

## **Draft Minutes of the IARIW Membership Meeting, August 26, 2014, De Doelen, Rotterdam, the Netherlands**

**Chairs:** Barbara Fraumeni (Out-going Chair) and Alice Nakamura (In-coming Chair)

The following documents were available to meeting participants in hard copy at the meeting.

- 1) Agenda for the 2014 Members Meeting
- 2) Minutes of the 2012 Members Meeting
- 3) Report of the Executive Director on IARIW Activities
- 4) Report of the Managing Editors of the *Review of Income and Wealth*
- 5) Proposed IARIW By-laws
- 6) Survey on the Format of Future IARIW General Conferences
- 7) Session Proposals for the 34<sup>th</sup> IARIW General Conference

### **Opening Remarks**

Barbara Fraumeni, the out-going IARIW Chair, called the meeting to order at 20:30, with approximately 100 persons in attendance including Council members.

Barbara introduced to the membership the Chair of the Council for 2014-2016, Alice Nakamura, to be formally installed later in the meeting; the newly elected Council members for 2014-2020, Gordon Anderson, Stephen Klasen, and Maria Grazia Pittau; and the newly co-opted Council members for 2014-2016, Paul Schreyer, Nicholas Oulton, and a to-be-named representative from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAMPAS).

Barbara announced that Council had approved: 1) the re-appointment of Albert Braakmann to the position of Treasurer; 2) the re-appointment of Conchita D'Ambrosio for a second five-year term as Managing Editor of the *Review of Income and Wealth*; 3) the appointment of Prasada Rao for a two-year term as Managing Editor of the *Review of Income and Wealth*, with possibility of renewal; 4) the re-appointment of Thesia Garner for a five-year term as Book Review Editor; 5) the renewal of its services contract with the Centre for the Study of Living Standards for the provision of secretariat services for a five-year term.

Since the last membership meeting, CAMPAS from Egypt, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) from the United States and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) have joined the Association as institutional members. Barbara welcomed these new institutional members.

With sadness, Barbara reported that Derek Blades, a long-term member of the Association, had recently passed away. An obituary for Derek will shortly appear in the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

## **Report of the Executive Director**

IARIW Executive Director Andrew Sharpe highlighted the main points of the Executive Director's Report, which was among the documents available to meeting participants. The Report provided an overview of the IARIW activities from August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014.

### *Individual and Institutional Membership*

Andrew noted that the total membership had increased 14 per cent from 400 on July 31, 2013 to 454 on July 31, 2014. Of the 454 members 323 were individual and 131 were institutional. In response to a question regarding the significant increase in membership in 2013-14, Andrew noted that this was largely a timing issue associated with the persons who joined the Association to participate in the two special conferences held in the second half of 2013 and to participate in the 33<sup>rd</sup> IARIW General Conference.

Andrew noted that the distribution of the membership by region has changed significantly, with 19 per cent of the membership from developing countries in 2014, up from 8 per cent in 2004.

### *Financial Assistance Program*

Andrew reported that eighteen members were granted financial assistance to attend the 33<sup>rd</sup> IARIW General Conference. The Council allocated \$60,000 (all figures are in US dollars) for financial assistance for paper givers for the Conference, of which only around \$42,000 will be used.

## **Report of the Treasurer**

Treasurer Albert Braakmann reported that the finances of the Association were in excellent shape. He reported that the Association recorded net income of \$51,216 (all figures are in US dollars) in 2013, based on an operating loss of \$27,324, with expenses of \$257,760 and operating revenues of \$230,436, and investment income and unrealized market gains of \$78,540.

Net income was down from \$262,166 in 2012. Albert emphasized that the large decrease in net income from 2012 to 2013 was related to the large increase in income in 2012 due to the decision by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to leave with the IARIW unused monies raised by the BEA from the Sloan Foundation and other sources for the 32<sup>nd</sup> IARIW General Conference in Boston.

