



International Year of Statistics News

July 1, 2013

U.S. Congress Recognizes Statistics2013

Both chambers of the U.S. Congress now have recognized the International Year of Statistics. Last week, Congressman Jerry McNerney (California), who holds a Ph.D. in mathematics and understands the role of statistics in science research and its important contributions to our society, presented a one-minute speech about Statistics2013 on the floor of the House. You can view the speech [at this link](#). With this one-minute speech, both chambers of Congress now have recognized Statistics2013. North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan [in late May introduced a resolution](#) honoring Statistics2013 and designating this year as the International Year of Statistics.

Participation Nears 2,050

Like a racecar running the 24 Hours of Le Mans, growth in the International Year of Statistics continues to grow steadily. Presently, there are 2,048 participants. At the current pace, participation should surpass 2,100 organizations over the coming months. To check out the current participant and country lists, you can go to the [Statistics2013 website](#).

Help us recruit new participants by encouraging other organizations, secondary schools, universities and businesses in your area to join this worldwide celebration. It's easy to join. Simply tell representatives of these groups to go to www.statistics2013.org and click on the "Join Statistics2013" icon on the right side of the homepage to become an official International Year of Statistics organization.

Nominate a Statistician of the Week

Do you know an outstanding statistician deserving of recognition for his or her work? If so, nominate the person for the Statistics2013 Statistician Job of the Week. To do so, simply send us a 250-to-300-word article about your colleague along with a photograph of the person. In the article, explain the person's job as well as his or her contributions to the overall mission of your organization. We'll feature the profile on the Statistics2013 website homepage for a week. Send your submissions to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Participating Organization: News & Events

Here's the latest news on upcoming and recently concluded meetings and events hosted by Statistics2013 participating organizations:

Vietnam— The highly successful international conference titled “Statistics and Its Interactions with Other Disciplines” was held at Ton Duc Thang University in Hochi Minh City June 5 through 6. The event was organized to celebrate this year as the International Year of Statistics. The three-day conference featured 85 presentations—divided into seven keynotes, 16 invited talks, 49 contributed talks and 13 posters—covering various domains of statistics, including teaching. To guarantee presentation quality, all contributed and posters underwent a review process by one of 26 chosen experts from around the world. One panel discussion on teaching statistic and a poster session also were among the activities, along with one pre-conference workshop and six post-conference sessions. Approximately 400 people from 13 countries participated in the conference. To see event photos and read the proceedings, [click here](#) and then click on the section titled “Report on the Conference, Images and Proceedings”.



Thu Pham-Gia, professor emeritus of statistics at the Universite de Moncton in Canada, speaks at the opening session.

México—“Caja negra”, a science radio program of the University of Guadalajara, recently aired an interview with two statisticians from the Mathematics Research Center (CIMAT) of Guanajuato. Drs. Víctor Perez and Miguel Nakamura talked about the importance of statistics in contemporary society and the role played by this discipline in a country like México. The program was dedicated to the International Year of Statistics and was transmitted on radio and via the Internet. [Click here to listen to the interview.](#)

International—If you are attending the 59th World Statistics Congress presented by the International Statistical Institute in Hong Kong in late August, be sure to join American Statistical Association Executive Director Ronald L. Wasserstein for a special presentation on the International Year of Statistics. Dr. Wasserstein will be speaking at 1530 August 27, during the President’s Invited Special Session. [Click here to see the event schedule for August 27](#) and [click here to learn more about the Congress.](#)

Spain—On June 12, the Aragon Statistics Institute staged a statistical cycle route in order to spread public statistics in its program of activities under the auspices of the International Year of Statistics. The

participants, all members of the institute, cycled the 30-kilometer green ring around the city of Zaragoza. Along the way, the riders performed several activities with the aim of promoting and increasing public awareness of the power and impact of public statistics, especially among young people. Activities included statistical games, passing out brochures to passersby and more.



Members of the Aragon Statistics Institute take a break during their bike ride around Zaragoza.

United States—The Department of Statistics at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, hosted “Graybill 2013: Modern Survey Statistics,” June 9 through 12. The conference focus was on new developments in survey statistics. The program consisted of a short course, invited plenary talks, a contributed poster session and student poster competition. The goal of the conference to bring together a wide range of researchers, practitioners and graduate students whose work is related to survey statistics. Topics of interest included analytic inference, small area estimation, nonresponse, calibration, variance estimation, probability sampling designs, and estimation with auxiliary information.



