NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF STATISTICS

JANUARY 22, 2014
Volume 1, Issue 1

Introducing The World of Statistics

By Ronald L. Wasserstein

Greetings and welcome to The World of Statistics, the successor to the highly successful and world-popular International Year of Statistics (Statistics2013) campaign.

Today's issue of this newsletter and the simultaneous public debut of the website—www.worldofstatistics.org—mark the official launch of The World of Statistics.

As you likely noticed, The World of Statistics logo and website designs are mirrors of those same Statistics2013 items. We purposely chose this direction to capitalize on the branding recognition the Statistics2013 campaign has created among the public and participating organizations (familiarity=comfort!).

Thousands of statistical organizations around the world are excited to continue working with The World of Statistics campaign toward the goals that initially were established for Statistics2013. As a refresher, those objectives are:

- Increasing public awareness of the power and impact of statistics on all aspects of society
- Nurturing statistics as a profession, especially among young people
- Promoting creativity and development in the sciences of probability and statistics

You may be asking yourself why The World of Statistics was created. As the International Year of Statistics neared its conclusion, its Steering Committee unanimously agreed that the statistical profession would benefit from an ongoing campaign to address the above goals.

Since the announcement of The World of Statistics' creation, response from participating groups resoundingly has been supportive, with many eager to build on the work that was started by the Statistics2013 campaign.

Unlike its predecessor, we mark the launch of The World of Statistics with worldwide reach of more than 2,300 participating organizations—all the groups that had signed up for and participated in the International Year of Statistics and a handful that have joined since the end of 2013.

We invite and strongly encourage you and your organization to continue participating in the Statistics2013 movement through The World of Statistics campaign. Together, we'll make more progress toward educating the public worldwide about the contributions of statistics and statisticians to our global society and introducing young people to careers in our venerable profession.

If you will continue your organization's participation in The World of Statistics, you do not have to do anything. We'll continue to deliver to you statistical news from around the world through the *News from The World of Statistics* newsletter and you can visit this website to access information and check on the events and activities of your colleagues. *News from The World of Statistics* will be published every three weeks starting today (January 21).

To update the contact person for your organization, please email me the new contact's name and email address plus organization name, country and website address at ron@amstat.org.

Now that the transition to The World of Statistics is complete and the new name, logo and website address are now in use, there are several things your organization can do to maximize its participation. Those are:

1. Remove the Statistics2013 logo from your website. Replace it with The World of Statistics logo and link it to www.worldofstatistics.org. You can download the new logo here.
2. To request a version of The World of Statistics logo in your language, email the following information in a PDF document to Jeff Myers at jeffrey@amstat.org:
    a. The interpretation in your language of: "The World of Statistics"
    b. The interpretation in your language of: "Participating Organization"
3. If you have a linked Statistics2013 banner on your organization's website, please remove it and replace it with a new banner for The World of Statistics. You can download these new banners here.
4. Send us information about your organization's upcoming meetings, events and activities. We'll post this information to The World of Statistics 2014 Activities Calendar so the public and other participating organizations can learn about the event. Please use this easy webform to submit your information.
5. Also, share information with us about and up to two photos of your organization's completed events and activities and news. We'll include this information in a future issue of the *News from The World of Statistics*. Please use this easy webform to submit information and photos.
6. You can submit short announcements about your organization's work, activities, events and news for posting to the website's Announcements page. These announcements can be up to 150 words in length. Email entries to Jeff at jeffrey@amstat.org.
7. Tell your organization colleagues they can get their own free subscription to the *News from The World of Statistics*. They can go here to subscribe.

We also invite you and your organization to provide content for The World of Statistics website. Areas for which contributions are needed are:

