



International Year of Statistics News

May 20, 2013

Statistics2013 Postal Stamp Unveiled in Portugal

CTT Correios de Portugal—the Portuguese postal operator—will be releasing three International Year of Statistics commemorative stamps this Friday. The stamps, which took three months to design and mass print, are available for any postal customer to buy and use to mail their letters and other postal items. The special stamps were designed by Joao Machado (www.joamachado.com).

[Click here to view the commemorative stamps.](#)

Fatima Santos Marques of CTT Correios of Portugal says that orders for the stamps can be made by mailing a request to Filatelia, Av. D. João II LT 1.12.03, 1999 001 Lisboa, Portugal; calling +351 210470607; faxing a request to +351 210471 979; emailing a request to filatelia@ctt.pt; or ordering online at www.ctt.pt.

Marques said the stamps represent three axes—nature, man and development and industry—through a visual language based on pure statistical elements.

The Statistics2013 commemorative stamps will be available for five years, says Marques.

Participation Inches Closer to 2,000

Thirteen! That's how many more (appropriately!) new participants are needed to get Statistics2013 to the 2,000-participant mark. Enrollments were boosted greatly last week when numerous teachers and professors signed up at the U.S. Conference on Teaching Statistics meeting in Research Triangle, North Carolina in the United States. We commend ASA Education Director Rebecca Nichols for persuading these educators to sign up for the International Year of Statistics.

As of today, participation stands at 1,987 organizations from 122 countries worldwide. You can check out the up-to-date participant and country lists at the [Statistics2013 website](#).

Help us surpass 2,000 participants and reach our ultimate goal of 2,013 participants by encouraging other organizations, secondary schools and universities in your area to join the worldwide celebration. It's easy 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.

Participating Organization: News & Events

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

Mexico—In celebration of the International Year of Statistics, the Department of Statistics at the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes (UAA) published the first edition of a magazine called *Estadística, datos y algo más (Statistical data and more)* for all university students April 19. The magazine features articles written by university teachers and researchers from the Center for Research in Mathematics (CIMAT) Aguascalientes unit as well as students of UAA's statistical industrial engineering program. It also contains a compilation of material of interest from the web. The Department of Statistics created this magazine to spread word about local and international activities related to the International Year of Statistics, says Maria del Carmen Montoya Landeros, a professor in the department. Montoya Landeros added that the magazine was created to provide a quarterly digital nontechnical, statistical-related publication that showcases the department's statistical applications and other activities. "Our intention is to present in an entertaining and very accessible, the information that the Department of Statistics considers as relevant to outreach to the university community and the general public," explained Montoya Landeros. [You can view and download a pdf version of the magazine here.](#)

Turkey—As part of its observance of the International Year of Statistics, the Gazi University Statistics Club is organizing a series of events and is informing its members about events that are being held all over the world. The club has organized and conducted several panel discussions featuring many important participants from Turkish Statistics Community and organized the DEA Conference in Turkey. All the aforementioned activities were published in its *Gazi Haber* magazine.



Gazi Haber magazine.

Canada—This coming Sunday, the Statistical Society of Canada will present a public lecture to celebrate the International Year of Statistics. Called “Solving Crimes Using Math: the Lottery Retailer Scandal”, the lecture will be presented by Jeffrey S. Rosenthal, a professor in the Department of Statistics at the University of Toronto and the author of *Struck by Lightning: The Curious World of Probabilities*. Rosenthal will discuss applications of probabilities in everyday life and examine the role that statistical analysis played in the unusual and dramatic lottery controversy in which unscrupulous retail-ticket sellers tricked lottery-jackpot winners out of big prizes. The subsequent investigations led to prolonged front-page news reports, outraged customers, political debates, firing of CEOs, several arrests for fraud, and the restoration of millions of dollars of lottery winnings to the rightful owners. [Click here to learn more about this lecture.](#)

Malta—The Malta National Statistical Office (NSO) is participating in the 34U campaign, which is working to make Malta greener, cleaner and healthier. NSO Staff planted 22 trees as part of the 34U campaign. NSO office management and staff joined forces in this tree-planting event held at the Gajn Tuffiea camping site as part of the various activities the NSO is holding to commemorate the International Year of Statistics throughout 2013. The 22 trees planted are Aleppo Pines (*siar ta-nuber*), which are indigenous to the Maltese Islands. The Aleppo Pine, which grows in most Mediterranean countries, was almost completely eradicated from the wild in Malta at the beginning of the last century. However, seeds from a few pines of native stock at the San Anton Gardens saved the tree population through an afforestation program. The tree species now is protected through national legislation.



