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UNSD, THE WORLD OF STATISTICS JOINING FORCES ON WORLD STATISTICS DAY 2015

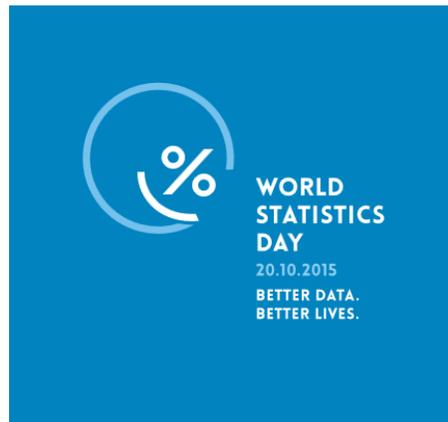
The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) is gearing up for World Statistics Day 2015 and The World of Statistics is joining with the agency to help promote the celebration to statistical organizations around the globe.

Ronald Wasserstein, member of [The World of Statistics Steering Committee](#) and executive director of the [American Statistical Association](#), met with several UNSD officials, including Director Stefan Schweinfest, April 7 at the United Nations in New York City.

During this meeting, Wasserstein updated the UNSD representatives on The World of Statistics network, which is comprised of more than 2,360 organizations in academia, industry, government and research, and agreed to share UNSD-developed information about World Statistics Day 2015 plans and activities with the network's participants.

World Statistics Day 2015 will be marked October 20 this year. As part of the celebration, the global statistical community will showcase their achievements and ongoing work to improve our global society.

UNSD already has unveiled the celebration logo (see below), launched [a website](#) and released a kick-off video [unveiling the celebration's logo](#). It will be developing and sharing additional materials and resources in the coming months.



The logo for World Statistics Day 2015.

UNSD and The World of Statistics encourage the global statistical community to embrace this international observance and showcase their achievements and their ongoing work toward “Better Data. Better Lives.”—the theme selected for World Statistics Day. So, save the date, start planning how your statistical organization will leverage the event to promote statistics to the public, and post the new logo and video to your organization’s website. And, be sure to read future issues of this newsletter to learn about ideas your organization can use to promote World Statistics Day 2015.

The inaugural World Statistics Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010 to recognize the importance of statistics in shaping our societies. The holding of national and regional statistical days already was a tradition in [more than 100 countries](#). The General Assembly’s adoption of this international day as October 20 brought new light to this important observance. The [first World Statistics Day was commemorated October 20, 2010](#) in more 130 countries and areas.

Stay up to date on World Statistics Day 2015 plans and activities by following the celebration on Twitter at [#StatsDay15](#), by periodically visiting its [website](#) and reading future issues of this newsletter

CALL ISSUED FOR JOINT FUNDING TO ENHANCE AFRICAN STATISTICS

African governments should work with development donors to fund the collection of a wider and better range of social and economic data, a recent [meeting on the quality of statistics in Africa](#) was told.

Many African nations have weak systems for collecting and distributing statistics on issues such as employment and agriculture, making it difficult to assess the scale of poverty or the success of development initiatives, speakers said.

The April 6 meeting, hosted by the Center for Global Development (CGD) in Washington D.C. in the United States, heard that African countries largely rely on donor funding from sources such as the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to collect national statistics.

This funding is inadequate, said Amanda Glassman, a global health policy researcher at the CGD. Just 2% of official development assistance goes toward collecting and producing data, she told the audience. Furthermore, she said, most funding for data collection is skewed toward health issues and household surveys, following funders' strategic priorities. "Equal weight needs to be given to different issues, such as the labour market", to fill knowledge gaps, she said.

Last year, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a data revolution in Africa to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Glassman and other development researchers at the meeting set out their analysis of the state of African statistics in a special issue of *The Journal of Development Studies*, including some open access articles, at the end of March.

