

## **Annual Report of the Executive Director on IARIW Activities, August 1, 2012-July 31, 2013**

This report provides an overview of the activities of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) from August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013. It has been another successful year for the Association. Key highlights of the period were:

- the holding of the 32nd IARIW General Conference, which took place in Boston, USA August 5-11, 2012. The conference enjoyed record attendance of well over 300 delegates;
- the organization of two special conferences in 2013, the first on income and wealth issues in Latin America to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in September 11-14, 2013 and the second on productivity issues to be held in Sydney, Australia in November 26-27, 2013;
- The organization of the first IARIW session at the World Statistics Congress to be held August 25-30, 2013 in Hong Kong;
- the continuation of a strong financial performance, with a surplus of \$262,166 US in 2012 and an increase in net assets to \$1,225,050 US.

### **Financial Report**

Because of changes to Canadian accounting rules, the auditor is now required to include unrealized capital gains and losses in the income statement. Based on this new definition, in the 2012 fiscal year, which corresponds to the 2012 calendar year, the IARIW recorded net income of \$262,166 (all figures are in US dollars), based on operating revenues of \$424,600, investment income and unrealized capital gains of \$137,104 and expenses of \$299,538. This was up from a surplus of \$32,513 in 2011. Net assets of the Association on December 31, 2012 were \$1,225,050, up 27.2 per cent from \$962,884 on December 31, 2011.

The significant increase in the surplus in 2012 was largely due to the decision by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to leave with the Association a total of \$150,000 in unused funds raised by the BEA for the General Conference.

Once approved by the Council, the audited financial report for 2012 will be posted on the IARIW website.

### **Membership**

On July 31, 2013, the IARIW had a total of 404 members, down from 455 on July 23, 2012. Membership fell in 2013 as a considerable number of individuals who were required to join the Association to participate in the special conferences held in late 2011 (and credited with membership for 2012) and persons who joined in 2012 to avoid the General Conference registration fee for non-members did not renew in 2013. All members are listed in the on-line members directory posted at <http://www.iariw.org/memlist.asp>

The IARIW currently has 48 organizations which are institutional members (mostly central statistical agencies, but also some central banks and international organizations). These members play a very important role in ensuring the financial sustainability of the Association. A list of the institutional members is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/member.asp> and published on the inside back cover of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

In 2012-13, the IARIW welcomed the US Internal Revenue Service and the Groningen Growth and Economic Development at the University of Groningen as new institutional members. The Central Bureau of Statistics of Israel ended its institutional membership because of budget cuts.

## **2012 General Conference**

The major activity of the Association is the organization of General Conferences held every second year. These conferences bring together leading researchers from across the world to present frontier research in the income and wealth area. The conferences are organized by the national statistical office of the host country. In 2012, the US Bureau of Economic Analysis hosted the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Conference in Boston, USA from August 5 to 11. The conference program, containing all papers presented, is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/c2012.php>

The 2012 General Conference continued the tradition established at the General Conference in Slovenia in 2008 of offering training sessions for the professional development of the membership. Immediately preceding the conference, a training session on national accounts was given by Peter van de Ven, Head of National Accounts at the OECD and a training session on price measurement offered by Erwin Diewert from the University of British Columbia.

The first three days of the 2012 General Conference overlapped in the same hotel with a conference organized by the Conference for Research on Income and Wealth (CRIW), the Association's US counterpart. The opening session of the general Conference was a joint IARIW-CRIW session on expanded measures of economic sustainability and welfare, the first joint activity ever organized by the two organizations. This session was preceded by a prerecorded opening address by Ben Bernanke Chair of the Federal Reserve Board. On the evening of the first day a IARIW-CRIW dinner was held to honour Robert Summers, a member of both associations. Lawrence Summers, former secretary of the US Treasury and President of Harvard University, and son of Professor Summers spoke, as did Alan Heston from the University of Pennsylvania.

An additional feature of the 2012 General Conference was two special sessions on Wednesday sponsored by the Sloan Foundation, one on tradeoffs between data timeliness and accuracy and big data and official statistics.

The prestigious Ruggles Memorial Lecture, established in 2004 at the Cork conference, was delivered on the topic of world poverty by Martin Ravallion, Acting Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist at the World Bank, and one of the world's leading experts on poverty measurement.

The financial assistance program for paper givers, first introduced at the 2006 General Conference, was considerably expanded for the 2012 General Conference because of the high costs of attending the event. A total of 30 persons received financial assistance to participate in the event. The amount of financial assistance provided was \$54,060 US. Because of the high costs associated with the conference, all financial assistance was allocated to paper givers and the bursary program to

assist economists in statistical offices in poor countries to attend the conference was not offered. It is expected that this program will be reinstated for the 2014 General Conference.

Special arrangements have been made to publish a supplementary issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* based on selected papers presented at the 2012 General Conference. The guest editor of the issue, expected to be published in the second half of 2014, is Marshall Reinsdorf from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis.

In 2014, Statistics Netherlands will host the 33<sup>rd</sup> IARIW General Conference in the Netherlands from August 24 to August 30. In 2016, the German Federal Statistical Office will host the 34<sup>th</sup> IARIW General Conference in Germany.