Malta NSO staff and their families at the tree-planting event at Gajn Tuffiea

United States—Georgia State University (GSU) in Atlanta, Georgia in the United States dedicated its 2nd Workshop on biostatistics and bioinformatics to celebrate Statistics2013. The workshop was supported and organized by the GSU Research Foundation and the school’s Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Biostatistics and bioinformatics are playing key and important roles in statistics and other scientific research fields. This workshop’s goal was to stimulate research and to foster the interaction of

researchers in biostatistics and bioinformatics research areas. The workshop afforded GSU faculty and graduate students the opportunity to meet top researchers, identify important directions for future research, and facilitate research collaboration between GSU and other universities. [Click here to learn more about the event and to review the conference program.](#)

Mexico—The country’s National Metrology Center (CENAM), as part of its celebration of World Metrology Day 2013 on May 20, hosted an open house for visitors, including university and high school students and representatives from industry. As part of the event, Dr. Vicente González Juárez presented three times during the day a talk titled “Statistics in Daily Life.” The purpose of this talk was to show how statistics is used empirically by our society in daily life for making decisions and to show how statistics interacts with other sciences, with special emphasis placed on metrology. This same talk was presented at the University of Valley of México in honor of Mathematic Day on May 3. [For more information click here](#) (in Spanish).

Mexico—Humankind requires the idea of randomness in order to comprehend the universe, thus this concept is present in the evolution of science from the first cosmogonies of ancient cultures to the most complex theories of quantum mechanics, said Miguel Ángel García Álvarez of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México during his recent lecture titled “Randomness” at the Mathematics Research Center (CIMAT).



Miguel Ángel García Álvarez

Mexico—Italian composer Luca Cori gave a presentation named “Determinism and Probability in Musical Thought”, during a Workshop on Risk Analysis organized by Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas and the University of Guanajuato. The University’s Symphony Orchestra featured his work *Ypnos* Symphony at its May 17 concert. A footnote on the program reads, “World premiere, on occasion of the International Year of Statistics”.



Italian composer Luca Cori.

United States—The [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA) will hold its 2013 EIA Energy Conference June 17 to 18 in Washington, D.C. in the United States. The event, which will address international energy statistics, is a premier forum for addressing energy issues in the United States and around the world. Keynote [speakers](#) are:

- Lisa Murkowski, U.S. senator from Alaska and the ranking member of Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
- Thomas Fanning, chairman, president and CEO of Southern Company
- Aldo Flores-Quiroga, secretary general of the International Energy Forum
- Hans Rosling, chairman of Gapminder

As a participant in Statistics 2013, many of EIA’s 2013 conference sessions will cover a range of domestic and international topics including:

- International Energy Statistics: Coverage & Quality
- Energy in the Americas
- Global Natural Gas Outlook
- World Hydrocarbon Resources
- Coal and Nuclear: World & Domestic Outlook
- U.S. Natural Gas Production Growth & its Implications
- Energy Consumption & Building Efficiency

- Alternatives to Oil in Transportation
- U.S. Oil Production Growth & its Implications
- Renewable, Storage, & Grid Integration

You can learn more about the event and register at [EIA's conference website](#).

Ireland—The Irish Statistical Association (ISA) held an International Year of Statistics session at its recent 33rd Conference on Applied Statistics in Ireland. ISA created the logo below for the session.



A logo created by the Irish Statistical Association.