1. **The World of Statistics Blog**—For this homepage blog, which was popular on the Statistics2013 website, entries can be up to a maximum 500 words in length. You can write about nearly any topic related to statistics, including your organization, its activities oriented toward the goals of The World of Statistics, or your thoughts about a statistical issue. Since the website is public, please write in layman's language and do not use statistical prose. To submit a blog entry (as a Word document), accompanying graphics and the author's photo, email Jeff at jeffrey@amstat.org.
2. **At Work With Statisticians**—On the Statistics2013 site this section was titled "Statistician Job of the Week". While we've rename this section, which also appears on the homepage, it still will focus on the many different types of jobs of statisticians. Again, no statistical prose and limit the article to a maximum of 300 words. Email your article and a photo of the statistician to Jeff at jeffrey@amstat.org.
3. **Statistics in Action**—Share information about how statistics are applied to solve problems around the world and other interesting takes on statistics. Remember, no statistical prose and limit the article to a maximum of 300 words. Email your article to Jeff at jeffrey@amstat.org.
4. **Around the World in Statistics**—Share information about how your organization is promoting statistics to the public. In the past, stories featured great infographics, programs, projects and a host of similar activities sponsored by statistical organizations. Limit the article to a maximum of 400 words and email it to Jeff at jeffrey@amstat.org.
5. **Career Resources**—Get a broader audience for your organization's career resources—web-based and video—by spotlighting information about them on The World of Statistics website. We'll post this information on the International Career Resources and Statistics Career Videos pages. Submit the information via email to jeffrey@amstat.org.
6. **Teacher Resources**—You can help teachers improve their instruction by sharing the statistics education tools and resources your organization has created. Send that information to Jeff at jeffrey@amstat.org.

Also, we have set up a new Twitter account. You can follow us at @astatworld.

A look ahead

Much was accomplished in 2013 under the International Year of Statistics banner. But much remains to be done to raise the public profile of statistics around the world.

By working together through The World of Statistics, we can make further inroads to educating the public and the media about the power of statistics and the career opportunities that await young people.

We encourage you to stay the course by committing to working with The World of Statistics in 2014 and beyond.

In closing, I invite and certainly encourage your ideas for strengthening The World of Statistics campaign. To share your thoughts, email me at ron@amstat.org.

Here's to a successful 2014 and thank you for supporting The World of Statistics!

Wasserstein is a member of The World of Statistics Steering Committee and executive director of the American Statistical Association.

Statistical Organization News & Events

Following is the latest news and information about upcoming and recently concluded events hosted by statistical organizations participating in The World of Statistics:

Belgium—Last month, the University of Leuven awarded a doctorate honoris causa to Nate Silver. The university and its Leuven Statistics Research Centre honored Silver for his prominent role in the development, application and dissemination of proper prediction methods in sports and in political sciences. In particular, his role in the prediction of the 2008 and 2012 presidential election results in the United States have had a beneficial impact on statistical science in the scientific community in particular and society in general. He has brought statistics to the general public in his masterful communications through *The New York Times* and his FiveThirtyEight blog. His book, *The Signal and the Noise: Why Most Predictions Fail—But Some Don't*, was rated the number-one nonfiction book by Amazon in 2012. Silver also has been listed among the world's 100 most influential people by *Time* magazine. Click here to read the encomium.

Silver accepts his doctorate honoris causa from Professor Rik Torfs, rector of the University of Leuven.

United States—The Albuquerque Chapter of the American Statistical Association is sponsoring the Best Poster Prize by a New Mexico-based researcher at the 2014 Conference on Data Analysis (CoDA), which will be held March 5-7 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. CoDA will bring together statisticians and other data science researchers from Department of Energy national laboratories and their collaborators from academia and industry. The Albuquerque Chapter's prize will promote and raise awareness of data-focused research in New Mexico. CoDA poster presenters are eligible for this prize if they work at a New Mexico institution or are current students at a New Mexico university. The prize includes a certificate

and a cash award: $150 for first place, $100 for second place, $50 for third place. Click here for more information and to register for CoDA.

China—The School of Statistics at Renmin University of China (RUC), which is focused on raising people's awareness of the significance of statistics and training top international statistical talent, is devoted to promoting the development of statistics throughout the country. Actively responding to the call of the International Year of Statistics, the RUC School of Statistics invited famous domestic and foreign statisticians to conduct seminars for frontier academic studies and also made a series of reports on news and events in Statistics 2013 online and offline.

A lecture, themed "The Development of Statistics in the Age of Big Data," was presented by the vice president of the Chinese Statistical Society, Professor Zhi Geng of Peking University, on November 12. Zhi explained the history of the development of statistics and the opportunities and challenges that it faces in the age of Big Data.

On November 20, Shuangge Ma, vice professor of biostatistics at the Public School of Health at Yale University, presented a lecture about the biometric academic frontier. Shuangge discussed the history, current situation and prospects of biometry with students.

