here.](#)

The second form—titled “Statistics2013 Post-Event Information & Photo Submission Form”—enables you to let us know about the success of your completed event and to submit up to two photos. On this form, you are prompted for information about your event and you also can input a brief summary (up to 1,750 characters). After you submit information about your organization's event, we'll run your photos and stories in this newsletter so others can see the creative and fun ways that your organization is promoting the International Year of Statistics. [Click here to access this form.](#)

## Check out Website for Activities & Ideas

On an almost daily basis, we are adding new items to the [Activities Calendar](#) on the [Statistics2013](#) website. This list is an excellent place for finding activities in which you and your organization can participate to celebrate Statistics2013. It also is a great place to see what other organizations around the world are doing to mark the celebration and use those ideas as the starting point for your group to brainstorm ideas of its own. Check out the Activities Calendar today and start planning your organization's event!

The [Statistics2013 website](#) is filled with information and resources—particularly the [posters](#) and the [downloadable flyer](#)—to educate the public about how statistics improves their lives, the work of statisticians as well as careers in the statistical sciences. We invite and encourage all International Year of Statistics participating organizations to make use of these resources, including these helpful resource areas:

- *What is Statistics?*—An explanation in layman's language
- *Statistics2013 Video*—The informative two-and-a-half-minute video: [Why Statistics is Important to You](#)
- *Statistics as a Career*—Information about the work of statisticians and careers in statistics
- *Teacher Resources*—Primary and secondary school resources, a downloadable flyer and posters

There also is a section dedicated to participating organizations, titled "Statistics2013 Global Supporters", where you can access the roster of participating organizations, a comprehensive list of Statistics2013 activities, and the official Statistics2013 logos in various languages.

## Use the Statistics2013 Video

We encourage your organization and its members to use and share the International Year of Statistics video. Created by [SAS Institute](#), the video relates the many and varied ways that statistics impacts our lives. The video is accessible at [www.statistics2013.org](http://www.statistics2013.org).

You can:

- view the video
- post the video to your organization's website
- e-mail the link to your members/employees
- share it with your organization's stakeholders
- promote it to the public, media and other external audiences in your area or country
- show it at your meetings and other events

The video narration is in English. However, thanks to SAS and many Statistics2013 participants who are providing translations, subtitles are being added in other languages. Currently available languages are:

- Catalan
- Czech
- Dutch
- Euskara (Basque)
- English
- French
- German
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Portuguese (Portugal)
- Russian
- Spanish (Mexico)
- Swedish
- Turkish

To access these subtitles, follow these easy instructions:

- Press “Play” on the video
- Click the “CC” button to see the list of subtitle options
- Click on the desired language (the subtitles will appear onscreen)

We will be adding other subtitled languages soon, so check the video frequently to see if your language is available.

If you want the video subtitled in your country’s language, please e-mail [Jeffrey@amstat.org](mailto:Jeffrey@amstat.org) to request a copy of the script that you can translate.

### **Get the Official Statistics2013 Logo**

With the move to the new public website, the link to the Statistics2013 logo and the various language-specific versions has changed. That new direct link is:

<http://www.statistics2013.org/iyos/logos.cfm>

Be sure to save the link in your web favorites.

You also can access the logos page by going to the “[Statistics2013 Global Supporters](#)” area of [www.statistics2013.org](http://www.statistics2013.org) and then clicking on “[Resources](#)” in the pull-down menu. The link to the logos is listed first on the page.

### **Language-Specific Logos Available**

The Statistics2013 logo is available in [37 languages](#) and we are ready create new ones for you. To have a version of the logo created in your language, please e-mail the following to [Jeffrey@amstat.org](mailto:Jeffrey@amstat.org):

- The interpretation of the phrase “International Year of Statistics” in the appropriate font in this format: International Year of Statistics=“The interpreted phrase”
- The interpretation of the phrase “Participating Organization” in the appropriate font in this format: Participating Organization=“The interpreted phrase”
- A high-resolution PDF document or a tif file of the interpretations of the phrases “International Year of Statistics” and “Participating Organization”. (This file will be used to compare against the font to

ensure it was transmitted properly. If it doesn't compare accurately, we will use the image of the interpretations from the PDF or tif in the logo instead. This step will ensure accuracy of your logo.)

Once your language-specific logo is created, it will be posted to the Statistics2013 website [here](#) and we will send you an email to let you know the logo is available for download.

### **Follow Us on Twitter, Facebook**

Get the latest International Year of Statistics news and updates by following us on Twitter at @Statistics2013. Also, when you use Twitter to spread the word about Statistics2013, be sure to use the hashtag “#STATS2013”. You also can become a “friend” of Statistics2013 on our [Facebook](#) page.