Graybill 2013 attendees pose for a group photo.

México—From June 18 to June 20, members of the Mathematics Research Center (CIMAT) gave a free workshop on statistics as applied to small businesses. This workshop was promoted by CIMAT and the University of Guanajuato. It helps accomplish the first goal of Statistics2013, which is to “increase public awareness of the power and impact of statistics on all aspects of society”. A group of students from the Mathematics Department of the University of Guanajuato (DEMAT) designed the workshop and members of the CIMAT’s academic staff and others from DEMAT presented the lectures. The small businessmen said that thanks to the workshop they were provided tools for growing their businesses and for making every-day decisions.



Participants at CIMAT’s small business workshop.

United States— One of the goals of the International Year of Statistics is to “nurture statistics as a profession, especially among young people.” In that spirit, the U.S. National Science Foundation has awarded a five-year, \$1.5 million grant to the Department of Statistics at Purdue University. It is called "MCTP: Sophomore Transitions: Bridges into a Statistics Major and Big Data Research Experiences via Learning Communities." (MCTP means “Mentoring Through Critical Transition Points in the Mathematical Sciences”.) A team of 12 Purdue statistics faculty will establish a Statistics Living-Learning Community (STAT-LLC) to address two transitions in the training of undergraduate statistics students: 1. The bridge from first-year general curriculum to sophomore year statistics major courses, and 2. The bridge into a student’s first research experience in data analysis, especially with Big Data. Each year over a five-year period, 20 sophomore trainees will take part in the STAT-LLC. Activities will include a project-based course in Big Data analysis, mentored research collaborations, a seminar series, and professional-development initiatives. The students also will live together in a sophomore learning community. The project’s goals are to promote retention, instill confidence in the students, help propel the students through the formative second year of college, and prepare them to apply for graduate school. During the period from 2015 to 2019, senior statistics department personnel will offer faculty training workshops at national meetings to help colleagues at other schools unite the aspects of the sophomore experience in a relevant way at their campuses. These workshops will be free in order to

maximize participation by all interested faculty. Please send email to llc@stat.purdue.edu for more information. News about the project will be posted at <http://www.stat.purdue.edu/llc/>.

Spain—The Statistical Office of Cantabria (Instituto Cántabro de Estadística, ICANE), participating in the commemoration of the International Year of Statistics, convened in January of this year the IV School Competition on Statistical Works. The competition was open to students of primary and secondary education from Cantabria. Early last month, the awards ceremony was held and attended by statistical and educational authorities, as well as the winners with their family members and friends. The first-place awards went to the works titled, “The South Wind and Its Influence on the Mental Health of People”, presented by IES Vega de Toranzo (Alceda) in the category of primary education; and “Estimating the Risk of Pressure Ulcers in a Geriatric”, presented by IES Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón (Viérnoles) in the category of secondary education. The second-place prizes went to Colegio El Salvador (Barreda) and IES Estelas de Cantabria (Los Corrales de Buelna) for works on “The Labour Situation in Torrelavega” and “625 Lines”, a study on the influence of television programming on teenagers. During the awards ceremony, the significance of 2013 as the International Year of Statistics was highlighted, and so was the importance of statistics in our society, a fact that students already had established through their works.



A winner of the IV School Competition on Statistical Works presents his paper.

Australia—Professor Shahjahan Khan of the University of Southern Queensland is spreading the word about the International Year of Statistics and the power and impact of statistics. In an article titled “[Lies, damn lies, and the numbers that'll change the world](#)”, Khan admits, “...statistics could be boring. If you think helping find cures to diseases, find drug cheats in sport, and help save endangered species boring.” He adds that there’s money to be made and saved in statistics, too. ““The business world wants to know demographics of customers. Insurance companies use historical data. Paying a few million dollars to statisticians for finding out this information can be worth billions. People only think it’s boring because they don’t see the relevance,” said Khan. Our kudos to Professor Khan for spreading the word about the contributions of statistics to society!

Brazil—To celebrate Statistician’s Day (May 29), the Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora organized a 15-day exhibition about the history of statistics and several statisticians who contributed to the discipline’s development. The exhibition comprised of 12 banners presenting a photo of and short copy about a famous statistician, two banners presenting the lifeline of statistics, and two banners welcoming exhibition visitors. The opening event featured three important Brazilian statisticians presenting talks: Gauss Moutinho Cordeiro (UFPE) gave a seminar titled “Extended Distribution Classes”; Sebastião de Amorim (UNICAMP) presented a seminar titled “The Statistician, Statistics and the Brazilian Historical Moment”; and Antônio Carlos Monteiro Ponce de Leon (UERJ) gave a seminar titled “Typical Problems and Suggested Solutions on Biostatistics Clinics”.