Another event, organized by Professor Yanyun Zhao, vice president of the China Statistical Society and dean of the RUC School of Statistics, was held November 29. Under the theme "Challenging the Age of Big Data: Statistics," Yanyun called statistics the most charming science with the best prospects. The seminar helped popularized the knowledge of statistics among RUC students.

Additionally, the 7th Academic Seminar of Statistics Methods in Clinical Medical Research was held at RUC December 7.

Last, the RUC School of Statistics will carry on with related academic activities to educate more people about statistics and increase the impact of statistics in China.

Spain—Every year since 1983, the Basque Statistics Institute (EUSTAT) has invited illustrious academics and researchers in the vanguard of statistical subjects on a worldwide level to speak at its annual International Statistical Seminar. This year, EUSTAT hosted Marcello D´Orazio from the Italian National Statistical Institute (ISTAT). D'Orazio is a senior researcher in statistical methodology. His current research interests focus on methodologies for agriculture surveys and statistical matching. He is co-author of the monograph "Statistical Matching, Theory and Practice" for the R environment. He developed and currently maintains the package "StatMatch" for performing statistical matching in R.

The two-day event provided an overall view to the main methods for statistical matching. More than 40 attendees from national statistical offices (NSOs), universities and private-sector companies and organizations participated in the EUSTAT seminar.

The course presented the following steps:

1. Introduction to Statistical Matching: micro and macro problems, parametric and nonparametric approaches

2. Statistical matching under the conditional independence: examples of application in R with the StatMatch package
3. Avoiding conditional independence by means of auxiliary information: example in R with StatMatch
4. Statistical matching in terms of uncertainty: example in R using StatMatch
5. Statistical matching of data from complex sample surveys: approaches and open issues
6. Practical problems in Statistical Matching: harmonization of variables, choice of the matching variables, assessing accuracy of results

Click here to view D´Orazio's presentation.

United States—The Statistical Consulting Center at Wright State University completely remade the mural on the outer walls of its office complex to celebrate 30 years of research support in Dayton and the Miami Valley region of Southwest Ohio and the International Year of Statistics.

Statistical Consulting Center staffers (left to right) DeAnne French, Bev Grunden, Mary Alspaugh and Harry Khamis pose with the new mural.

Turkey—The Department of Industrial Engineering at Karabuk University celebrated the International Year of Statistics with a seminar December 18. The goal of the event was to bring awareness to the importance of statistics. The Student´s Industrial Engineering Club organized a two-hour seminar called

“Statistics’ Third Eye.” Professor Doctor Erkan Isigicok, a member of the Econometrics Department at Uludağ University, was the speaker. He presented 70 seminars in 2013 as part of Statistics2013 and was happy to participate in the event, which was his 62nd of the year. The presentation focused on three topics:

- Why Third Eye?
- Statistical Literacy
- Statistical Thinking

At the end of the seminar, Associate Professor Doctor Filiz Ersoz, a member of the Department of Industrial Engineering, presented Professor Isigicok a plaque commemorating the event. All seminar attendants received a certificate of participation signed by Professor Isigicok and Professor Doctor Burhanettin Uysal, the rector of Karabuk University.

Professor Isigicok (right) receives a plaque from Associate Professor Doctor Filiz Ersoz.

Poland—On December 19, the Szczecin Branch of the Polish Society of Naturalists and other organizations held a seminar to celebrate the end of the International Year of Statistics. The lecture titled “Introduction to the Methodology of Medical Sciences,” was presented by Michał Skoczylas and under the honorable patronage of Professor Doctor Beata Karakiewicz, dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin. Other organizers were the Faculty of Health Sciences of Pomeranian Medical University, Students' Scientific Society of the Pomeranian Medical University, Scientific Circle on Natural Sciences Methodology (Circle of Young Researchers) in the Szczecin Branch of the Polish Copernicus Society of Naturalists, and the Section of Human Biology of Polish Copernicus Society of Naturalists.

Turkey—A group of last-year Marmara University Statistics Department students launched a research project last year. This research project is about increasing awareness of the power and impact of statistics among last-year high-school students. In Turkey, these students take a university entrance exam at the end of school year and then according to their grades they prepare a preference list of what

they want to study at university or college. The main question is how many of them will prefer and choose to study statistics? To be frank, the answer is not many!