But Yemi Kale, statistician general of Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics, dismissed the idea that African data is of low quality. "The statistics are not poor," he told the audience. "The quality of statistics produced now is better than a decade ago." Some of the improvements are driven by international businesses, which need data to make investment decisions in the emerging markets that they have a growing interest in, the meeting heard. Citizens are increasingly using national data to hold politicians to account, it also heard. But Kale agreed there are "data gaps" in social indicators, such as school attendance.

To improve statistics, Glassman called on donors and African governments to contribute equally to a fund to finance data collection. She suggested that part of the donor funding would be dependent on African governments demonstrating progress in good data collection. "We need more accurate, complete and timely data," she said. "Countries need to fund more of it themselves and donors need to fund more and differently."

The World Bank recently started to provide some funding to African governments to improve the registration of births, marriages and deaths, and the collection of data on maternal and child health, said Andrew Dabalen, the lead economist for the bank's Africa region.

The bank plans to take bolder steps in encouraging countries to publish data collected with its funding. Dabalen told SciDev.Net reforms under discussion include "asking countries to opt out" or their data would automatically be published on the bank's website. (Source: [Call for joint funding to enhance African statistics](#), April 13, 2015, SciDev.Net.)

THE WORLD OF STATISTICS APRIL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Following are The World of Statistics participating organization-sponsored events and activities around the world scheduled for the remainder of April through mid-May. [Click here](#) to see the complete 2015

calendar. Remember to submit your organization's events for the 2015 calendar; [use this convenient form to do so](#).

APRIL:

- **April 16-17, 2015** — [Special Conference on “W\(h\)ither the SNA?”](#), Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development and International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, Paris, France
- **April 17, 2015** — [Albuquerque Chapter of the ASA \(ACASA\) Annual Meeting](#), ACASA, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
- **April 18-21, 2015** — [2015 Canadian Human and Statistical Genetics Meeting](#), Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Genetics and the Canadian Gene Cure Foundation, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- **April 20, 2015** — [2015 Annual Joint Biostatistics Symposium](#); Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, The Ohio State University; Cleveland, Ohio, USA
- **April 20-22, 2015**—[5th Channel Network Conference](#), International Biometric Society, Nijmegen, the Netherlands
- **April 20-22, 2015** — [Cartagena Data Festival](#); ODI, Africa Gathering, CEPEI, Data-Pop Alliance, PARIS21, UNDP, UNFPA; Cartagena, Colombia
- **April 23-24, 2015** — [3rd International Conference—The Use of R in Official Statistics](#), National Institute of Statistics, Bucharest, Romania
- **April 24, 2015** — [Fourth Annual Statistics Day](#), Texas A&M University-Kingsville Department of Mathematics, Kingsville, Texas, USA
- **April 24-25, 2015** — [29th New England Statistics Symposium](#), University of Connecticut Department of Statistics, Storrs, Connecticut, USA
- **April 26 – 28, 2015** — [Bioinformatics and Biostatistics Applications in Cancer Genomics Research \(BBACGR 2015\)](#); Qatar University, Qatar National Research Fund, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy; Doha, Qatar
- **April 28, 2015** — [ASA/MTLI Short Course on Adaptive Design](#), American Statistics Association and Advanced Medical Technology Institute, Arlington, Virginia, USA
- **April 29-30, 2015** — [8th Annual FDA/MTLI Medical Devices and Diagnostics Statistical Issues Workshop](#), U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Advanced Medical Technology Institute, Arlington, Virginia, USA

May:

- **May 8-10, 2015** — [4th Workshop on Biostatistics and Bioinformatics](#); National Science Foundation, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, International Chinese Statistical Association, and Georgia State University Department of Mathematics and Statistics; Atlanta, Georgia, USA
- **May 15-17, 2015** — [Seymour Sherman Lecture and Conference Probability and Statistical Physics](#), Indiana University and National Science Foundation, Bloomington, Indiana, USA

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION NEWS & EVENTS

Following is the latest news and information from statistical organizations participating in The World of Statistics:

Costa Rica—The Student Association of the School of Statistics at the University of Costa Rica held its second Student Statistical Academic Symposium March 12. The activity was organized and executed by the Student Association with support provided by the school's chair and several faculty members.

