



Biannual Report on Activities of the Committee on Women in Statistics of the International Statistical Institute August 2011

The Committee on Women in Statistics (CWS) of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) was formed to:

- Promote and strengthen the representation of women statisticians in the ISI and its Sections by nominating women to become members (see <http://isi-web.org/membership/how-to-apply-for-isi-elected-membership>)
- Help in providing opportunities for women members to assume active and visible roles in the ISI and other statistical associations.
- Collect information on women in the statistical professions in different countries and to facilitate the flow of information among women statisticians.
- Stimulate interest in Statistics among women and encourage women in schools and colleges to study Statistics.
- Support the compilation of statistics on women, with a view to generating relevant studies concerning women's roles in the various activities in their countries

Progress has been made in all these areas. The committee has an active program that engages women in technical and social settings at the bi-annual ISI meetings and between those meetings through sponsoring a website at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/cws> that facilitates connecting women within and across countries. The committee members represent different regions of the world. They are supported through a network of country representatives. There are currently 8 committee members and 35 country representatives.

At the ISI meeting in Dublin, Ireland the Committee on Women in Statistics is currently planning three events – an invited session, a topic-contributed session, and a networking reception for women in attendance at the meetings. Details of each of these events are given below.

Denise Silva Silva, committee representative for South America, has organized a session on Women's role in Fighting Poverty and the Informal Economy. The session objective is to present surveys and innovative statistical analysis that investigate the link between gender, poverty and women's participation in the informal economy. This link is well-known between researchers, policy makers and the general public. Across the world, women are likely to be employed (or self-employed) in the informal sector, either as a strategy for fighting poverty or due to the need to accommodate family/motherhood duties with part time jobs. In this session we bring together the experience of users and producers of statistical data related to this subject in order to: 1) highlight its relevance and the continuing need for data on this subject; 2) Discuss/identify difficulties in producing this type of data; and 3) Present innovative surveys or statistical analysis on this topic. Three papers relevant to the areas of poverty, gender issues, labour market and the informal economy will be presented. The paper presenters come from different continents and discuss related issues in different environments.

Ola Awad, the country representative for Palestine, has organized the special topic session entitled "Women in the Labor Market of the Arab Region: Facts and Challenges." This session sheds light on women's rights in the labor market of Arab countries including the Mediterranean, Gulf, and Al Maghriebe countries, and brings to the attention of the international community the assistance desired to empower the participation of women in the labour market development process.

We have been given the opportunity by President Jef Teugels to host a reception for women attendees at the meetings on Wednesday directly following the scientific sessions for the day. We have obtained sponsorship from Minitab, UK. We will be inviting all ISI attendees but advertising it as a women's networking reception. We are planning ice breakers to immediately engage attendees in meeting other women. The informal networking and ice breakers will be followed by roundtable discussions focusing on the five



roles of the CWS. We plan to convene roundtables with women working in the same sector of statistics to facilitate networking and connecting potential mentor/mentee relationships. We are currently soliciting individuals who will facilitate the roundtable discussions. They will provide a rapporteur for their roundtable who will provide a summary of the individual roundtable discussion to be posted on the Committee website. We are not planning either entertainment or speakers as they would detract from the main objectives of facilitating networking and mentoring among women statisticians.

We hope to have a topic to submit for an invited session for the ISI meetings in Hong Kong in 2013. The committee will be working to suggest a topic during the next few months. I am expecting to step down as chair of this committee during this year with a transition at the Dublin ISI meetings. The CWS is positioned to move forward continuing to engage women statisticians throughout the world.

Proposed Activities in the Future 12 Months:

We plan to organize one or more sessions for the 2013 ISI meetings in Hong Kong. We will propose an invited session and also a topic contributed session.

We will continue to expand our network of country representatives who will work to further the 5 functions of the committee outlined above. A summary of the discussion roundtables at the reception being hosted at this year's ISI meeting will be posted on the Committee website. The website will continue to be a main means of communication for the committee.

The Committee chair will be stepping down at this meeting and there will be a transition to the new chair, Dr. Penelope Bidgood.

Issues for the Consideration of ISI EC - Council :

The Committee has appreciated the support and interest of President Teugels this past two years. We hope to continue to receive support in the future. The opportunity to host a reception at this year's meeting is very much appreciated. We anticipate building on the success of this year's meeting.

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