Therefore, with the opportunity presented by the International Year of Statistics, the statistics students prepared a questionnaire to ask the high-school students about their awareness and knowledge of statistics, the personal qualifications to be a good statistician, job opportunities for a statistician, and other relevant questions.

To apply this questionnaire to high-school students, the university students sought and received permission from the Turkish National Minister of Education. The students then randomly visited select high schools to meet with last-year students.

The statistics students applied the following methodology during these visits:

- After introductions, the research and its goals were discussed
- The high-school students completed the questionnaire
- After collecting the questionnaire, the Statistics2013 video was shown
- Next, the high-school students were informed about Turkish social statistics, i.e., population, gender distribution, median age, urban-rural habitation, educational status and life expectancy.
- Last, the high-school students were given the opportunity to ask questions about statistics or statisticians in Turkey?

To date, the Marmara University Statistics Department students have reached 300 last-year high-school students. They plan to expand this number in 2014.

A Marmara University statistics student talks to high-school students about statistics.

Croatia—Promotion of the International Year of Statistics at the Bernardin Frankopan Ogulin comprehensive school continued December 11 when Professor of Statistics Branko Rumenovic presented a lecture. The lecture was for students from the tourist and economy departments who study statistics. The lecture was attended by Ivana Brozovic, a professor of mathematics, and Visnja Lipošćak, the headmistress of Bernardin Frankopan.

To begin the lecture, the students were engaged in a debate about what statistics is and what its role in the world is. They were then engaged in a game of electing the president of an organization with and without the help of statistics and statisticians. The students concluded that statistics is very important in everyday life. A video clip in which Ron Wasserstein, Statistics2013 Steering Committee member, spoke about the International Year of Statistics was shown and students also viewed the Statistics2013 video Why Statistics Is Important to You?

In the second part of the lecture, the students were introduced to the previous activities of the celebration and the plans for its future. Rumenovic pointed out that the project was renamed "The World of Statistics." Students said they would like to participate in the project, which promotes statistics through the research of population, labor market situation, tourist traffic and more.

The benefits of participation were presented during the lectures. In addition to research and teaching of statistics, statistics and students' work were promoted on the school website, in the Statistics2013 newsletter and as a digital magazine "The View Out the Window." Rumenovic also presented a lecture about working with students in an online seminar "The Pedagogical Value of eTwinning Projects."

Celebration of Statistics2013 began at Bernardin Frankopan at the beginning of 2013. Students worked in groups and made four statistics posters, which were exhibited in the school's halls during January and February. The first panel was related to statistics in general and the International Year of Statistics. The population of Croatia-in-Karlovac and Ogulinsko-Modruš Valleys were presented on the other boards.

Bernardin Frankopan students mark the end of the International Year of Statistics.

India—The vice chancellor of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (Bamu), Vijay Pandharipande, has announced that the Dr. V. H. Bajaj Gold Medal, which will be awarded for topping the merit list of the final-year examination in the university's Department of Statistics, is being revived after a four-year hiatus. Bajaj is the head of the statistics department. The award was stopped due to lack of funding. However, statistics department alumni recently contributed to a fund to revive the award. Pandharipande said the research students wished to pay tribute to their teacher and created the initiative. To ensure the award does not run out of funding in future, Pandharipande said the

contributed amount would be deposited in a bank and only an amount equal to the interest accrued annually would be presented to the award honoree. This approach will ensure the original contributed amount remains untouched, he said.

Somalia—The Somaliland Statistical Association in collaboration with the faculty of the University of Hargeisa Mathematics and Statistics Department and the Department of Statistics for the Ministry of National Planning and Development conducted the annual national statistics conference December 11 in Hargeisa, Somaliland (North Somalia). The conference promoted the use of statistics in government decision-making and formulating national public policies. Objectives of the conference were:

- Promoting the importance of statistics in social life and public policies
- Stimulating young students of statistics and show the potential success of their careers in future
- Presenting research and working papers about statistics
- Celebrating the International Year of Statistics

A total of 60 diverse participants came from many institutions, including members of the Somaliland Statistical Association, University of Hargeisa faculty members, employees of government ministries (i.e., planning, health, education and interior), private-sector companies and United Nations agencies. The featured speakers were Mr. Mustafe Ahmed Abdi, chairman of the Somaliland Statistical Association; Dr. Saad Ali Shire, minister of National Planning and Development; Dr. Abdi Hussein Gas, president of the University of Hargeisa; Mr. Ahmed Dhimbiil, dean of the, Faculty of Statistics, the University of Hargeisa; and Mr. Ahmed Dirie, manager of Dars Research Company. Three important papers were presented: “Somaliland Statistics Law,” “Statistics Strategic Plan,” and “Situational Analysis of the Statistics Sector.”

