



International Year of Statistics News

December 2, 2013

Introducing The World of Statistics!

Hard to believe, but we have entered the final month of the fantastically successful International Year of Statistics (Statistics2013). Participants will agree it has been a tremendous yearlong celebration of all things statistics. Much has been accomplished over the past 11 months and during the year and a half leading up to 2013.

For instance, an engaged network of more than 2,300 organizations—national and international professional statistical societies, colleges and universities, primary and secondary schools, businesses, government statistical agencies, and research institutes—representing 128 countries came together to promote statistics around the world. Hundreds of informative and insightful events worldwide—many attended by the public—were sponsored by Statistics2013 participating organizations. Media organizations the world over took notice of the International Year of Statistics ([see this example](#)) and shared the news with their audiences.

These and other successes are prime examples of why the organizers of Statistics2013 decided it was essential to continue beyond the end of this year the momentum generated by the global Statistics2013 movement.

To continue carrying the key messages of statistics to the world's population, the Statistics2013 Steering Committee has selected a new name for the movement.

That new name is: The World of Statistics!

The mission of The World of Statistics will be to further advance the goals of the Statistics2013 campaign. As a reminder, those objectives are:

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

The "The World of Statistics" will come with a new website and related communications mediums.

By late January, the Statistics2013 website will become www.worldofstatistics.org. Remember to bookmark this new address in the "Favorites" in your web browser.

Key components of the Statistics2013 website will be carried over to The World of Statistics website. Among these will be the [Teacher Resources](#), [Statistics as a Career](#) and [What is Statistics?](#) sections and the popular [Activities Calendar](#), which lists hundreds of statistics-related events and meetings from around the world.

If your organization already has confirmed activities for 2014, 2015 or beyond, please send us information about these events so we can post these to the new [Activities Calendar](#) or send us this information as you finalize your events. Be sure to use the [Event Submission Form for the Activities Calendar](#) to submit information about your organization's event.

Additionally, the Twitter handle will change January 1 to @astatworld. Please take a few minutes to start following this new The World of Statistics Twitter account.

Finally, this newsletter will become [News of The World of Statistics](#). Beginning the first of the New Year, the newsletter will be published every three weeks and will be emailed to you and thousands of your colleagues worldwide. As you have done previously, please send us information about your organization's events and activities using the [Post-Event Information & Photo Submission Form](#) and we will publish your article in an upcoming issue of the *News of the World of Statistics*.

We—[the members of the Statistics2013 Steering Committee](#)—thank you for helping make the International Year of Statistics an unqualified success and urge your continued active participation in The World of Statistics.

One “Virtual” Observer’s View of the Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop

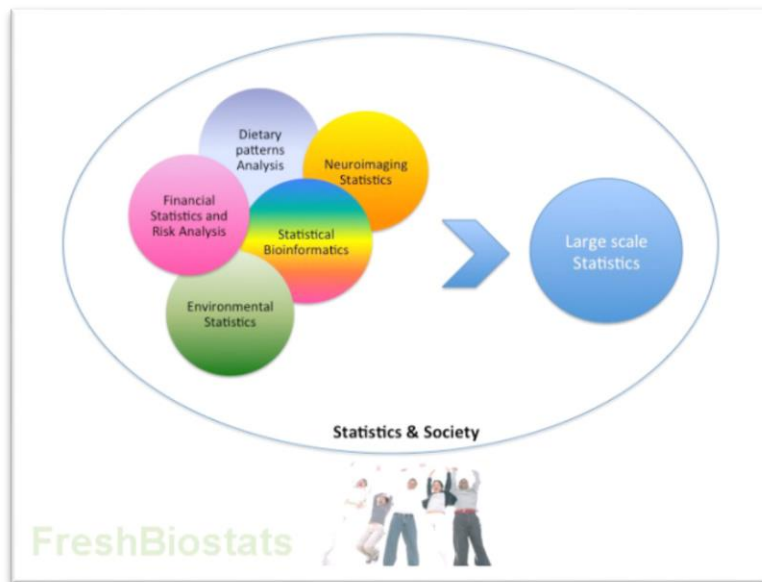
Altea Lorenzo-Arribas, a socio-economic statistician at [Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland](#) and a member of [FreshBiostats](#), a group for young researchers in that field, recently provided to Statistics2013 a blog about the Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop, the International Year of Statistics capstone event held last month in London.

