

**Draft Minutes of the IARIW Membership Meeting, August 23, 2016, Westin Bellevue
Hotel, Dresden, Germany**

Chairs: Alice Nakamura (Out-going President) and Albert Braakmann (In-coming President)

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

- 1) Agenda for the 2016 Members Meeting
- 2) Draft Minutes of the 2014 Members Meeting
- 3) Annual Report of the Executive Director, August 1, 2015-July 31, 2016.
- 4) Audited Financial Statements of the IARIW, 2016
- 5) Summary Results of Survey on the Format of Future IARIW General Conferences
- 6) Session Proposals for the 35th IARIW General Conference

Opening Remarks by the Chair

Alice Nakamura opened the meeting at 8:40pm and thanked all members for attending.

The first item of business was the approval of the minutes of the 2014 Members Meeting, held on August 24, 2014 at the 33rd IARIW General Conference in Rotterdam, Netherlands. The minutes were approved unanimously by the members.

Alice Nakamura thanked the five out-going Council members for their contributions to the Association: Erwin Diewert (University of British Columbia), Barbara Fraumeni (Central University for Economic Research, China), Sylvie Michaud (Statistics Canada), Paul Schreyer (OECD), and Nicholas Oulton (London School of Economics). She also introduced the four newly elected Council members: Mary O'Mahony (King's College London), Andrew Clark (Paris School of Economics), David Johnson (University of Michigan), and Kevin Fox (University of New South Wales) and the three co-opted Council members: Kirsten Wismer (Statistics Denmark), Youngtai Kim (Bank of Korea), and Deb Kusum Das (University of Delhi, India).

Alice Nakamura welcomed Statistics Austria as a new institutional member of the Association.

The IARIW has a bursary program to provide financial assistance to statistical offices in low income countries to send a representative to the General Conference. For this General Conference bursaries were awarded to the Central Bureau of Statistics of Nepal, the National Bureau of Statistics of The Gambia, and Statistics Sierra Leone. Ms. Baikiatu Bangura, the bursary holder from Statistics Sierra Leone, was introduced to the membership.

Report by the Executive Director

IARIW Executive Director Andrew Sharpe provided an overview of the activities of the Association in 2015. He reported that the organization was doing well as shown by a number of

indicators, including the record number of applications for the Ruggles Prize, the doubling of the turnout for the IARIW Council election, the solid financial position of the organization, the high level of interest in the training sessions, the significant increase in attendance at the General Conference, and the large increase in the number of submissions to the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

Andrew Sharpe reported that the focus of the IARIW secretariat now is on preparing for two upcoming special conferences in 2017: the IARIW-Bank of Korea Conference on Economic Well-being in Seoul, South Korea from April 26-28, and the IARIW-CAMPAS Conference on Income and Wealth in South Asia in New Delhi, India from November 23-25.

For additional information, see the *Annual Report of the Executive Director on IARIW Activities, August 1, 2015-July 31, 2016* available at <http://iariw.org/E2015-2016.pdf>.

Report of the Treasurer

Albert Braakmann reported that the overall financial situation of the IARIW was positive. The net loss from operations in 2015 was \$25,970 US, up from a loss of \$10,960 US in 2014. However, this loss was more than offset by investment income. On December 31, 2015 the Association had net assets of \$1,202,827 US.

Albert Braakmann explained that negative interest rates could have an adverse impact on the IARIW investment portfolio due to internal rules requiring a strict ratio of 75% fixed investment to 25% equity investment in the IARIW investment portfolio. He reported that the IARIW Council had therefore voted to allow CIBC Wood Gundy, the IARIW financial advisor, discretion while investing within a ratio ranging from 50-75% fixed investment and 25-50% equity investment.

For additional information on finances, see the *Audited Financial Statement, 2016* available at <http://iariw.org/fin-2015.pdf>.

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

Conchita D'Ambrosio reported that the *Review of Income and Wealth* is doing very well. Both the number of website visits and the number of submissions have increased in the past year. The impact factor (the ratio of total citations to total articles published, in the previous two years) has also increased to 1.078 in 2015, from 1.056 in 2014, and 0.740 in 2013. One issue to be addressed, however, is the long backlog of articles waiting to be published in the 'hard copy' of the *Review of Income and Wealth*—although they can be cited before publication. It may be necessary to temporarily increase the rejection rate in order to reduce this backlog.

Thesia Garner presented the Kendrick Prize, awarded for the best papers in the *Review of Income and Wealth* in each of the previous two years. Each award is worth \$1,000 US, to be split between the authors of each paper. After reviewing all 102 papers published in the *Review of*

Income and Wealth over the previous two years, a team of 15 assembled by Thesia Garner awarded the Kendrick Prize to the following papers:

- Joachim Merz and Tim Rathjen, 'Time And Income Poverty: An Interdependent Multidimensional Poverty Approach With German Time Use Diary Data,' September 2014, Series 60, Number 3, pp. 450-479
- Martina Celidoni, 'Decomposing Vulnerability to Poverty,' March 2015, Series 61, Issue 1, pp.59-74.