Participants in the exhibit pose with a Statistics2013 poster.

International—Jorge Ignacio Andreotti, an electronic electrical engineer with more than 40 years experience in Argentina and Brazil, has posted a blog about the International Year of Statistics. In it he writes: “This is our tribute to all those who work to make the statistics and that they allow us to better understand what happens in the world. In particularly special thanks to those who make energy statistics.” The blog features the Statistics2013 logo and a link to the Statistics2013 website. [You can view the blog here.](#)

México—The Mathematics Research Center (CIMAT) is continuing to produce videos for the International Year of Statistics. A new series of short documentaries will show the impact of statistical science in a variety of fields like medicine, industry, elections and meteorology, among others. [The first 13 videos with English subtitles can be seen here.](#) CIMAT is a Mexican research center located in the city of Guanajuato.

Slovak Republic—In early May, the Department of Mathematics Faculty of Natural Sciences at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and the Slovak Statistical and Demographical Society (SSDS) organized a scientific conference titled Nitra’s Statistical Days 2013. The conference was opened by the Dean of Faculty Prof. RNDr. Ľubomír Zelenický, CSc. and SSDS Scientific Secretary RNDr. Ján Luha,

CSc. Conference participants welcomed also the head of the university's Department of Mathematics, RNDr. Dušan Vallo, Ph.D. The conference focused on several themes: regional statistics; application of statistical methods in biology, ecology and environmental science; methodology and practice of statistical data collection; mathematical statistics and probability; and statistical software. An introductory lecture was presented by Prof. Ing. Mirko Navara, DrSc. from the Department of Cybernetics Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the Czech Technical University in Prague. The lecture characterized in detail the role of statistics as a science. Navara pointed out that the statistics in the field of education is often underestimated and offered a number of important arguments why people need to learn statistics. The next part of his lecture was devoted to presenting nonstandard methods of statistics (quantum logic and fuzzy logic) that describe the problem when classical statistical methods are insufficient. A workshop, titled "The Implicative Analysis and Its Use in the Theory of Mathematics Education", designed for doctoral students also was presented.



Audience members at Nitra's Statistical Days 2013 listen raptly.

México—Johan Jozef Lode Van Horebeek of the Mathematics Research Center (CIMAT) recently presented a lecture titled "Prophecies in don Quixote?" at the Iconographic Museum of Quixote in Guanajuato. He showed how statistics provides tools to solve every-day problems and distinguish coincidence as the origin of apparent correlations. The event was designed for youngsters and high-school students who learned basic concepts of probability and statistics. The University of Guanajuato Symphony Orchestra played a special concert with stochastic music to celebrate Statistics2013.

National Statistical Organization: News & Events

Here's the latest news on upcoming and recently concluded meetings and events hosted by national statistical organizations (NSOs) participating in Statistics2013:

Slovak Republic—The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SOSR) recently held an Open Day at its offices in Bratislava. Visitors—students, teachers, self-administration and academic representatives—learned about the work of the office's statisticians and different statistical domains, including the

compilation and organization of statistical surveys, information on outputs from register of organizations and also SOSR's information dissemination policy. Visitors also accessed the office's computer centre and library. The presentation of new statistical information system was an important part of the day's agenda. Media representatives, bank analysts and representatives of select government ministries attended a press conference about the development of macroeconomic indicators in the first quarter of this year. Similar open day events were held at SOSR regional offices, too. [More information and photos are available here](#) (in Slovak).



A visitor leafs through a brochure at the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic's (SOSR) recent Open Day event.

Bulgaria—In recognition of the International Year of Statistics and the 133rd anniversary of the statistical institution in Bulgaria National Statistical Institute (NSI), Reneta Indjova, Ph.D., president of NSI, commissioned the creation of a commemorative copper coin that is a silver-plated ring with a gold-plated core with the coat of arms of the Republic of Bulgaria on one side and the Statistics2013 and the NSI logos on the other. Each coin weighs 30 grams and has a diameter of 40 milometers. It was produced by the Mint of the Republic of Bulgaria. The coin is meant for awards to persons with special merits in the development of statistics and is an integral part of NSI's Statistics2013 exposition. It will serve for generations of future statisticians as proof of the first commemoration of the International Year of Statistics, in which Bulgaria is actively participating.