Lorenzo-Arribas joined many of her colleagues who watched the event online from the comfort of their offices or homes. The virtual broadcast was sponsored by [Wiley-Blackwell](#).

In the blog, Lorenzo-Arribas wrote, “...the event covered different areas of application, it showed the tools of the field to tackle a wide range of challenges, it portrayed examples of research of potential high impact, and in summary was a great attention-attracting exercise that will hopefully encourage other professionals to the area. A common vision of ubiquity and great relevance came across from the speeches and showed the field as a very attractive world to join.”

Further, Lorenzo-Arribas noted the participation of statisticians in far-flung locations around the world: “Online attendance was allowed to the event and this was a great opportunity to listen to highly reputed professionals in main areas of Statistics. Virtual participants were also allowed to pose their questions to the speakers, and I can confirm that it all worked very well and it appears to me as an excellent way to make these sorts of events available to a wider audience that would otherwise not be able to attend—I am already looking forward to more!”

The insightful blog also featured the following custom graphic created by Lorenzo-Arribas:



We liked her workshop overview so much, it is posted to the Statistics2013 website. [We encourage you to set aside a couple minutes to read this thoughtful review of the Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop.](#)

[Also, in case you missed the Workshop virtual broadcast, you can view the event podcast here.](#)

Missed the Unconference? No Worries!

If you missed the [Unconference on the Future of Statistics](#), don't fret! [You can watch the event on YouTube.](#)

The Unconference was a huge success, said co-organizer Jeff Leek: "We think the Unconference went amazingly well. All six speakers gave really insightful talks, we had major participation on YouTube and Twitter (the only time I've ever seen more statisticians on Twitter was when Nate Silver spoke at JSM!), and we had a ton of viewers. So overall, it was everything we had hoped for."

Several innovative statistical thinkers discussed the future of statistics, especially those issues that affect junior statisticians the most: education, new methods, software development, collaborations with natural sciences/social sciences, and the relationship between statistics and industry.

Organized by the authors of the [Simply Statistics](#) blog, the Unconference was a virtual event held October 28.

Participation Hits New Milestone

Who could have thought a year ago at this time that the International Year of Statistics would draw 2,300 participating organizations? Surely, no one on the Statistics2013 Steering Committee had uttered that number. Yet, as of today Statistics2013 has 2,301 participating organizations from 128 different

countries around the globe. You can view the current participant and country lists by going to the [Statistics2013 website](#).

There is still a month to go in Statistics2013 and, as we mentioned in the lead article, we are going to continue the movement into 2014 under the banner of The World of Statistics. As such, there are many more groups that can and should participate in the International Year of Statistics and its successor.

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.statistics2013.org and click on the "Join Statistics2013" icon on the top right-hand side of the homepage to become an official International Year of Statistics participating organization.

Participating Organization: News & Events

Following is the latest news about events hosted by Statistics2013 participating organizations:

Iran—To celebrate the International Year of Statistics, Isfahan Mathematics House in Isfahan held a Statistical Summer School for university students from late June to late August. It's curriculum included an introduction to various branches of statistics to teach the students about the breadth of the science of statistics, training on statistical software that increased the skills of attendees, presentation projects that introduced various practical applications of statistics to the students, and a four-day workshop for teachers of statistics in Isfahan. The goals of this workshop were:

- Learning about statistics and modeling
- Learning about the research process
- Learning about designing a questionnaire
- Preparing for working with Minitab software



Isfahan Mathematics House Statistical Summer School attendees pose for a group photo.

France—The Mathematical Competitive Game 2013-2014, organized jointly by the French Federation of Mathematical Games and Societe de Calcul Mathematique SA, is now open. It is endowed with 2,000 Euros of prizes. The topic for the competition is: Checking an Industrial Process. [Please click here for a complete description of the game.](#) Answers must be submitted by no later than April 30.

United States—The Wikimedia-D.C. Chapter is holding a Statistics Edit-a-thon to celebrate the International Year of Statistics. Participants will gather in person in Washington, D.C. and virtually via a Joint Etherpad on December 8 to improve Wikipedia articles broadly related to the field of statistics and official statistical activities, such as historical censuses. This event will include training for anyone new to Wikipedia and brief talks on subjects of interest. [Click here to RSVP, ask questions or get additional information](#) or email organizer Peter Meyer at econterms@gmail.com.

