



International Year of Statistics News

April 22, 2013

Statistics2013 Unveiling Winners of Video Contest

Over the last couple weeks we have been rolling out announcements of the winners of the Statistics2013 Video Contest—[sponsored by Wiley](#)—on www.statistics2013.org. To date, we have announced the honorable mentions, third-place and, today, the second-place winners in each competition category. We'll announce the first-place finishers as well as the top overall video Monday and Wednesday next week, respectively.

In all, 59 videos were submitted by individuals and groups in numerous countries. The video contest was judged by a committee of representatives from several countries around the globe, including Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia and Belgium, and chaired by Thomas Short, John Carroll University professor of statistics and a member of the [American Statistical Association](#).

To refresh your memory, the three award categories are:

- **Best Overall Video**
- **Best Video by a Person or Persons 18 Years of Age or Less**
- **Best Non-English Language Video**

You can view the list of winners and watch their videos at www.statistics2013.org. Go to the website today to view the high-quality and informative videos submitted for the competition.

On May 1, after all winners have been revealed, we will distribute to Statistics2013's nearly 1,900 participating organizations and media a press release about the video contest and the winners.

Wiley, which is providing the contest prize money, is linking to the winning videos on its www.StatisticsViews.com website and including an article about the video contest in its May newsletter. Additionally, *Significance* magazine will be posting all 59 submitted videos on its website.

Participation Inches Closer to Next Milestone

On the way to 2,000 participating organizations in Statistics2013, we first must pass through the 1,900 participant milestone. And, that mark should be eclipsed any day. In fact, as of today the participation count stands at 1,896 organizations from 122 countries. You can check out the up-to-date participant and country lists at the [Statistics2013 website](#). You can help us break the 2,000-participant mark by encouraging other organizations, secondary schools and universities in your area to join the worldwide celebration. It's an easy process to join: Simply tell representatives of these groups to go to

www.statistics2013.org and click on the “Join Statistics2013” icon on the right side of the homepage to become an official International Year of Statistics organization.

Nominate a Statistician of the Week

Do you know of an outstanding statistician deserving of recognition for his or her work? If so, why not nominate the person for the Statistics2013 Statistician Job of the Week. To do so, simply send us 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 publish the profile on the Statistics2013 website homepage for a week. Send your submissions to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Participating Organization: News & Events

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

India—The International Year of Statistics will end in the same place it began: India. The CR Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science will conduct an event titled “Statistics2013 International Conference” from December 28 to 31 in Hyderabad. The event, themed “Socio-Economic Challenges and Sustainable Solutions”, will feature two plenary sessions. The first, titled “Statistics and Innovation for Nation Building”, will be presented by Dr. Sam Pitroda, the world famous technologist and innovator, while Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, will discuss “Socio-economic challenges of climate change” in the second session. These talks may be video transmitted to other countries via the Internet. [Learn more about this event here.](#)

International—Recently, several articles about the International Year of Statistics caught our attention and we wanted to share these for your reading pleasure:

- [Community college students and the international year of statistics](#)
- [Get into data mining](#)
- [International Year of.....What???????](#)
- [Statistics are an integral part of our every day life](#)

If an article about Statistics2013 is published in a newspaper, magazine or on website or aired on television or radio in your local area, please share it with us by sending an email to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org. We’ll feature it here as well as on the Statistics2013 website.

Canada—York University in Toronto conducted a special Statistics2013 event titled “The Impact of Statistics at York University” on April 5. As noted by the interdisciplinary team of faculty that organized the successful event, many researchers at York use statistical methods in their research. To celebrate the International Year of Statistics, the presenters were professors from many disciplines across the university community who presented talks about the contributions of statistics to their field of

expertise. Examples included Psychology Professors Michael Friendly and Matthew Sigal presenting “Recent Advances in Visualization for Multivariate Linear Models” and Nursing Professor Rose G. Steele’s talk about “Charting the territory: Determining and documenting trajectories for families where a child has a life-threatening condition.” [You can view the complete program here](#). The talks were accessible to a broad audience. The event’s goals were to raise with students in various fields of study the profile of statistical methods and the role these play in research in many fields and to foster fruitful future interdisciplinary collaborations.

Russia—The Higher School of Economics’ April International Academic Conference is an annual event that brings together lead researchers and analysts from Russia and abroad to discuss essential issues in social and economic development. From April 2 to 4, the XIV April Conference featured a significant Statistical Section that focused on topics of particular interest to Russian official statisticians and the country’s research community. The first topic covered Input-Output (IO) tables, an indispensable statistical tool for economic analysis and forecast. Russia’s Federal Statistics Service is now compiling a new national benchmark IO table for 2011 while more advanced studies adopt international IO tables for an in-depth analysis of global value chains. The WTO and Groningen University in the Netherlands—among the prime movers in this area—shared the results of their research. Another essential topic centered on best practices in the compilation of the Environmental Economic Accounts (EEA). The audience benefited from listening to the national accounting perspective on developing the environmental goods and services sector, quantifying the green economy. Experiences of Finland, Sweden and India in establishing the system of EEA were reviewed in detail. Last but not least, Russian and foreign academics and officials engaged in a debate on statistical education at the university level. A core issue is the relevance of a specialized degree in Statistics and related career opportunities. Many see it as the natural way forward for Statistics to thrive as a profession, but there remain questions on the depth and practicality of the course content. [Agenda and presentations are available here](#).