### **Special Conferences**

The IARIW organizes special or regional conferences in non-General Conference years. In 2013, this tradition was continued, with the organization of two conferences. The IARIW is partnering with the Brazilian national statistical agency Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) to organize a conference entitled “Income, Wealth, and Well-being in Latin America” scheduled for September 11-14, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro. Francisco Ferreira from the World Bank is chairing the program committee. A total of 39 papers are to be presented. The program is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/c2013brazil.php>. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* to be released in 2015, edited by Branko Milanovic and Luis Felipe Lopez-Calva from the World Bank.

The IARIW is also partnering with the School of Business at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) to organize a conference entitled “Productivity: Measurement, Drivers and Trends” scheduled for November 26-27, 2013 in Sydney, Australia. Kevin Fox from the University of New South Wales chairs the program committee. A total of 24 papers will be presented. The program is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/c2013australia.php>. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* to be released in 2015, edited by Kevin Fox.

### **IARIW Session at the World Statistics Congress**

The International Statistical Institute (ISI), a long established international association that brings together statisticians from around the world, holds a major event, the World Statistics Congress, every two years. Given the common interests of the ISI and the IARIW in measurement issues, the IARIW Council felt greater collaboration between the two organizations is desirable and proposed an IARIW session at the World Statistics Congress in Hong Kong August 25-30, 2013. The session, which was organized by Past IARIW Chair Peter van de Ven and was accepted by the ISI, is on the measurement of well-being and is planned to feature papers by the chief statisticians of the OECD, Eurostat, France and the United Kingdom on the work on well-being being done by their organizations. The program is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/c2013hongkong.php>

### **Renewal of IARIW Council**

The biennial electronic election for the IARIW Council was held from June 7, 2012 to August 1, 2012, with five candidates running for the three openings. The results were announced at the members meeting at the 2012 General Conference on August 7. The following three persons were

elected to Council for the six year term from 2012 to 2018: Prasada Rao from the University of Queensland, Marshall Reinsdorf for the US Bureau of Economic Analysis and Marcel Timmer from the University of Groningen.

Council elected Barbara Fraumeni from the University of South Maine to serve as IARIW Chair for the 2012-2014 period, replacing Peter van de Ven from the OECD.

Council appointed Ann Lisbet Brathaug from Statistics Norway to serve the last two years of the term (2012-2014) of Joachim Frick, who passed away in 2011. Council also appointed three coopted members for 2012-2014: Gerard Eding from Statistics Netherlands, who will coordinate the organization of the 2012 General Conference; Roberto Ramos from Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) who will be involved in the organization of the September 2013 special conference in Brazil, and Kevin Fox from the University of New South Wales, who will chair the program committee and coordinate the local organization for the November 2013 conference in Australia.

### ***Review of Income and Wealth***

The *Review of Income and Wealth*, the leading international journal in the income and wealth field and the flagship publication of the Association, is distributed to all members as part of the membership benefits. The journal is edited by Conchita d'Ambrosio formerly from the University of Milan-Bicocca and DIW-Berlin and now at the University of Luxembourg, and Robert G. Hill from the University of Graz in Austria.

As outlined in the detailed annual report of the editors, which will be posted on the IARIW website and published in the December 2013 issue of the journal, highlights in 2012-2013 include the following:

- submissions (measured each year from August 1 to July 31) continued to increase: from 179 regular manuscripts in 2010-11 to 185 in 2011-12 to 206 in 2012-13;
- the response time keeps improving: 51% of submissions received a first decision within the first three months; and
- the impact factor in 2012 was 0.607 (for 2011 it was 0.805), placing the RIW in the third quartile of economics journals listed in the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI).

In addition to the four regular issues, the journal in October 2013 will be publishing a supplemental issue on income and wealth issues in Africa based on selected papers from an IARIW-Statistics South Africa conference held in Cape Town, South Africa September 28-October 1, 2011. The guest editors of the issue are Stephan Klasen from the University of Göttingen and Derek Blades, retired from the OECD.

In early 2014 a supplementary issue on economic insecurity will be published based on selected papers from the IARIW-OECD conference on economic insecurity held in Paris in November 2011. The guest editors of the issue are Lars Osberg from Dalhousie University and Romina Boarini from the OECD

## Acknowledgements

A large number of persons and institutions have contributed to the successful operation of the IARIW in the 12 month period from August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013. I would like to particularly thank the following for their contributions to this success: the 48 IARIW institutional members whose support ensures the financial sustainability of the organization; the IARIW Council for its strong support of our activities; IARIW Chair Barbara Fraumeni for leadership; the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, especially Steve Landefeld and Shaunda Villones, for the organization of the 32nd General Conference and their generosity in leaving unused funds raised for the General Conference with the Association; Albert Braakmann for chairing the Financial Committee; Conchita D'Ambrosio, and Robert Hill for editing the *Review of Income and Wealth*; the Wiley-Blackwell staff, especially Hester Tilbury, for the production of the *Review of Income and Wealth*; Christina Hendricks for accounting services; Frouin Group for auditing services, and CSLS office manager Whitney Hamilton and other CSLS staff for assistance with administrative matters.

Andrew Sharpe  
Executive Director, IARIW  
Ottawa, Canada  
September 26, 2013