Symposium presenters were third- and fourth-year bachelor's program students and recent graduates. These presenters shared with the audience of 80 people real-world studies and data analyses they had done for different courses such as experimental designs, regression models, survey design and professional practice. Several students who participated in international academic activities during last year's second semester also presented their work. One recent bachelor's graduate talked about the future of statistics based on the International Year of Statistics 2013 report "[Statistics and Science—A Report of the London Workshop on the Future of Statistical Sciences](#)," and a master's graduate described some of the exciting new fields and applications that are emerging for statisticians. Two presentations also emphasized the need to change the traditional approach to the teaching of statistics, relying more on active learning through problem-solving and developing of understanding. Organizers hope to establish the event as an annual activity for all statistics students, especially those who are new to the school and may not have a full understanding of the statistics field.



A student speaks at the second annual Student Statistical Academic Symposium at the University of Costa Rica in San José.

Jamaica—The Jamaica Statistics Symposium (JASSYM) and Preconference Workshop 2015 will be held October 28-30 in Kingston. The event will introduce individuals from all sectors of the country's society to the best methods of management, analysis, interpretation and application of findings from data. The symposium will feature oral and poster presentations by specialists in systematic review statistics, social and gender equity issues, quantification of disease burden and health indicators as well as other areas of research. There also will be seminars and training workshops to equip participants to manage and analyze data with the ultimate aim of producing systematic reviews, carrying out the relevant meta-analyses and affecting the appropriate knowledge translation. During the symposium, organizers will

highlight the appropriate use of statistical methodology to analyze data in order to inform policy and production. A call for papers will be announced soon and organizers encourage participation in oral or poster presentations. [Go to the event Facebook page for additional information and the forthcoming call for papers.](#)

International—Bin Yu, Chancellor's Professor in the University of California, Berkeley, Department of Statistics, recently was named the 2016 Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) Rietz Lecturer. She will present her lecture at the [World Congress of Probability and Statistics](#), which will be conducted July 11-15 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The Rietz Lecturer is chosen every three years by the IMS Committee on Special Lectures. It is one of the highest academic honors bestowed by the IMS. Created in 1935, the IMS is a member organization that fosters the development and dissemination of the theory and applications of statistics and probability and has 4,000 active members throughout the world.

Institute of Mathematical Statistics

The purpose of the Institute is to foster the development and dissemination of the theory and applications of statistics and probability



International—The [International Chinese Statistical Association](#) (ICSA) and the Colorado State University Department of Statistics are jointly conducting their statistical meetings this year—the 24th ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium and 13th Graybill Conference, respectively. The joint events will be held June 14-17 in Fort Collins, Colorado, United States.

Activities will include the Keynote Address by Susan Murphy, University of Michigan; Graybill Plenary by Richard Davis, Columbia University; the Leadership Forum; and the Banquet Address by Howard Wainer, National Board of Medical Examiners. There will be approximately 350 presentations and poster presentations, seven short courses, a student paper competition, and social activities and local sightseeing excursions. This meeting will provide opportunities to network, learn, develop research ideas and enjoy the Rocky Mountains. Optional excursions include a trip to Rocky Mountain National Park, a brewery tour (Fort Collins is known as the “Napa Valley of Craft Beer”), and a whitewater raft trip on the scenic Poudre River. For more information and to register, go to the [joint conference website](#).



International Chinese Statistical Association

泛華統計協會

Colorado
State
University

International—Two student contests will be staged during the Fifth International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES V), which will be held June 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland. The contest foci are: data collection and imputation/missing data treatment.