A speaker talks at the Somaliland national statistics conference last month.

Spain—The University of Cantabria organized a series of events throughout 2013 to commemorate the International Year of Statistics. Included was a lecture series held during the fall, a forthcoming book dedicated to the dissemination of statistics and its applications, and the elaboration of a series of video clips for the Spanish Statistical and Operational Research Society. To culminate these events, the

University of Cantabria awarded an honorary doctorate to Professor Peter Hall of the University of Melbourne. Hall is well known within the field of statistics. It is enough to say that many of his more than 600 publications are among the most cited in the field. In addition, Hall appeared among the 10 most cited scientists in the area of mathematics in all reports by in-cites (http://in-cites.com/scientists/) until these reports stopped running in 2008. Hall already had received similar awards from the universities of Lovaina (1997), Glasgow (2005) and Sidney (2009). The investiture ceremony was held early last year at the University of Cantabria.

Spain—Late last month, the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operational Research (SEIO) held an International Year of Statistics closing ceremony. More than 200 attendees from universities, administration and industry across Spain participated. The Areces Foundation hosted the event and its president, Raimundo Pérez-Hernández, chaired the opening session. The presidents of the Spanish Statistical Bureau (INE), Gregorio Izquierdo, and the SEIO, Leandro Pardo, highlighted the close collaboration between their institutions and the impact of activities carried out during 2013 to promote statistics in Spain. The INE is represented on the Executive Council of the SEIO, and the Society is represented on the National Higher Council of Statistics.

This event had three goals. The first objective was to acknowledge former SEIO presidents for their fundamental contributions to creating a healthy, consolidated society. The second was to show the work developed by the society and its members in particular. Finally, the third was to express the Society's interest in collaborating with companies and institutions to meet their needs.

A keynote talk titled "Is the Statistics Profession Prepared for the World of Big Data?" was delivered by Dr. Robert Rodriguez, the 2012 president of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and senior director of statistical research and development at SAS Institute. He pointed out Big Data presents us a paradox: high demand for statistical tools, yet low visibility for the field of statistics. The future of our field depends on how well we serve the needs of emerging areas of practice and how well we equip our students to solve problems with new types of data. Statisticians also must improve their ability to communicate and lead within their organizations.

By 2015, more than 4 million jobs related to information technology (IT) will be created to support Big Data. Then a very Big Data-related role will create employment for more people outside of IT. This has a tremendous impact in the global economy. But there is not enough talent in the industry. It is expected that only one-third of IT jobs will be filled. Data experts will be a scarce commodity.

In the United States, statisticians from universities, industry and government find a common home in the ASA, and the president of ASA can be from any of these sectors. The SEIO will work toward achieving similar standards and becoming the locus for people from industry, business, public institutions and academy who join together in promoting the profession of statistics.

After the keynote talk, a diverse panel of distinguished experts offered their perspectives on the present and future of statistics as related to the emergence of Big Data. Juan Andrés Pro, director of information systems of "El Corte Inglés", chaired the highly informative discussion. José María de Santiago, vice president of Gartner Executive Programs; Marta Martínez, president of IBM-Spain; Daniel Peña, principal

of the University Carlos III of Madrid; Juan María Peñalosa, director of the Department of Statistics of the Bank of Spain; and Marco Bressan, director of Big Data in the bank BBVA, stressed the importance of statistics in the era of Big Data. Some of the key points made by the panelists follow:

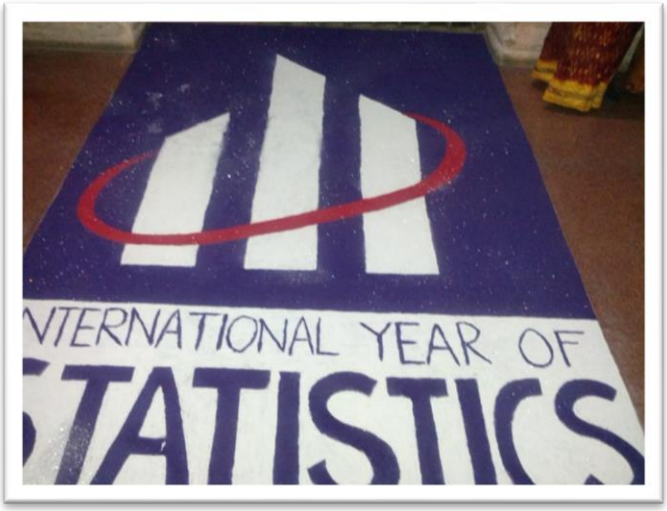
- Statistical methodology adapts itself to the data available at the time
- Management and medicine will be the main areas where statistics will be present in the near future
- Data is the raw material of the 21st century
- Big Data has a democratizing effect
- Big Data has led to a large gap between an unprecedented demand for statistical skills and the existing supply of trained statistical professionals
- A person who knows only mathematical statistics is not well equipped for the future
- The main challenges are data and privacy
- Seventy percent of the activities of each human will be monitored
- The future will be both frequentist and Bayesian at the same time

Following a ceremony during which medals were presented to the former SEIO presidents, Professor Pilar Ibarrola acknowledged this recognition on behalf of all the presidents. The event concluded with a speech by the SEIO president, who left the door open for future work in making the contributions of statistics more vital and visible in society.

ASA Past President Robert Rodriguez delivers the keynote at the SEIO Statistics2013 Closing Ceremony.

India—The Department of Statistics and the Department of Mathematics of the Institute of Science in Nagpur celebrated the International Year of Statistics by conducing the National Conference on Statistics and Mathematics Applications on January 3-4. Approximately 250 delegates from all over the country and abroad comprising of statisticians and mathematicians belonging to the theoretical and applied fields participated. During the event, the International Year of Statistics logo was beautifully depicted at the entrance of the institute using Rangoli, a traditional Indian way of welcoming visitors that is drawn manually on the floor using various coloured powders. This particular rangoli logo, which was

appreciated by all delegates, was painted by four undergraduate students: Ms. Kamna Laghate, Ms. Kalindini Patankar, Ms. Mrunmayee Gharpure and Mr. Vinod Vishwakarma. It required about 4 kilograms of coloured powder and took around two hours to complete the beautiful design.



The International Year of Statistics logo rangoli greets attendees at the National Conference on Statistics and Mathematics Applications in India.

Bangladesh—Bangladesh celebrated the International Year of Statistics with a day-long seminar titled "Statistics for Humanity." The event was conducted jointly with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) of Ministry of Planning, and the Bangladesh Statistical Association (BSA).

The event was divided into two sessions. The inaugural session was attended by Air Vice Marshal (Retired) A. K. Khandker, Bir Uttam M.P., head of the Ministry of Planning; Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman, Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID); Mr. Golam Mostafa Kamal, director general of BBS; and Prof. Dr. M. Moslehuddin, president of BSA. Mr. Md. Shamsul Alam, BBS director, presented the welcome address.

Mr. Kamal, director general of BBS, welcomed the participants to BBS, a centre of both professionals and practitioners in Bangladesh. He noted that Bangladesh had proved the efficiency of statistics with good practices. He said national statistical organizations produce statistics for the well-being of the country's society by increasing awareness and development of the science of statistics.

Mr. Rahman, secretary of the SID, acknowledged the support of the Prime Minister and Planning Minister of Bangladesh for their sincere support by endorsing the strategic document of BBS named the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). He also mentioned the important role and support of the government and national parliament in enacting the Statistics Act 2013, which has empowered BBS with sole authority in producing official statistics. He also added that under the guidance of SID, BBS is now developing diversified products along with its core activities.

Planning Minister Khandker was the occasion's chief guest. In his speech he expressed his joy to participate and said that 'Statistics for Humanity' is a timely theme for ensuring welfare of the population across the country through translating statistics into planning. He also mentioned that statistics is a science and an instrument of research. He appreciated the joint efforts of BBS and BSA, which has been accelerated by SID with continuous support. He reiterated that the support of the government will be continued and wished for a great success in the celebration of International Year of Statistics in Bangladesh.

Dr. Moslehuddin, president of the BSA, presided over the inaugural session. In his speech he said statistics is about people and their quality of life and it plays a vital role in every field of human endeavor. He urged for use of statistics for a better tomorrow since it helps to determine the present and future.