Italy—The 21st edition of the Annual Report, presented by the active Statistics2013 participant the [Italian National Institute of Statistics](#) in late May, provided a complete overview of the transformations that have occurred within Italian society and the country's economic system, integrating the information produced by Istat and Sistan (the national statistical system). This year, the country's complex situation also was analyzed through data obtained from industry and services censuses, using innovative perspectives, such as the citizen perceptions of the economic and social context and the functioning of institutions. New instruments and micro-simulation models guaranteed, for the first time, the publication of data.

United Arab Emirates— Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) is launching a project to establish the Middle East region's first analytical centre for excellence at the United Arab Emirates University. SCAD took the initiative to sponsor the signing of this agreement between the Emirates, the university and SAS, which is considered the leader in business analytics software. The agreement was signed at SCAD's offices in the presence of H.E. Butti Ahmed Al Qubaisi, SCAD's director-general; Mohamed Yousef Hasan Baniyas, provost and chief academic officer of UAEU; and Riad Gydien, vice president of the SAS Institute for the Middle East and Africa. SCAD announced the creation of an advanced electronic statistical programme to train a generation of statisticians and statistical researchers in the Abu Dhabi Emirate. The programme is to be accredited and adopted as part of the academic courses and curricula used in educational institutions. SCAD stressed the fact that the UAEU has accredited the programme and that SAS will train UAEU students, in preparation for using the new programme in various universities and institutes. This partnership was one of the fruitful results of Abu Dhabi's Statistics Conference 2013, which was held to observe the International Year of Statistics, and it is expected to enhance the role played by statistics in making decisions that affect our lives. [Click here for more information.](#)



Dignitaries pose at the ceremony launching the Middle East's first analytical centre for excellence.

Egypt—The country's national statistical agency, the [Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics](#), has created a Facebook page to promote its participation in the International Year of Statistics and its events and activities related to the celebration. It was developed by statistician Waleed Ameen Abd Elkhalek. [Click here to see the page.](#)

Calling All National Statistical Organizations

Statistics2013 is seeking informative, educational and insightful statistics about your country to feature in the "Statistic of the Day" area of the [Statistics2013 website homepage](#). These can be a series of four or five brief statistical facts about your country's population, economy and education systems; the health of its citizens; and similar social, economic, government and other relevant topics. Send your submissions along with a link to your organization's website to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop Info on Website

Organizers are hard at work on preparations for the Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop, the capstone event of the International Year of Statistics, that will be held November 11 and 12 in London, United Kingdom. The workshop will bring together statisticians from around the world, scientists who collaborate with statisticians, science writers and representatives from funding agencies.

[We have created several new pages about the workshop on the Statistics2013 website.](#) You also can access these pages in the “Statistics2013 Global Supporters” area of the website.

The event will showcase the breadth and importance of statistics and highlight the extraordinary opportunities for statistical research in the coming decade. More specifically, the workshop will tell an important story to a number of audiences:

- To scientists in data rich fields: statisticians are ready, willing and able to engage in deep, long-term collaborations;
- To funding agencies: statistics is *the* data science and can (and does) provide tools to enable progress across a huge range of human endeavors;
- To statisticians: don't let the opportunities for high-impact research pass you by; and
- To future statisticians: engage with a discipline with a huge future.

Participation is by invitation only and will involve approximately 100 people. In addition to statisticians, the workshop will involve representatives from other areas of science and practice that involve problems of a statistical nature. The workshop will be organized around presentations and panels.

However, all will be able to view the workshop live as well as recordings of the proceedings via the web thanks to [Wiley Publishers](#).

After the workshop, with input from participants, the organizing committee will publish a summary document that will be widely distributed to the larger scientific community.

Event Submission Forms on Website

Two web-based forms make it easy for you to submit your organization's Statistics2013 events as well as a summary and photos after the event is over.