Poland—The Managing Production Quality and Logistics Unit of the Management Department at the Warsaw Management Academy late last month held a national conference titled “Statistics in Business and Social Sciences.” The event was held to celebrate the International Year of Statistics. Continuing the central objective of Statistics2013, the conference promoted public awareness of the significance and importance of statistics in every sphere of social and economic lives, focusing especially on the use and creative development of statistics in business and social sciences. The conference’s topics included the following:

- Using statistical thinking and statistics in economic, finance and management sciences
- Using statistical thinking and statistics in various businesses, including insurance, banking, telecommunication, marketing, enterprise, production, engineering, logistics, medicine, experimental sciences and pharmaceutical sciences
- Statistics of small, medium and large businesses
- Statistics in research and social sciences—the labour market, quality of life, demographic processes, social politics, psychology and sociology
- The changes of statistical thinking in science, teaching, management and business applications
- Big Data–Big Quality—a challenge for statistics in business and social sciences

The two-day event, which attracted 100 participants, was held under the scientific patronage of the Polish Statistical Association and the honorary patronage of Professor Stanisław Dawidziuk, PhD, president of the Warsaw Management Academy, and Marek Goliszewski, president of the Business Centre Club.

Spain—[Young biostatisticians in Spain, career or race?](#)—a paper authored by six young research members of the Spanish biostatistics network [Biostatnet](#)—has been published in a special Statistics2013 edition of the [Bulletin of the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research](#). As the authors state, “It is the final aim of this paper, following the spirit of the International Year of Statistics, to promote our profession and celebrate biostatistics in Spain and worldwide.”

Spain— As part of its commemoration of the International Year of Statistics, the Statistical Office of Castilla y León (Dirección General de Presupuestos y Estadística de Castilla y León), convened in

February the XII School Competition on Statistical Works. The competition was open to students in secondary and high education from Castilla y León. On November 22, the competition awards ceremony was held and attended by statistical and educational authorities and the winners along with their family members and friends. The first-place award in the secondary-education category was awarded to the work titled “Where Bierzo is called Cabrera (Donde el Bierzo se llama Cabrera)”, which was presented by IES from Puente de Domingo Florez (León). Politécnico de Soria was the winner in the high-education category for its work titled “Do we have young, healthy habits? (¿Seguimos los jóvenes hábitos saludables?).” During the awards ceremony, the significance of 2013 as the International Year of Statistics was highlighted as was the importance of statistics in our society—a fact that students had established through their works. [Click here to view the winning works.](#)



Winners of the Statistical Office of Castilla y León’s XII School Competition on Statistical Works receive their rewards at a special ceremony.

India—A National Seminar on Biostatistics and Data Analytics will be staged December 23 and 24 by the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda Department of Statistics in Vadodara. The objectives of the seminar are to facilitate the sharing among academicians and statisticians of research-based knowledge, case studies and novel business applications related to advanced data analysis, business analytics and intelligence, and trends in the fields of biostatistics and data analytics. The event will provide a common platform for young statisticians to interact with subject experts from across the country. Through this event, organizers believe young statisticians will acquire the skills to develop new statistical methodologies and theoretical insights. [Click here](#) and [here](#) for more information about this national seminar.

Russia—As part of its celebration of the International Year of Statistics, East Siberia State University (ESSU) of Technology and Management in Ulan-Ude, Buryatia staged a “Week of Statistics” celebration. The event, organized by the university’s chair of Macroeconomics, Economic Informatics and Statistics, was held October 28-30. It featured a roundtable discussion with employers, ESSU graduates and managers from information technology and analytical firms; a Statistical Olympiad for students; and an international scientific-practical conference titled “Economical-Statistical Researches of Territorial

Potential in Modern Information Society.” Sixty-five attendees from universities in Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, Moscow, Tomsk, Orenburg, Novosibirsk, Joshkar-Ola, Irtutsk, Yakutsk and Ulan-Ude participated in the week and the conference. Following the conference, the university published a book that included submitted articles as well as a letter of support from Statistics2013.



Three participants at East Siberia State University's international scientific-practical conference smile for the camera.

