



International Year of Statistics News

March 11, 2013

Statistics2013 Celebrating “World Day” Events

Last week, the International Year of Statistics honored women worldwide and women statisticians on International Women’s Day (March 8). As part of the celebration, a press release was distributed to Statistics2013 participating organizations. Numerous participants either posted the Statistics2013-prepared release on their website or shared it with the media or conducted their own International Women’s Day activity. Here are links to examples of a participating organization’s use of the Statistics2013 press release and a national statistical organization initiative, respectively:

- [Sweden](#)
- [Slovenia](#)

This is the first of seven “World Day” celebrations in which Statistics2013 will participate throughout the year. Upcoming “World Day” observances to which Statistics2013 can logically conduct tie-in promotions via the public website and press releases provide to your organization are:

- World Health Day—April 7
- World Environment Day—June 5
- World Population Day—July 11
- International Literacy Day—September 8
- World Teacher's Day—October 5
- International Students Day—November 17

We highly encourage your organization to participate in these tie-in promotional activities. These are an excellent way to extend the message of Statistics2013 to new audiences.

New Promotional Resource Available on Website

The *Significance* magazine poster promoting Statistics2013 is now available for download from the [Statistics2013 Posters section](#) of the International Year of Statistics website. At this page you will find a total of four posters for your use in promoting the International Year of Statistics to your organization’s public audiences. Those posters are:

- The “Bubbles” poster
- The “Statistics in Various Languages” poster

- The newly added “*Significance*” magazine poster (this poster is 19MB, so expect slower than normal download)
- And, a poster provided by the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics titled “I want to be a statistician like my mommy”

Use these posters to spread the word about the International Year of Statistics in your community or at your school or place of work. Simply print copies of each Statistics2013 poster and display these in several high-traffic, visible locations at your school (e.g., library, student union), office building, public library, favorite coffee shop, or other popular meeting spot.

Two New Countries Join

Statistics2013 participation last week neared the 1,800-participant mark while two new countries joined the worldwide campaign to promote statistics. Currently, the participating organization count stands at 1,796. The two new countries and the corresponding new organizations are:

- Bahrain—[Bahrain Statistical Society](#)
- Suriname—[General Bureau of Statistics](#)

With these new additions, 121 countries now are represented by Statistics2013 participants. Check out the updated participant and country lists at the [Statistics2013 website](#).

If you know an organization interested in joining, please tell its representative to go to www.statistics2013.org and click on the “Join Statistics2013” icon on the right side of the homepage to become an official participating organization.

Use New Event Submission Forms on Website

We have developed two new web-based forms that will make it easier 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](#).

Participating Organizations: News & Events

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

Bahrain—Brand new Statistics2013 participant, the Bahrain Statistical Society, which joined last week, did not waste time promoting statistics to its citizens. Also last week, the Society held its first activities to promote the International Year of Statistics by conducting two sessions titled “Live Numbers in Our Life” to primary-school students—the first group were 6 to 7 year-olds, while the second was from 8 to 12 years of age.

Brazil—The International Year of Statistics celebrations began at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Feb. 21 with a seminar titled “The only certainty is that (almost) everything is uncertain...” by Statistics Professor Alexandra Mello Schmidt of the Mathematics Institute (IM) of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). The seminar explored statistical applications for day-to-day problems as well as applications for complex problems in biostatistics. During her talk, Alexandra stated: “We are dominated by uncertainty, given that, when we are born, the only certainty is death. The one thing that we can do is to describe the uncertainty and, in this way, to establish correlations and make predictions.” The opening seminar was a huge success, with more than 130 people in attendance, including students and teachers from several courses as well as other members of the university community.



Professor Alexandra Mello Schmidt (third from right) poses with seminar attendees and a stylish Statistics2013 banner at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora in Brazil.

Brazil—The Brazilian Statistical Association and Institute of Mathematics and Statistics (University of São Paulo) will be conducting the Sixth Brazilian Conference on Statistical Modeling in Insurance and Finance in São Sebastião. Scheduled to begin March 24, the goals of the five–day event is to provide a forum for the presentation of state-of-the-art research in the development, implementation and real-world applications of dependence modeling in actuarial sciences and finance as well as promote discussion and interchange between junior and senior scientists. The conference is specifically designed to contribute to fostering the cooperation between practitioners and theoreticians in the field. [Learn more about the event here.](#)

Cabo Verde—On January 14, the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities of the [Universidade de Cabo Verde](#) presented a special lecture titled “State of the Art of Applied Statistics”. The talk was presented by Professors Silvia Almeida and Edson M. Ramos of the Federal University of Pará, Brazil.