For additional information, see the *Review of Income and Wealth* Editorial Report of the Editors, available at <http://iariw.org/editorialreport2016.pdf>.

Installation of New President

Alice Nakamura thanked Albert Braakmann and Andrew Sharpe for their important contribution to the organization of the 2016 General Conference. She then invited Albert Braakmann to replace her as the new president of the IARIW and to chair the remainder of the meeting. Albert Braakmann accepted and thanked Alice Nakamura for her commitment and energy as President.

Report on IARIW Conferences

2015 IARIW-OECD Special Conference in Paris, France

Peter van de Ven reported that the IARIW-OECD Special Conference on the future of the national accounts held at the OECD Conference Centre in Paris, France April 16-17, 2015 went very well, with 120 delegates attending. A summary of outcomes is posted on the IARIW website. Selected papers from the conference will be published shortly as a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

2015 IARIW-CAPMAS Special Conference in Cairo, Egypt

Andrew Sharpe and Mahmoud El Sarawy reported that the IARIW-CAPMAS Special Conference on income, wealth, inequality and poverty in the Middle East and North Africa held in Cairo, Egypt November 23-25, 2015 was successful. This was the first IARIW conference in the Middle East and North Africa region in many decades. A total of 21 papers were presented and two keynote addresses given. Selected papers from the conference will be published as a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* edited by Stephan Klasen.

2016 General Conference in Dresden, Germany

Albert Braakmann reported that the number of delegates at the 2016 General Conference was around 290, up from 250 at the 2014 General Conference in Rotterdam. The Conference introduced several innovations, including a second call for papers, a presidential lecture, and an

increased number of sessions. The conference registration fee was kept at the same level as the 2014 General Conference, and an early bird discount conference registration fee was introduced.

2017 Special IARIW-Bank of Korea Conference on Economic Well-being

Taehyoung Cho from the Bank of Korea made a presentation on the 2017 IARIW-BOK Special Conference on economic well-being that will take place in Seoul, South Korea April 26-28, 2017. He strongly encouraged researchers in the well-being area to participate in the conference. He noted that the deadline for receipt of proposals for the conference is September 30, 2016.

2017 Special IARIW-ICRIER Conference on Income and Wealth in South Asia

Deb Das reported that preparations were proceeding well for the 2017 IARIW-ICRIER Special Conference on income and wealth in South Asia. The conference will take place in Delhi, India November 23-25, 2017. The organizers are seeking papers on the topics of poverty and inequality, human capital, regional integration, health, food security and hunger, the labour market, and structural transformation. A video presenting New Delhi and India was shown. The call for papers will be released shortly.

2018 General Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark

Kirsten Wismer reported that preparations for the 2018 General Conference in Copenhagen are going well. Statistics Denmark is excited to host as this will be the first IARIW conference in Denmark since 1955. The venue is currently being finalized and the sessions for this conference would be discussed later at the members meeting and confirmed at the IARIW Council meeting on August 25, 2016. The dates of the conference are August 20-25, 2018

Discussion of Results of Survey on the Format of Future IARIW General Conferences

Marcel Timmer thanked Stephen Jenkins for organizing the survey on the format of future IARIW general conferences that was distributed last year and highlighted some key findings. Generally, those who filled in the survey were satisfied with the organization and location of past conferences. However, some issues were raised which may require changes at the margins: some respondents expressed a desire to move the excursion from Wednesday to Friday, to enable greater flexibility by having shorter sessions of only 3 papers, and to move the paper proposal submission deadline from 12 months to 6 months before the conference. There was also general concern about the high costs and duration of conferences. Marcel Timmer noted there was a possible selection bias in the responses, as only 18 of the respondents had not come to a conference and most respondents had attended many conferences, so it is difficult to know the opinions of those who attended only one or no conferences.

There was discussion of whether the number of parallel sessions, which was increased at the 2016 General Conference, was too high. Some felt the lower average attendance in a given session hurt the quality of discussion. However, members recognized the difficulty of balancing

these concerns against the need to include a greater number of papers on the program while not increasing the length of the conference. These concerns would be considered by the Council and Program Committee in the organization of the next conference.

Discussion of Session Proposals for 2018 General Conference

The persons who had submitted the 26 session proposals for the 2018 General Conference were given two minutes each to present their proposals. After each presentation, the audience voted on whether the proposal should be included in the program. These preferences would be used by the Council to decide on which proposed sessions to include in the 2018 program.

Andreas Georgiou Case

In other business, Peter van de Ven raised the recent case of Andreas Georgiou. He served as President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) from 2010-2015 and worked to ensure Greece's statistical records were in line with EUROSAT required methodology. He is now facing treason charges as the Greek Government alleges he produced an inflated deficit figure in conspiracy with the institutions that organized Greece's bailout. Many members felt the IARIW, as an international association, was well placed to make a public statement about this situation.

After much discussion regarding the best course of action, the members voted unanimously to write a letter on behalf of the IARIW, "to be sent to a number of appropriate organizations, entities, and governments, urging support for the integrity and independence of official statistics, with particular reference to the case of Andreas Georgiou." Members were also encouraged to donate to a fund that had been organized to pay for Georgiou's legal defense.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 PM