National Statistical Organization: News & Events

Following is the latest news about upcoming and recently concluded events hosted by national statistical organizations (NSOs) participating in Statistics2013:

Nigeria—The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) recently celebrated African Statistics Day 2013 to help to promote the importance of statistics in national planning, policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation of government projects. “It was in the realisation of the importance of statistics that the African ministers in charge of statistics declared and adopted November 18 of every year as African Statistics Day,” said NBS Assistant Director of the Corporate Planning Division Mr. Azeez Mustapha. The theme for this year’s celebration was: Quality Data to Support African Progress. This theme was selected to draw attention to the importance of quality statistics for evidence-based decision-making in economic management, poverty reduction and all aspects of socio-economic development processes. African Statistics Day was initiated in 1990 by an agency of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Joint African Conference of Planners, statisticians and demographers.

Malta—Promoting statistical literacy was the focus of a seminar conducted by Malta’s National Statistical Office last week. Around 100 participants attended the seminar, which was another in a series of activities to mark the International Year of Statistics conducted by NSO Malta. Also, the annual publication *Malta in Figures 2013* was unveiled at the seminar. The following major presentations were conducted as well:

- Karen Caruana of the Central Bank of Malta Statistics Department outlined the main findings of the [Household Finance and Consumption Survey](#) conducted last year
- Prof. Albert Leone Ganado, chairman of the Malta Statistics Authority, presented a talk about [data and error analysis in official statistical methodologies](#)
- NSO's Silvan Zammit presented the final results of the [2011 Census of Population and Housing](#)
- Neville Calleja of the Department of Health Information and Research spoke about [knowledge-base for health policy and how health is wealth](#)

At the start of the event, Malta NSO Director General Michael Pace Ross announced the NSO will be opening a branch in Gozo under the supervision of the Malta Statistics Authority. He also discussed the publication of NSO's *Bilingual Glossary of Statistical Terms* and theatre in education for school children program, which are two additional NSO activities to promote statistical literacy in the International Year of Statistics.



A roomful of attendees turned out for NSO Malta's Statistical Literacy Seminar.

Nominate a Statistician of the Week

Do you know an outstanding statistician deserving of recognition for his or her work? If so, nominate the person for the Statistics2013 Statistician Job of the Week. To do so, simply send us a 250-to-300-word article about your colleague along with a photograph. 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 Statistics2013 website homepage for a week. Send your nominating submission to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

RSS, ASA Launch Stats2013AtSchool Quiz on Statistics2013 Website

[The Statistics2013 website](#) has a new feature—called the Stats2013AtSchool Quiz—thanks to the [Royal Statistical Society](#) and the [American Statistical Association](#). Developed by the [Royal Statistical Society Centre for Statistical Education](#) in cooperation with Plymouth University, [Stats2013AtSchool](#) is a world statistics quiz for learners across the world.

The Stats2013AtSchool Quiz launched in September and currently:

- More than 60 countries have taken part
- more 70 participants (under 19 years of age) have scored full marks
- New Zealand is top of the leaderboard for this month, with 49 participants achieving full marks to date

RSS and ASA encourage your organization to promote this fun activity to teachers and school-aged learners in your country. We hope to build an international community of champions who will help develop [Stats2013AtSchool](#) by contributing additional questions and resources.

If you are interested in being a champion please register at [Stats2013AtSchool](#). To give the quiz a try, go to www.statistics2013.org and click on the Stats2013AtSchool quiz located at the bottom of the homepage.

Attention All Participating Organizations

If you want to share news about your organization's activities to celebrate Statistics2013, we invite you to provide a blog entry or article that we will highlight on the Statistics2013 website. Many Statistics2013 organizations have done so already and your group could be the latest to be featured in the [Statistics2013 Blog](#) on the homepage or on the [Around the World in Statistics](#) page. To submit your article or blog, follow these guidelines:

1. *Statistics2013 Blog*—A blog entry up to 500 words. Since the Statistics2013 website is oriented to the public, all blog entries must be written in layman's language (no statistical terminology) and tie into the International Year of Statistics in some fashion (be creative!). Submit all blog entries via email and include as attachments to the email any images and graphics, including the author's headshot photo, to be used in the blog entry.
2. *Around the World in Statistics Article*—A 250-to-500-word article about how statistics makes life better for the people of your country or about an initiative your organization is undertaking to promote statistical awareness among your constituency or audiences.

Submit your blog or article to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Calling All National Statistical Organizations

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

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

- 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.