The first form—called the “Event Submission Form for the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar”—provides you a quick and simple way to submit information about your organization's planned Statistics2013 events. All you have to do is input into the form the requested information and press the “Submit” button. We'll then take your information and post it to the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar. [You can access this form here.](#)

The second form—titled “Statistics2013 Post-Event Information & Photo Submission Form”—enables you to let us know about the success of your completed event and to submit up to two photos. On this form, you are prompted for information about your event and you also can input a brief summary (up to

1,750 characters). After you submit information about your organization's event, we'll run your photos and stories in this newsletter so others can see the creative and fun ways that your organization is promoting the International Year of Statistics. [Click here to access this form.](#)

Check out Website for Activities & Ideas

On an almost daily basis, we are adding new items to the [Activities Calendar](#) on the [Statistics2013](#) website. This list is an excellent place for finding activities in which you and your organization can participate to celebrate Statistics2013. It also is a great place to see what other organizations around the world are doing to mark the celebration and use those ideas as the starting point for your group to brainstorm ideas of its own. Check out the Activities Calendar today and start planning your organization's event!

The [Statistics2013 website](#) is filled with information and resources—particularly the [posters](#) and the [downloadable flyer](#)—to educate the public about how statistics improves their lives, the work of statisticians as well as careers in the statistical sciences. We invite and encourage all International Year of Statistics participating organizations to make use of these resources, including these helpful resource areas:

- *What is Statistics?*—An explanation in layman's language
- *Statistics2013 Video*—The informative two-and-a-half-minute video: [Why Statistics is Important to You](#)
- *Statistics as a Career*—Information about the work of statisticians and careers in statistics
- *Teacher Resources*—Primary and secondary school resources, a downloadable flyer and posters

There also is a section dedicated to participating organizations, titled "Statistics2013 Global Supporters", where you can access the roster of participating organizations, a comprehensive list of Statistics2013 activities, and the official Statistics2013 logos in various languages.

Use the Statistics2013 Video

We encourage your organization and its members to use and share the International Year of Statistics video. Created by [SAS Institute](#), the video relates the many and varied ways that statistics impacts our lives. The video is accessible at www.statistics2013.org.

You can:

- view the video
- post the video to your organization's website
- e-mail the link to your members/employees
- share it with your organization's stakeholders
- promote it to the public, media and other external audiences in your area or country
- show it at your meetings and other events

The video narration is in English. However, thanks to SAS and many Statistics2013 participants who are providing translations, subtitles are being added in other languages. Currently available languages are:

- Catalan
- Czech
- Dutch
- Euskara (Basque)
- English
- French
- German
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Portuguese (Portugal)
- Russian
- Spanish (Mexico)
- Swedish
- Turkish

To access these subtitles, follow these easy instructions:

- Press “Play” on the video
- Click the “CC” button to see the list of subtitle options
- Click on the desired language (the subtitles will appear onscreen)

We will be adding other subtitled languages soon, so check the video frequently to see if your language is available.

If you want the video subtitled in your country’s language, please e-mail Jeffrey@amstat.org to request a copy of the script that you can translate.

Get the Official Statistics2013 Logo

With the move to the new public website, the link to the Statistics2013 logo and the various language-specific versions has changed. That new direct link is:

<http://www.statistics2013.org/iyos/logos.cfm>

Be sure to save the link in your web favorites.

You also can access the logos page by going to the “[Statistics2013 Global Supporters](#)” area of www.statistics2013.org and then clicking on “[Resources](#)” in the pull-down menu. The link to the logos is listed first on the page.

Language-Specific Logos Available

The Statistics2013 logo is available in [37 languages](#) and we are ready create new ones for you. To have a version of the logo created in your language, please e-mail the following to Jeffrey@amstat.org:

- The interpretation of the phrase “International Year of Statistics” in the appropriate font in this format: International Year of Statistics=“The interpreted phrase”
- The interpretation of the phrase “Participating Organization” in the appropriate font in this format: Participating Organization=“The interpreted phrase”

- A high-resolution PDF document or a tif file of the interpretations of the phrases “International Year of Statistics” and “Participating Organization”. (This file will be used to compare against the font to ensure it was transmitted properly. If it doesn't compare accurately, we will use the image of the interpretations from the PDF or tif in the logo instead. This step will ensure accuracy of your logo.)

Once your language-specific logo is created, it will be posted to the Statistics2013 website [here](#) and we will send you an email to let you know the logo is available for download.

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Get the latest International Year of Statistics news and updates by following us on Twitter at @Statistics2013. Also, when you use Twitter to spread the word about Statistics2013, be sure to use the hashtag “#STATS2013”. You also can become a “friend” of Statistics2013 on our [Facebook](#) page.