Albert reported that net assets of the Association on December 31, 2013 were \$1,276,226, up 4.2 per cent from \$1,225,050 on December 31, 2012.

Some members expressed concern over the build-up of the Association's assets and suggested the use of these assets to benefit members.

## **Report of the Managing Editors of the *Review of Income and Wealth***

Conchita D'Ambrosio, Managing Editor of the *Review of Income and Wealth*, presented highlights from the annual report for the journal covering the period from August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014. Highlights included: 1) an increase in the number of submissions from 185 regular manuscripts in 2011-12 to 206 in 2012-13 to 223 in 2013-14; 2) a stable response time compared to the previous year, with 55% of submissions receiving a first decision within the first three months; 3) an increase in the impact factor from 0.607 in 2012 to 0.740 in 2013, after a large decrease in the impact factor from 0.805 in 2011. Conchita emphasized that the increase in the impact factor from 2012 to 2013 was driven by a decrease in the number of articles rather than an increase in the number of citations.

Conchita reported that the number of articles would increase in 2014-15 with the publication of two supplementary issues of the journal alongside the four regular issues. One of the supplementary issues is based on papers from the IARIW-UNSW conference, and the second is based on papers from the 32<sup>nd</sup> IARIW General Conference. In addition, she reported that revised versions of the papers from the IARIW-organized session at the 59<sup>th</sup> World Statistics Congress in Hong Kong on August 25-30, 2013 will appear in a symposium on well-being measurement in a regular issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* in late 2014 or early 2015.

Conchita announced a new one-year deadline for completion of manuscript re-submissions. After the one-year deadline, manuscripts would be rejected, and cannot be re-submitted in their current form. Reasonable exceptions would apply to this deadline.

Some members were concerned with the rejection rate of the *Review of Income and Wealth*. In particular, members were concerned that it was difficult for national accountants to get their articles published in the journal. Conchita emphasized that the rejection rate of the *Review of Income and Wealth* is typical of academic journals, and that the priority of the Managing Editors is to publish high-quality articles.

## **Presentation of the Kendrick Prize**

Thesia Garner and Michael Wolfson announced the winners of the Kendrick Prize for the best articles published in the 2012 and 2013 volumes of the *Review of Income and Wealth*. The winners were Thomas Bossuroy and Denis Cogneau for the paper "Social Mobility in Five African Countries," and Janine Aron, John V. Duca, John Muellbauer, Keiko Murata and Anthony Murphy for the paper "Credit, Housing Collateral, and Consumption: Evidence from Japan, the UK, and the US."

It was announced that the selection process for the Kendrick Prize would begin earlier in the future such that winners could attend future IARIW General Conferences to receive the Prize in person. In addition, it was announced that one Prize would be given out each year rather than two Prizes being given out every two years.

## **Installation of the New Chairperson**

Barbara Fraumeni introduced Alice Nakamura from the University of Alberta, the new Council Chair for 2014-16, to the membership. Barbara welcomed her to her new position and invited her to take over the chairing of the meeting.

## **Adoption of New IARIW By-laws to Confirm with Revised Canadian Charity Laws**

Stephen Jenkins reported on the amendments to the by-laws of the IARIW. The new Canadian *Charities Act* has required the updating of the Association's by-laws. The most important change to the by-laws is the reduction in the term of Council members from six years to four years. Starting with the 2016 Council election, four persons will be elected to a term of four years, in contrast to the current three persons elected to a term of six years.

Two other notable changes to the by-laws are: 1) the Council is now referred to as the Board of Directors, and Council members are now referred to as Directors; 2) the Council can no longer appoint co-opted Council members, but it can appoint Officers instead.

The new by-laws received unanimous approval from the members. No members voted against the new by-laws or abstained from voting.