Canada—A conference to celebrate the International Year of Statistics and the launch of the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute will be held July 31 through August 2 at Waterloo University. In June 2012, the Statistical Society of Canada approved the formation of a separate entity—the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute/Institut Canadien des Sciences Statistiques (CANSSI/INCASS)—that will work with the [Fields Institute](#), the [Centre de Recherches Mathématiques](#), and the [Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences](#) to promote and sponsor research in the statistical sciences across Canada. CANSSI was officially launched last November and the process of identifying directions for research in Canada over the next few years has begun. The University of Waterloo, with support from the Fields Institute, is hosting the conference. [Learn more about this event here.](#)

Cayman Islands—“In view of the powerful and far-reaching effects of statistics in everyday life, we are pleased to join this worldwide celebration of the International Year of Statistics. I am pleased to note that Cayman is launching the celebration in a very practical and educational way.” With those words the Premier and Minister for Finance, District Administration, Works, Lands & Agriculture, the Hon. Juliana O’Connor Connolly, recently launched the Cayman Island’s participation in Statistics2013. In addition to a recently completed radio presentation on the consumer price index and a seminar on economic statistics for high-school students, other Cayman Island Statistics2013 activities include the launch of the National Statistical Coordination Committee, a network of entities in the public sector that will work together for a more efficient statistical system in the country.

Caribbean Islands—In related news, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Statistics Secretariat is spearheading the Statistics2013 celebration throughout the region. “We have three goals for the celebration,” stated the CARICOM Statistics Project Director, Dr. Philomen Harrison. “First, we seek to increase the awareness of the power and impact of statistics on all aspects of society. Second, we also desire to nurture statistics as a profession, especially among young people. And third, we need to promote creativity and development in the sciences of probability and statistics,” she added. The regional organization kicked off Statistics2013 activities when CARICOM Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque hosted a media launch for the International Year of Statistics on March 6 in Georgetown, Guyana. [You can view the impressive list of Statistics2013 activities in the various CARICOM countries here.](#)

Italy—In honor of its 150th anniversary, Politecnico di Milano will host a BarCamp competition for envisioning statistical models and methods that will have an impact on the development of technology over the next 25 years. At this so-called 'unconference,' to be held September 12 in Milan, competition winners will share and discuss statistics and its influence on the technology of the future. Interested, early-career statisticians (less than 33 years of age) are invited to submit their vision for future statistical models and methods. [Click here for competition and submission rules.](#)

India—Statistics students at Lady Shri Ram College for Women in New Delhi, a constituent college of the University of Delhi, recently published the first edition of their statistical newsletter called *Degrees of Freedom*. The newsletter—which carries the messages of Statistics2013 to other students, faculty and administrators at the school—highlights the interesting applications of statistics to the critical problems facing the world today. A section was dedicated to Sir Ronald A. Fisher for his immense contributions to the field. The newsletter was read and appreciated across the college. A second edition is planned.

Mexico—The opening event for the International Year of Statistics in Mexico took place at the UNAM campus March 7. Leaders of the university, government, and scientific communities participated in this inaugural event.



Speakers at the ceremony for the inauguration of the International Year of Statistics in Mexico were (from left to right) Dr. Ronald L. Wasserstein, Executive Director, American Statistical Association; Dr. José Narro, Rector of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); Dr. Eduardo Sojo, President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography; Dr. Guillermo Zárate, President of the Mexican Statistical Society; Dr. Ignacio Méndez, Professor of Statistics, UNAM; and (at the podium) José Franco López, President of the Mexican Academy of Sciences. Not pictured, but also on stage: Dr. Luis Mier y Terán, Planning and Information Director of the National Council of Science and Technology.

Mexico—The [Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas](#) (CIMAT) and the [Universidad de Guanajuato](#) have combined to develop “Myths and Realities of Statistics,” a compilation of numerous common myths about statistics and explanations of why these statements are untrue. The word “statistics” evokes many different meanings, depending on each person’s own experiences. In the compilation, the groups clarify the meaning of the statistics sciences—its goals and limitations—as well as those of its practitioners in its rebuttal to the myths and common public perception of statistics. [You can read “Myths and Realities of Statistics” here.](#)

Philippines—As part of the International Year of Statistics, the University of the Philippines Variates Inc., a socio-academic organization of statistics majors, conducted the 15th Department of Education-endorsed Statistical Challenge February 2. The contest, an inter-secondary school quiz show, was themed “Integrating Expectations, Deriving Moments.” Through this contest, Variates students promote statistics as a course in college to secondary students. In its 15 years, several former quiz show participants have chosen statistics as their degree program in college. Thirty-six schools from different parts of the country participated. The Philippine Science High School, Main Campus, won first place. Saint Jude Catholic School and Xavier School placed second and third, respectively. Several statistical institutions, including the university’s School of Statistics, the National Statistics Office, National Statistical Coordination Board, and Bureau of Agricultural Statistics cosponsored the event.



Students and advisors from the Philippine Science High School, Main Campus, celebrate their win in the Philippines Statistical Challenge held February 2.