The technical session was chaired by the SID secretary and co-chaired by renowned professors of statistics Drs. Nurul Islam and Sekander Hayat Khan. Five technical papers were presented in the session.

Statistics2013 coincides with the enactment of the Statistical Act 2013 and the approval of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2013-2023 in Bangladesh. Both measures will help to achieve the goals set by Statistics2013.

SID Secretary Nojibur Rahman (left) presents a crest to Planning Minister A. K. Khandker for his contribution in the development of official statistics in Bangladesh as BSA President M. Moslehuddin looks on.

National Statistical Organization: News & Events

Following is the latest news and information about upcoming and recently concluded events hosted by national statistical organizations (NSOs) participating in The World of Statistics:

United Kingdom—UK National Statistician Jil Matheson will retire this summer after almost five years in the post. Sir Andrew Dilnot, chair of the UK Statistics Authority, paid tribute to Matheson: "Jil's professional leadership of the UK statistical system over the last five years as National Statistician has

been exemplary and with her retirement we will lose a highly influential, engaging and trusted ambassador who has unfailingly articulated the importance of high quality, trusted official statistics to countless different audiences far and wide, both at home and abroad. Over her almost 40 years in the Civil Service, Jil has brought great wisdom, judgment and wise counsel to a number of roles within the statistical service, and she has been instrumental in shaping and developing the Office for National Statistics and wider UK statistical system for continuing success in the future… We say a heartfelt 'thank you' for her dedication, commitment and service to UK official statistics, and wish Jil all the very best for the future." An open competition to recruit Matheson's successor is underway.

Australia—The Australian Bureau of Statistics Census program celebrated the International Year of Statistics with the release of the second and third stages of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing data. The ABS's 2011 Census Program was awarded the equal Gold medal in the 2013 Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Sector Management.

The Census Program has designed and implemented two successful applications, one being Spotlight - an online application that brings Census data to life, making it interesting, fun and interactive. Spotlight was nominated and won the Government 2.0 Category for the Australian Government Information and Communications Technology Award.

The other award winning application is Run That Town—a free iPhone application using data from the 2011 Census. This game lets you take control of any neighbourhood in Australia using real Census data to discover who's who in your area, and make decisions that will sway popular opinion in your favour. You can choose from hundreds of projects for your town - from the practical to the preposterous.

Awards for Run That Town include:

- Winning the Education and Family category at the Australian Mobile Awards
- Receiving a Gold in the Interactive category and a Bronze in Gaming category at the Australian Festival of Branded Content and Entertainment Awards
- Being named the Favourite Website Awards (FWA) Mobile of the Day award on 12 July, 2013
- Being named as the winner of The Interactive Advertising Bureau Australia Creative Showcase 8.1 Awards
- Awarded Bronze in the Branded Content Social Network category at the Epica Awards (International Creative Awards)
- Being selected a finalist in the Digital category under Public Service/Social Welfare in 2013 for the London International Awards.

For more information on the Census and these applications, please visit the ABS website.

Australia—The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), through the National Statistical Service (NSS), celebrated a number of events and achievements in 2013 to support the International Year of Statistics. A few of these include:

- The NatStats 2013 Conference—This event brought together more than 400 delegates from Australia's statistical community around the theme of *'A better informed Australia: The role of statistics in building the nation'.* A Communiqué highlighting the major themes, presentations and discussions from the conference is available on the NatStats website.
- Release of the 2013 List of Essential Statistical Assets for Australia (ABS cat. no. 1395.0)
- National Statistical Service Seminar Series
- Launch of Measures of Australia's Progress
- Updates to the Understanding Statistics Statistical Literacy web pages
- Coordinating and sponsoring the national phase of the International Statistical Literacy Project Poster Competition
- Providing ABS' CensusAtSchool resources for inclusion on the Teachers Resources page of the International Year of Statistics website.

One of the biggest highlights of the year was holding the International Year of Statistics morning teas and a statistical debate November 7. Staffers in ABS offices throughout Australia were asked to get together for a morning tea and celebrate by dressing up or having a quiz before tuning into the grand debate, which was streamed live to the various ABS offices. The topic of the debate centred on determining whether data scientists are the new rock stars. The debate was hotly contested and gave senior and junior staff an opportunity to collaborate and celebrate the International Year of Statistics in a relaxed yet engaging and humorous manner.

