

# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN INCOME AND WEALTH

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Dear IARIW member,

I am writing to update you on developments related to the Association.

As you know, the 29<sup>th</sup> IARIW General Conference that took place in Joensuu, Finland, 20–26 August 2006. The event was a great success, with over 250 persons from 41 countries attending. On behalf of the IARIW Council, I would like to thank all paper givers, discussants and chairs for their contributions to the success of this event. I would also like to thank Statistics Finland for the excellent job they did organizing and hosting the conference. All conference papers are posted at <http://www.iariw.org/c2006.asp>, as are a number of the presentations by discussants. Conference photos are posted at <http://www.iariw.org/c2006pictures.asp>.

Two new financial support programs were introduced at the conference. For the first time the IARIW provided some financial support to defray the travel and accommodation costs of selected paper givers. Financial support was offered to 16 paper givers from 13 countries (Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Kenya, Moldova, Netherlands, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States).

In addition, a program to provide full financial support for economists from statistical agencies in less developed countries to attend the General Conference was introduced. Through this program, delegates from the central statistical agencies of Botswana, Swaziland, and Zambia were able to participate in the conference. Council judged both programs to be a success, and both will be offered again for the 2008 General Conference.

For the biennial election to Council which took place shortly before the General Conference, a total of nine persons offered themselves as candidates for election to the three positions available. This high level of interest in serving on the Council bodes very well for the Association. The three persons elected to Council for the 2006–2012 period were Barbara Fraumeni (University of Southern Maine, USA), Markus Jäntti (Åbo Akademi University, Finland), and Ed Wolff (New York University, USA).

In addition to the three new elected members, the Council appointed three co-opted members for the 2006–2008 term: Ole Berner (Statistics Denmark), Karmen Hren

(Statistical Office of the Slovenian Republic), and Xianchun Xu (National Bureau of Statistics, China).

The biennial IARIW Members meeting was held at the General Conference. Reports from the Treasurer, Executive Director, and Editors of the *Review of Income and Wealth* were presented to the membership. At the meeting, the new Chair of the Association, Stephen Jenkins (University of Essex) was introduced to the members by the out-going Chair, Liv Hobbelstad Simpson (Statistics Norway). The membership approved a motion proposing a small change to the Association's bylaws that will facilitate the granting of charitable status to the IARIW by the Canadian tax authorities. The draft minutes of the meeting are posted at <http://www.iariw.org/Minutes.asp>, as are the Financial Statement for 2005 (<http://www.iariw.org/fin.asp>), and the reports by the Executive Director (<http://www.iariw.org/edr.asp>) and Editors (<http://www.iariw.org/Editor.asp>).

A key activity of the Association in 2007 will be the organization, with the National Bureau of Statistics of China, of an international conference on the experiences and challenges in measuring national income and wealth in transition economies. The conference will take place in Beijing, China, and is tentatively scheduled for September 26–29, 2007. Angus Maddison has agreed to be the keynote speaker for the event. The call for papers is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/call2007.asp>. Members are encouraged to submit proposals for papers.

Arrangements have begun for the 30th IARIW General Conference which will take place in Slovenia, 24–30 August 2008. Although the deadline for submissions of proposals (31 August 2007) is still ten months away, the detailed call for papers is already posted on the IARIW website at <http://www.iariw.org/call2008.asp>. It will also be published in the December 2006 issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

One of the objectives of the Association is to promote research on income and wealth throughout the world. Our journal, the *Review of Income and the Wealth*, the leading international journal in the income and wealth area, is the principal vehicle for this and it is therefore important that the reach of the journal be as wide a possible. To expand the circulation of the journal in developing countries where resources are limited, we have reached an agreement with our publisher Blackwell Publishing Ltd to reduce the subscription price of the journal from US \$275 to US\$40 per year for institutions in these countries, effective in 2007. We expect many more libraries will be able to subscribe at this much lower price.

If you have any questions or concerns with the Association, please feel free to contact me at any time.

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