Mexico—May has been a busy month of International Year of Statistics observances in the country. By the end of the month, there will be no less than nine activities to celebrate Statistics2013, including the country's first international workshop of the year, a stochastic music concert and talks, a special mini-course, activities to mark the 25th anniversary of University of Guanajuato's graduate statistics program and the first open house at Iconigrafico Museum. Kudos to our colleagues in Mexico, especially Victor Perez Abreu, for ensuring that Statistics2013 is being celebrated on a wide-reaching scale across the country.

National Statistical Organization: News & Events

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

Italy—On Wednesday in Rome, the country’s National Institute of Statistics will present the *Annual Report 2013—The State of the Nation*. In the twenty-first edition of the report, special attention is given to problems and potentialities emerging from the country’s profound economic crisis. Besides an economic and social overview of Italy, an analysis is given of the effects that the crisis has had on business and human capital; of economic sectors offering new prospects for success in global competition, but also on citizens' feeling of the economic situation, the institutions, the effects of globalization, environmental issues. The 2013 Report is accompanied by a dossier containing a selection of key indicators, a statistical appendix in xls, csv, and ods formats, graphic displays on the web, live tweeting of the event (# RA2013) and release tweets in the days following the publication of the report. [For more information and to download the report, click here.](#)

Bulgaria—The president of the National Statistical Institute (NSI) presented a prize to a winner of the Statistics2013 Video Contest from the country. Late last month, NSI President Ph.D. Reneta Indjova hosted Mr. Svilen Donev, winner of third place in the contest’s Best Non-English Language Video, at the National Statistical Institute offices in Sofia. Donev, a student at Sofia’s First English Language School, won third place with his video titled [Statistics is the Grammar of Science](#). During the presentation, Indjova awarded Donev a special congratulatory award-memorial coin “2013—International Year of Statistics” as his school headmaster, teachers, NSI statisticians and classmates watched.



NSI President Indjova bestows a prize to Donev for his winning Statistics2013 Video Contest entry.

United Arab Emirates—Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi’s (SCAD) inaugural statistics conference brought together 550 participants and 18 speakers representing 13 statistical organizations around the world. The first-of-its-kind event, called the Abu Dhabi Statistics Conference 2013, was held May 12 and 13. Its objective was to increase awareness of the importance of administrative data records produced by

governments, semi-government agencies and private corporations. “The conference aims to showcase and enhance various statistical aspects including the concept of e-statistics, the ideal mechanism to support the collaboration process between corporations as well as statistical data users. E-statistics is also important in improving the quality of statistics, making them more accurate, updated and unifying their standards,” said H.E. Al Suwaidi, chairman of SCAD, during his opening remarks. Among the speakers were Irena Križman, director-general of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, who discussed the importance of improving the quality of administrative data, and Manuela Lenk, a statistician with Statistics Austria, who discussed the Register-based census in Austria. The two-day event featured several presentations and panel discussions and culminated with a meeting to discuss recommendations to improve the quality of administrative data for contributing to development of economies. [Read more about the conference recommendations here](#). The conference was an SCAD initiative to mark the International Year of Statistics.

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.

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.

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

Nominate a Statistician of the Week

Do you know 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.

Significance, RSS Young Statisticians Sponsoring Writing Competition

A writing competition, the second jointly sponsored by the Young Statisticians Section of the [Royal Statistical Society](#) (RSS) and *Significance* magazine, will celebrate The International Year of Statistics. The first competition, held in 2012, was hugely success with 24 entries; four were published in the magazine. Anyone is welcome to enter, regardless of membership or affiliation. The only stipulation for the competition is that you be "young" (in career terms, not necessarily in age); that is you must be a student or within the first 10 years of your career. Before sitting down to compose your article, the organizers suggest that you can read [last year's winning entry](#) and a [runner-up entry](#) plus [learn more about the writing competition](#) and what makes a submitted article stand out. In light of the success of last year's competition, the sponsors are encouraging more young writers to put pen to paper—or fingers to keyboard! Entries should be submitted via email to significance@rss.org.uk as a text or Word file or as a PDF. *The submission deadline is June 1.* *Significance* magazine is published jointly by the RSS and the [American Statistical Association](#) and is for anyone interested in statistics and the analysis and interpretation of data.

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.

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 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 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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