

Report on the Committee of Women in Statistics Networking Reception at WSC 2015

The Committee of Women in Statistics (CWS) held its Networking Reception and Roundtable Discussions at a breakfast meeting in Rio de Janeiro at the World Statistics Congress in 2015. Such networking meetings have been held since initiated by Cynthia Clarke at the Dublin WSC in 2011, and have received very positive responses from participants. The differences in Rio were that the meeting was held at 7.30am and that the conference venue was quite a distance from their accommodation for many delegates.

Nevertheless, over 40 people attended the meeting; they were divided into groups according to their areas of interest – education, official statistics, gender statistics and applied statistics. After some intense discussion (and networking) a representative from each group gave a short verbal report of their group's findings. Here is a synopsis of the main points raised.

1. Mentoring:-

- There should be peer mentoring as well as junior-senior mentoring;
- There should be possibilities for informal as well as formal mentoring;
- Leadership training courses should include mentoring programmes;
- Mentors should
 1. Help other women break into men's world;
 2. Support female students/junior colleagues;
 3. Socialise with mentees outside work;
 4. Enable and support mentees to attend local conferences;
 5. Encourage mentees to attend local meetings and become members of their country's statistical association.
- Mentees need
 1. An email list for eg Women in Statistics to share ideas, collaborate, ask for help;
 2. Help in getting statistical research published;
 3. A shoulder to cry on.

2. The benefits of being a member of ISI or its associations

- Active involvement in international organisations facilitates important contacts;
- This is particularly important for those who are isolated either by the size or location of their organisation or by internal hierarchies;
- Opportunities for informal mentoring;
- Helps to maintain external perspectives;
- The international register of members is helpful in facilitating contacts.

3. Broad themes as possible topics for IPSs at the next WSC in Morocco

- Link with the IASE to develop learning in statistics for women;
- Migration and its effect on women in particular;
- Violence against women and its consequences.

In addition, the CWS sponsored two Invited Paper Sessions; Advancing Women in Statistics; investigating and redressing the gender imbalance, organised by Penny Bidgood and Maximizing the Likelihood of Diverse Leadership in Statistical Science, organised by Yulia Gel.

Dr Penny Bidgood, Chair, ISI Committee of Women in Statistics