United States—On March 18 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the Carnegie Mellon University [Department of Statistics](#) will kick off the International Year of Statistics by hosting world-renowned statistician Bradley

Efron, professor of statistics and biostatistics at Stanford University. In his talk, Efron will discuss the “Frequentist Accuracy of Bayesian Estimates” and will explore how in the absence of prior information, popular Bayesian estimation techniques usually begin with some form of "uninformative" prior, intended to have minimal inferential influence. [Learn more about this event here.](#)

United States—The Tufts University School of Engineering invites you to its third annual World Health Day as part of Statistics2013. This day-long event on April 8 will feature cutting-edge engineering research on information and sensor technologies. Tufts School of Engineering’s research in smart sensors, disaster management, visual analytics, and new devices has wide-reaching impact on the future of world health and the environment. Keynote speaker Dr. Andrey Egorov will speak about the strides the World Health Organization (WHO) has made in the area of environment and evidence-based, health-information systems to support public health and to improve environmental policies. The Tufts community, scientists, environmental activists, health professionals, scholars, business leaders, and students are invited to explore how research at Tufts supports the ongoing work of WHO. [Learn more and register here.](#)

United States—The University of South Carolina Department of Statistics announces the Statistics2013 Palmetto Lectures in Statistics. The event will be held March 26 and 29 in Columbia, South Carolina and will feature noted statistician Francisco Samaniego, distinguished professor of statistics at the University of California, Davis. Samaniego will present two lectures. Those are:

- A (Very) Short Course on Comparative Statistical Inference on March 26
- Network Reliability: A Fresh Look at Some Basic Questions on March 29

Learn more about [the Palmetto lecture series here.](#)

United States—The 2013 Nonclinical Biostatistics Conference will be held on the campus of Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania from October 15 to 17. The third U.S. conference dedicated entirely to nonclinical biostatistics is being organized jointly by regulatory and pharmaceutical/biotech statisticians and facilitated by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Villanova University. Members of the nonclinical/pre-clinical statistics community are invited to submit proposals for presentations and posters discussing significant scientific and regulatory issues. Attendees will network, share experiences and discuss current scientific issues with leaders in the field. [Learn more about the event here.](#)

National Statistical Organizations: News & Events

Here’s the latest news on upcoming and recently concluded Statistics2013 meetings and events conducted by national statistical organizations (NSO).

Australia—The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will host the third NatStats conference in Brisbane starting tomorrow, at which time it will officially launch the International Year of Statistics and a list of Australia’s most ‘essential statistical assets’ also will be revealed. The NatStats conference, which runs through Thursday, is themed “A better informed Australia: The role of statistics in building the

nation.” There will be a number of sessions about the use of big data in the areas of social wellbeing, productivity and the environment. Other ABS initiatives for 2013 include a range of national statistical leadership seminars, coordinating and sponsoring the national phase of the International Statistical Literacy Project Poster and Data Visualisation/Multimedia Competition and providing ABS CensusAtSchool resources for the teachers’ resources page on the International Year of Statistics website. [Learn more about NatStats here.](#)

United States—The National Agricultural Statistics Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is sponsoring National Ag Day, a day that recognizes and celebrates the abundance provided by agriculture across the country. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture. Learn more about [National Ag Day here.](#)

Significance, RSS Young Statisticians Sponsoring Writing Competition

A writing competition, the second jointly sponsored by the Young Statisticians Section of the [Royal Statistical Society](#) (RSS) and *Significance* magazine, will celebrate The International Year of Statistics. The first competition, held in 2012, was hugely success with 24 entries; four were published in the magazine. Anyone is welcome to enter, regardless of membership or affiliation. The only stipulation for the competition is that you be “young” (in career terms, not necessarily in age); that is you must be a student or within the first 10 years of your career. Before sitting down to compose your article, the organizers suggest that you can read [last year’s winning entry](#) and a [runner-up entry](#) plus [learn more about the writing competition](#) and what makes a submitted article stand out. In light of the success of last year’s competition, the sponsors are encouraging more young writers to put pen to paper—or fingers to keyboard! Entries should be submitted via email to significance@rss.org.uk as a text or Word file or as a PDF. The submission deadline is June 1. *Significance* is published jointly by the RSS and the [American Statistical Association](#) and is for anyone interested in statistics and the analysis and interpretation of data.

New Website Functionality

We have added a new search function to the [Statistics2013 Global Participants](#) webpage. The seemingly endless list of Statistics2013 participants has been replaced with a quicker, convenient form that allows visitors to search for organizations by type, name or country. Try it out today [here!](#)

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! And when your event’s plans are finalized, go to the “[Event Submission Form for](#)

[the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar](#)”—to submit key information about it to us and to let other participating organizations know what your group is doing to celebrate Statistics2013.

Statistics2013 Website is for You!

Since the [Statistics2013 website](#) was launched, we have received numerous requests from participants seeking permission to link to the site and use its content—particularly the [posters](#) and the [downloadable flyer](#)—in their public promotional efforts.

The website is filled with information 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.

If you have not visited the site yet, take the time soon to peruse its public-oriented informational content, including these helpful resource areas:

- *What is Statistics?*—An explanation in layman’s language
- *Stats2013AtSchool*—A statistics quiz for school students
- *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.

Official Statistics2013 Logos

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 [34 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.