Contest participants must be a current undergraduate or graduate student at any level or a recent graduate who has held a degree for 15 months or less at the time of the contest next year. Student participants may work independently or in a group. Travel expenses and registration will be awarded to only one author, and the paper must be presented at the conference by one of the participating students. Participants are expected to carry out this assignment autonomously. Contributions from faculty advisors, if any, should be clear noted in the report. [Details on both contests are available here.](#)



The International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES) promotes discussion about a broad range of issues related to surveys of businesses, farms or institutions. ICES features invited and contributed papers and demonstrations from around the globe that highlight new, improved and upcoming establishment survey methodologies and technologies using census data, administrative data, and sample survey data.

Participants come from academia, government statistical agencies, private business, and statistical associations. The student contests will create interest and innovation in the establishment survey field by inspiring students and the faculty they work with to create and present to the contest committee interesting and challenging applications that test their technical skill and creativity.

Since the winner of each contest will present their research at ICES-V, the winner is provided with a unique and invaluable international learning experience. The registration fee is waived for the respective contest winners, and the conference will provide airfare (or other transportation costs), transport card, lodging, meals, and incidental expenses.

Statistics instructors are asked to encourage eligible students to take advantage of this opportunity. Students must declare their intent to participate by April 30 this year [using this enrollment form](#). Final contest entries must be submitted by September 30 this year. Winners will be announced next February. Email contest questions to: ices-v.contest@bfs.admin.ch.

International—The abstract submission deadline for the [IXth International Conference on Multiple Comparison Procedures](#) is extended to April 30. [You can submit your abstract online now.](#) Highlights of the conference, which will be conducted September 2-5 in Hyderabad, India, will include four informative preconference workshops conducted by leading researchers as well as the opportunity to have your paper included in a special issue of *Biometrics Bulletin*. There also is a student poster

competition. Be sure to submit your abstract before the deadline and register for the conference as soon as possible. E-mail your conference questions to [Vishwanath Iyer](#), co-chair of the organizing committee.

Canada—The Mathematics Research Centre (CRM) in Montreal will conduct the three-day workshop “[Statistical and Computational Challenges in Networks and Cybersecurity](#)” May 6-8. Networks and cybersecurity are producing varied, rich, complex and Big Data. As a result, great research opportunities are opening up in the statistical, computational and mathematical sciences. The short course and a preceding workshop will showcase the latest statistical and machine-learning research for social networks (e.g., Facebook), text mining, and cyber-defense. This research workshop will follow a short course on [Statistical Analysis of Network Data](#), which will be held May 4-5.

The workshop is an excellent opportunity for students interested in network data to get an introduction to statistical approaches and learn about leading research. This event is affiliated with the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute/Fields Institute [thematic program on Big Data](#) with support from CRM. [See the workshop website for more information.](#)

Emirate of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates)—The American University of Sharjah’s (AUS) Department of Mathematics and Statistics held its Second International Conference on Mathematics and Statistics (AUS-ICMS’15) April 2-5. The conference was organized in cooperation with the American Mathematical Society (AMS).

The conference was a forum for researchers and scientists working in the fields of pure mathematics, applied mathematics, mathematics education and statistics to network and discuss new research developments. Topics covered included algebra, analysis, applied mathematics, statistics, differential equations, discrete mathematics, financial mathematics, numerical analysis, probability theory, stochastic differential equations, and topology and geometry. More than 320 abstracts were submitted and papers from 212 of them were presented during the four-day event.

During his opening remarks, Dr. Bjorn Kjerfve, AUS chancellor said, “The significance of international conferences such as these cannot be underestimated. From time immemorial, mathematics has been instrumental in helping man explore and understand his world. The world today has become a global village, connected and interlinked in innumerable ways. But even when such close connections were not commonplace, mathematics was the one universal language which had equal appreciation no matter where you lived in the world.”