There was a team of data scientists and a team of rock stars debating the argument in a big showdown. Many jokes and comparisons between faded rock stars and up-and-coming data scientists were shared. When all was said and done and the last argument was over, the adjudicator (none other than the Australian Statistician, Brian Pink) declared that data scientists are the new rock stars, with the people (staff members of the ABS) voting the original rock stars as the winning team!

The morning teas and debate were a perfect way for the ABS to come together to celebrate a successful year as an organisation, as well as recognise the hard work of all its staff, but most importantly to celebrate the power impact of statistics in all aspects of our society.

United Arab Emirates—Despite the lapse of five decades since it emerged, the emirate of Abu Dhabi is still in its prime. With persistence and resolve, the emirate overcame formidable barriers and achieved impressive milestones, pursuing a policy of balanced and comprehensive development. This did not happen by accident, but was the outcome of the insightful planning and farsighted vision of the UAE founding fathers and their successors.

Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) has spared no effort to document this historical era, which put Abu Dhabi on the map and made it one of the greatest destinations to visit. The advent of the 42nd National Day renews ambitions for further proud accomplishments for our nation. SCAD, as part of its celebrations marking this occasion, unveiled the "Largest Statistical Timeline: Abu Dhabi Over Half a Century," which tells in figures the story of the development in Abu Dhabi and the remarkable

accomplishments the emirate has notched over the course of five decades. For more details, click here or here.

New Year & New Name, Yet Participation Numbers Still Grow

We ended 2013 with 2,317 organizations and 128 countries participating in the International Year of Statistics. A new year and new name for the campaign has not turned away new participants.

We began 2014 with several new participating organizations and a new country— Namibia. The six new organizations raise the participant count to 2,323. You can view the current participant and country lists by going to The World of Statistics website.

There are many more groups that should participate in The World of Statistics. So, please encourage other organizations, secondary schools, universities and businesses in your area to join this worldwide movement. It's easy for them to join. Simply tell representatives of these groups to go to www.worldofstatistics.org and click on the "Join" icon on the top right-hand side of the homepage to become an official participating organization in The World of Statistics.

Share Your Work on The World of Statistics Website

Do you know an outstanding statistician deserving of recognition for his or her work? If so, nominate the person for the At Work With Statistician page on The World of Statistics website. To do so, simply send a 250-to-300-word article about your colleague along with a photograph. In the article, explain the person's job and his or her contributions to the mission of their organization. We'll feature the profile on The World of Statistics website homepage. Send your submission to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Event Submission Forms on Website

Two web-based forms make it easy for you to promote your organization's events on The World of Statistics 2014 Activities Calendar and have an article featured in this newsletter after the event is over.

The first form—called the "Event Submission Form for the 2014 Activities Calendar"—provides you a quick and simple way to submit information about your organization's planned events. All you do is input into the form the requested information and press the "Submit" button. We'll then take your event information and post it to The World of Statistics 2014 Activities Calendar. You can access this form here.

The second form—titled the "Post-Event Information & Photo Submission Form"—enables you to send us information about your organization's completed event and news as well as up to two photos for this newsletter. 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 your organization's news or event information, we'll run the photo and story in this newsletter so others can learn about your organization and its work to promote statistics. Click here to access this form.

Get The World of Statistics Logo & Web Banners

It's time to update your organization's website by posting The World of Statistics logo. Click here to download this new logo.

Also, a series of new web banners are available for posting to your website. You can access these banners by clicking here.

Get a Language-Specific Logo

To have a version of The World of Statistics logo created in your language, please e-mail to Jeffrey@amstat.org a high-resolution PDF document with the following:

- The interpretation of the phrase "The World of Statistics" in the appropriate font in this format: The World of Statistics="The interpreted phrase"
- The interpretation of the phrase "Participating Organization" in the appropriate font in this format: Participating Organization="The interpreted phrase"

The high-resolution PDF document you provide will ensure the accuracy of your logo.

Once your language-specific logo is created, it will be posted to The World of Statistics website here and we will send you an email to let you know the logo is available for download.

Follow Us on Twitter

Get the latest news and updates about The World of Statistics by following us on Twitter at @astatworld. Also, when you use Twitter to spread the word about The World of Statistics, be sure to use the hashtag "#TWOS". We will announce our Facebook page in the next issue of this newsletter.