## **Report on IARIW Conferences**

### *2013 Special Conferences*

The IARIW organizes special or regional conferences in non-General Conference years. In 2013, this tradition continued, with the organization of two conferences. The IARIW partnered with the Brazilian national statistical agency (IBGE) to organize a conference entitled "Income, Wealth, and Well-being in Latin America" which took place on September 11-14, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro. A total of 120 persons attended the event. Francisco Ferreira from the World Bank chaired the program committee. A total of 41 papers were presented. 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 also partnered with the School of Business at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) to organize a conference entitled "Productivity: Measurement, Drivers and Trends" which took place November 26-27, 2013 in Sydney, Australia. Kevin Fox from the University of New South Wales chaired the program committee. A total of 31 papers were presented. Around 100 persons attended the event. 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.

### *2014 General Conference*

Gerard Eding from Statistics Netherlands provided an overview of 33<sup>rd</sup> IARIW General Conference. Gerard reported that 256 persons had registered for the conference with around 170-180 persons registered for each day of the conference (including the social event). He noted that

the first two days been very successful. Statistics Netherlands tried to make the the 33<sup>rd</sup> IARIW General Conference more affordable than previous General Conferences by giving attendees the option to choose their own hotel.

### *2015 Special Conferences*

Plans have begun for the organization of two special conferences in 2015. The first, to be organized in collaboration with the OECD, is entitled “W(h)ither the SNA?” and will focus on the future of the System of National Accounts. The conference will take place at the OECD in Paris, France, April 16-17, 2015. There will be no conference fee for members, and participants will be required to find their own accommodation.

The second, to be organized in collaboration with CAMPAS, will focus on income and wealth in the Arab world, and will be held in Cairo, Egypt, November 2015. Mahmoud ElSarawy from CAMPAS addressed the members and presented a multimedia presentation outlining the main attractions of Egypt. A key objective of this conference is to outreach to the Middle East and North Africa where IARIW membership is weak. The Call for Papers for this conference will be distributed to the membership shortly.

### *2016 General Conference*

The 34<sup>th</sup> IARIW General Conference, to be hosted by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, will be held in the Dresden, Germany in August 2014. Irmtraud Beuerlein, Director of Price Statistics and National Accounts at the Federal Statistical Office, addressed the members and presented a multimedia presentation outlining the main attractions of Dresden.

### *2018 General Conference*

The 35<sup>th</sup> IARIW General Conference, to be hosted by Statistics Denmark, will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in August 2018.

## **Proposal to Consult Membership on Possible Changes to General Conference Format**

Stephen Jenkins put forward a proposal to formally canvas the membership about changing the IARIW General Conference format with the goal of finding a more sustainable and participatory model. The canvassing would involve the creation of a formal survey to be sent out to all IARIW members, the results of which would be considered by Council. Proposed topics included: the number of days, optional add-ons, the type of venue, and accommodation. There was overwhelming support for this proposal.

Some members were interested in broadening the scope of issues included in the survey to include topics beyond the format of IARIW General Conferences.

## **Session Proposals for the 34<sup>th</sup> IARIW General Conference**

Session proposals had been sought from the membership prior to the meeting, and a list of the 33 proposals submitted was one of the documents available for meeting participants. Those proposing sessions were given a few minutes to present and answer questions regarding their proposals. The written proposals were shown on the screen for everyone to read as they were presented by their proposer. After every presentation, the audience was asked to raise a hand if in favour of a proposal. The indicative preferences of the membership thus obtained would be used by Council to decide on which proposals to approve. The list of thematic session titles and organizers chosen for the 34<sup>th</sup> IARIW General Conference by Council at its meeting on Thursday August 28, 2014 will be distributed on Friday, August 29, 2014.

## **Other Business**

Alice Nakamura distributed an informal survey on the role of discussants at future IARIW General Conferences to participating members.

Several members raised the issue of the high cost of attending the 33<sup>rd</sup> IARIW General Conference, noting that it imposed a very significant financial burden on delegates and likely deterring many from attending.