Speaking about the conference, Dr. Mahmoud Anabtawi, dean of the AUS College of Arts and Sciences, said, “The sponsorship of the prestigious American Mathematical Society is profound evidence of the high quality of this conference, and the commitment of its organizers to promote mathematics and research in this part of the world and elsewhere. This international conference not only brought mathematicians, statisticians and scientists under the same roof, it also provided an interactive environment for them to discuss the most recent advancements, exchange research ideas and collaborate under the mathematics and statistics umbrella.”

The conference's keynote speakers were Gunnar Carlsson, professor of mathematics at Stanford University and a highly influential mathematician most well-known for his proof of the Segal Burnside Ring conjecture and his work on applied algebraic topology, especially topological data analysis; Professor Samad Hedayat, a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago; and Professor Edriss S. Titi, holder of the Owen Professorship of Mathematics at Texas A&M University since 2014 and professor emeritus at the University of California, Irvine.

The inaugural AUS-ICMS International Conference, held in March 2010, was the first of its kind in the region.

United States—The first [Summer Institute in Statistics for Big Data](#) will be held at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington July 6-22. The institute consists of a series of two-and-a-half day modules designed to introduce biologists, quantitative scientists, and statisticians to modern statistical techniques for the analysis of biomedical Big Data. The format will involve formal lectures, computing labs, and hands-on case studies. The instructors are world-class faculty with expertise in all aspects of biomedical Big Data. A limited number of scholarships currently are available. Institute participants are encouraged to enroll in multiple modules. Prerequisites for the program are described [here](#). Those attending the Institute will receive certificates of course completion. [Click here for more information and to register today.](#)

United States—The 5th annual Modern Modeling Methods (M^3) Conference will be conducted May 19-20. Held annually at the University of Connecticut, M^3 is an interdisciplinary conference that showcases the latest modeling methods and presents research related to these methodologies. Keynote speakers will include Karl G. Jöreskog, a Swedish statistician and professor emeritus at Uppsala University; Thomas Cook, Northwestern University Joan and Sarepta Harrison Chair of Ethics and Justice and professor of sociology, psychology, and education and social policy; and Donald Hedeker, professor of biostatistics in the Department of Health Studies at The University of Chicago.



In addition, Jöreskog will conduct a preconference workshop titled "[New Features in LISREL 9](#)" May 18. Paras Mehta, associate professor of clinical psychology and industrial organizational psychology at the University of Houston, will conduct a post-conference workshop May 21 titled "[Multilevel Structural Equation Modeling Using xxM](#)." [Click here for more information](#) about the conference and the pre- or post-event workshops or to register.

India—The Department of Statistics at the Institute of Science in Nagpur conducted the following activities over the past several months:

- Professor R.N. Rattihalli, visiting professor, Central University of Hyderabad, visited and delivered a lecture about asymmetric models in data analysis and how to introduce new density functions. He also provided valuable hints to statistics students on seminar and project presentations.
- Department students interacted with four new Indian Statistical Service (ISS) employees, namely Mr. Sachin Yadav, Mr. Shiv Balak Varma, Ms. Manavi Agrawal and Dr. Archana Shukla. The quartet was visiting the National Sample Survey Office in Nagpur as part of their training. It was a very lively session with the recently recruited ISS officers guiding students on how to prepare for the competitive statistics examination.
- An interesting institute-wide Statistics Quiz Contest was staged. There was an overwhelming response to this annual event, which enables all Institute students to learn about statistics in a fun-filled atmosphere. The team of Ms. Varsha Chainani (M.Sc II), Ms. Shweta Chatur (M.Sc I), Mr. Shubham Mange(B.Sc II) and Ms. Swarali Wandhre (B.Sc I) won the contest.
- Professor D.K. Ghosh, University Grants Commission-Basic Scientific Research faculty fellow and retired professor and chair, Department of Statistics, Saurashtra University, Rajkot, delivered an informative lecture titled “Design of Experiments and Its Applications.”