United States—Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, last week held its “2013 International Year of Statistics Celebration.” The event was jointly sponsored by the university’s Department of Applied Statistics and Operations Research and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. It featured presentations by two internationally known scholars: Professor Changliang Zou from Nankai University in Tianjin, China, who delivered a presentation on “Nonparametric Maximum Likelihood Approach to Multiple Change-Point Problems”; and Professor Andrew Thomas from Carnegie Mellon University, who presented a talk titled “Competing Process Hazard Function Models for Player Ratings in Ice Hockey.”

United Kingdom—In late February, more than 100 experts traveled to York to discuss and debate issues of inequality and poverty in the world today—and yesterday. For more than a century, York has been at the centre of this debate, since Seebohm Rowntree completed his path-breaking poverty survey in 1900. Rowntree's story was addressed by Professor Jonathan Bradshaw of York University in the first session. This session, cosponsored by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, served as the launch for the new book on the Rowntree family by local author Paul Chrystal. Another York speaker, Professor Richard Wilkinson, who wrote the celebrated book, *The Spirit Level*, argued why greater equality is better for everyone. This is an argument that was accepted by most of the attendees at this conference, which was

organised by Radical Statistics, a group interested in applications of statistical data. Other sessions focused on inequality in India and the 2011 United Kingdom census and whether the 2021 census should be cancelled. The theme of the final speaker, Stewart Lansley, was “The Costs of Inequality,” on which he has written a well-received book.



Attendees at the Inequality and Statistics event hosted by Radical Statistics.

United States—In honor of the International Year of Statistics, a cutting-edge [R Workshop on Bioinformatics with Bioconductor and Seamless R/C++ Integration](#) will be held May 10 to 11 at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The event is being sponsored by the [Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin](#) and the [Milwaukee Chapter of the American Statistical Association](#). Click here to [view the workshop agenda](#). Organizers send special thanks to the International Year of Statistics for its support today and its inspiration for tomorrow.

International—The Statistics2013 Organizing Committee sends kudos to the [National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria](#), the [Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics](#) and the many other participating organizations that used the recent press release distributed by Statistics2013 about World Health Day 2013 and the International Year of Statistics. Keep up the great work everyone! The next “World Day” celebration will be International Clinical Trials Day May 20. Statistics2013 will be providing a press release you can use to promote your organization, the International Year of Statistics as well as the contributions of statistics and statisticians to International Clinical Trials Day. Be on the look out for this promotional item.

United States—Statistics2013 Steering Committee member Sastry Pantula recently traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to present a talk to the members of the local chapter of the American Statistical Association. During the talk, Sastry spoke at length about the International Year of Statistics and the era of Big Data.



Sastry Pantula (second from right) poses with local chapter officers

Spain—Earlier this month the plenary of the Parliament of Catalonia read an institutional declaration on the occasion of the International Year of Statistics. The Catalan Parliament has joined in promoting public awareness of the impact of statistics in all aspects of life and society in an institutional declaration signed by all groups. [You can read the declaration](#) (in Catalan). The declaration was supported by the [Statistical Institute of Catalonia](#).



Members of the Statistical Institute of Catalonia pose outside the Parliament of Catalonia.

United States—To celebrate the International Year of Statistics and to help put statistics in the spotlight, Elite Research is publishing a new infographic each month on a variety of topics. [Check out the first infographic](#) about the importance of statistics that pulls information from the [Statistics2013 website](#) and the CIA World Fact Book. Additionally, Elite Research is hosting several statistics-related workshops to help spread the word about statistics in 2013, including “SPSS & Statistics”, “Sample Size & Power Analysis”, “Data Management & Exploration”, and “Research Design & Advanced Analysis—Why Just a t-test Doesn’t Cut it Anymore”. [Connect with Elite Research at its website](#) or at the [Joint Statistical Meetings](#) in August.

National Statistical Organization: News & Events

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

Slovakia—Our colleagues at the [Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic](#) have been busy promoting the International Year of Statistics to the country’s citizens. “After joining the initiative we [created the section dedicated to the International Year of Statistics](#) at our website, where our users can find important links to interesting events within the initiative (activities calendar, video, newsletter),” wrote Olga Dzianova, head of the Statistical Products and Services Provision Section. “We translated and released also short reports to world days and information on writing competition in *Significance* magazine.” The national statistical office also prepared additional promotional materials. “[The bubble poster](#) was translated and we prepared [the flyer in Slovak language](#) about the International Year of Statistics for our users, which contain information from your International Year of Statistics flyer and also information about the initiative. The flyer will be distributed to users via our regional offices, via special events organized by the office (conferences, press conferences, meetings with universities) and e-mails,” concluded Dzianova. Statistics2013 thanked Dzianova and everyone at the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic: “Thank you for the update and the wonderful activities your national statistical office has launched to promote the International Year of Statistics in Slovakia. Your tremendous efforts will help the citizens of your country learn more about and appreciate the contributions of statistics to their lives,” wrote Jeff Myers, the American Statistical Association’s public relations coordinator.

Croatia—Meanwhile, our colleagues at the Croatian Bureau of Statistics have translated the Statistics2013 “Bubbles” poster to Croatian and developed a Statistics2013 logo in their language. We send kudos to Director General Dr. Ivan Kovač, Ph.D., and the agency’s entire staff for taking the initiative. [Take a look at the poster here.](#)

Use New Event Submission Forms on Website

We have developed two new web-based forms that make it easier 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!

Statistics2013 Website is for You!

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.

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 | • Indonesian |
| • Czech | • Italian |
| • Dutch | • Portuguese (Portugal) |
| • Euskara (Basque) | • Russian |
| • English | • Spanish (Mexico) |
| • French | • Swedish |
| • German | • 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 to request a copy of the script that you can translate.

Official Statistics2013 Logos

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 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 [35 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:

- 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.

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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.