Professor Ghosh speaks to statistics students at the Institute of Science in Nagpur, India.

United States—The Quality and Productivity Research Conference will be held June 10-12 at the College of Textiles of the North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. The theme of this year's conference is “Creativity and Innovation for a Connected World.” The conference’s goal is to stimulate interdisciplinary research among statisticians, scientists and engineers in quality and productivity, industrial needs, and the physical and engineering sciences. Statistical issues and research approaches drawn from collaborative research will be highlighted.

The conference will honor Dr. Janet Myhre, professor emeritus at Claremont McKenna College. She will speak during the banquet at the Hunt Library on the College of Textiles campus. A short course will be offered June 9 and a tour of the SAS campus, along with a reception and presentation on LEED certification efforts and environmental initiatives, is scheduled for June 11. For further information on the conference, [visit the conference website](#).

International—The 4th biannual International Conference on Sub-National Measurement and Economic Analysis of Tourism (MOVE2015) will be conducted November 18-20 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Themed “Towards a Set of UNWTO Guidelines,” the conference is organized by Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, Soutto Projects LLC, and the Puerto Rico Tourism Authority, within the conceptual framework of The International Network on Regional Economics, Mobility and Tourism (INRouTe) and in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Cooperative Research Center in Tourism (CICtourGUNE).

MOVE2015 will address topics aligned with INRouTe’s work. INRouTe, an initiative promoted by UNWTO, is dedicated to advancing policy-oriented measurement and analysis of tourism in order to provide operational guidance to entities involved in sub-national tourism destinations.

Currently, international benchmarking of destinations at sub-national levels is unavailable. Some of the reasons for this situation are the complexity of measuring and economically analyzing tourism as well as counting with rigorous frameworks and procedures developed following international standards on tourism statistics.

The 2008 adaptation of UN-recommended international standards to sub-national levels has been promoted by UNWTO through the creation of INRouTe, which acts as a private, nonprofit organization. This 4th edition of the MOVE international conference will present a sneak preview of the general guidelines on Measurement and Economic Analysis of Tourism at Subnational Levels that UNWTO will submit to a worldwide consultation in 2016.

By participating in MOVE2015, you will be among the first statistical professionals who discuss these guidelines with key international experts and UNWTO immediately before the worldwide consultation is launched.

More information about MOVE2015 is available on the [INRouTe website](#) and [conference website](#).

NATIONAL STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION: NEWS & EVENTS

Following is the latest news and information from national statistical organizations participating in The World of Statistics and other national statistical agencies:

Romania—A roundtable, titled the “System of Sustainable Development Indicators: Level and Trends in Romania Compared to Other EU Countries”, was conducted at the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) headquarters March 23. During the roundtable discussion, topics such as resource efficiency and the

sustainable development indicators system—economic pillar, social pillar and environment pillar—were explored.

The event, co-moderated by Dr. Andrei Tudorel, NIS president, and Dr. Gheorghe Zaman, director of the Institute for National Economy (INE), brought together specialists from several prestigious Romanian institutions. Media representatives also attended the event.

The roundtable is part of a series being conducted by the INS-INE Institutional Cooperation Working Group. The quarterly roundtable series will continue throughout the year and will feature the following topics:

- **June**—Macroeconomic Efficiency Reflected in the Indicators of the INS
- **September**—Gaps in Per Capita Consumption Indicators Depending on the Level of Household Income
- **December**—Trends in R&D and Innovation in Romania and Requirements of the EU 2020 Strategy

The partnership as constituted brings together organizations representing official statistics (NIS) and research (INE and the Romanian Academy) to clarify statistical methodologies, development of data series or to devise new indicators or quantification/estimation methods of current economic and social trends.

JOIN THE WORLD OF STATISTICS

If your organization or an organization you know of isn't yet participating in The World of Statistics, encourage them to join today. Joining is easy; just ask a representative of the group 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. Participation is valuable and is absolutely free!

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