

# **Annual Report of the Executive Director on IARIW Activities, August, 2009-August, 2010**

This report provides an overview of the activities of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) from August, 2009 to August, 2010. It has been another successful year for the Association. Key highlights of the period were:

- the holding of an international conference on measuring the informal sector in developing countries, September 23-26, 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal;
- the organization of the 31st IARIW General Conference, which is to take place in St. Gallen, Switzerland August 22-28, 2010;
- initial work on the organization of a special conference in 2011 on experiences and challenges in measuring income and wealth in Africa, in partnership with Statistics South Africa.
- the continuation of a strong financial performance, with a surplus of \$90,567 US in 2009 and an increase in net assets to \$802,985 US.

## Financial Report

In 2009, the IARIW enjoyed a surplus of \$90,567 (all figures are in US dollars), based on revenues of \$262,155 and expenses of \$171,588. This was up from a surplus of \$79,198 in 2008. Net assets of the Association on December 31, 2009 were \$802,985, up 32.8 per cent from \$662,304 on December 31, 2008. The rebound in equity prices in 2009 accounted for much of the increase in net worth.

The surplus expected in 2010 will be considerably smaller than in 2009 as the expenses associated with the General Conference in St. Gallen will be considerably greater than those associated with the 2009 Special Conference.

Once approved by the Council, a detailed audited financial report for 2009 will be posted on the website and will be published in the December 2010 issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

## Membership

On August 13, 2010, the IARIW had a total of 465 members, up 2.9 per cent from 445 members on August 24, 2009. Of this total, 336 were individual members (including 22 student members and 8 gratis members) and 129 were persons nominated by the institutional members as part of their institutional membership. All members are listed in the members directory posted at <http://www.iariw.org/memlist.asp>.

At the 2008 General Conference as well as the 2007 and 2009 Special Conferences, all conference participants were required to either be IARIW members or join the Association. For the 2010 General Conference, non-member delegates had two options: join the Association and pay no registration fee, or pay a 75 Swiss franc non-member registration fee. Around 50 persons chose this second option, which reduced the number of new members joining the Association relative to the previous three years. This measure has reduced the churning in membership numbers.

The IARIW currently has 46 organizations which are institutional members (mostly central statistical agencies, but also some central banks and international organizations). These members play a very important role in ensuring the financial sustainability of the Association. A list of the institutional members is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/member.asp> and published on the inside back cover of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

In 2009-2010, the IARIW welcomed six new institutional members: DIW-Berlin, the African Development Bank, the Central Statistical Organisation of India, the Indian Association for Research on National Income and Wealth, the South Asian Institute of Management, and the Central Bureau of Statistics of Nepal.

### General Conference

The major activity of the Association is the organization of general conferences held every second year. These conferences bring together leading researchers from across the world to present frontier research in the income and wealth fields. The conferences are hosted by the national statistical offices of the venue country. In 2010, the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland will host the General Conference in St. Gallen, Switzerland August 22-28. Much of the time of the IARIW secretariat over the past 12 months has been devoted to the preparation of this event. In 2012, the three US statistical agencies (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Bureau of Census) in association with the Conference on Research in Income and Wealth and the National Bureau of Economic Research will assume this role as local organizer. In 2014, Statistics Netherlands will host the conference.

The prestigious Ruggles Memorial Lecture, established in 2004 at the Cork conference, will be delivered at the 2010 General Conference by Francois Bourguignon, currently at the Paris School of Economics and formerly Chief Economist of the World Bank.

Two programs first introduced at the 2006 General Conference, namely a program for financial assistance for paper givers and a bursary program, are being continued at the 2010 conference.

The program for financial assistance for paper givers for the 2010 General Conference received 29 requests for support. Based on a number of criteria and funds available, 22 of these requests were funded.

The objective of the bursary program is to foster the professional development of economists in the national accounts and households survey divisions of central statistical agencies in low income countries. The bursary covers the travel costs, accommodation and meal expenses, and registration fees of attending the General Conference. Bursaries are being provided to economists from the central statistical offices of Tanzania and Uganda to attend the 2010 General Conference.

A successful new innovation at the 30<sup>th</sup> General Conference in 2008 was the organization of a training session on national accounts immediately preceding the conference. This initiative has been expanded at the 31<sup>st</sup> General Conference into two sessions. In addition to the session on national accounts given by Derek Blades, former Director of National Accounts at the OECD and Peter van de Ven, Head of National Accounts at Statistics Netherlands, a training session on building (and using) a tax-benefit micro-simulation model: learning from EUROMOD will also be offered. Holly Sutherland from the University of Essex will be giving the course. Both sessions take place concurrently on Saturday, August 21 and Sunday, August 22.

### Special Conferences

The IARIW organizes special or regional conferences in non-General conference years. In 2009, this tradition of special conferences was continued. The IARIW partnered with the Nepalese South Asian Institute of Management to organize a conference entitled “Measuring the Informal Economy in Developing Countries”. The conference took place in Kathmandu, Nepal September 24-26, 2009 and attracted around 80 persons from outside Nepal as well as 40 local representatives. A total of 31 papers were presented in three plenary and eight concurrent sessions. The program is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/c2009.php>.

Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* to be released in 2011, edited by Derek Blades and Francisco Ferreira.

Just as the 2007 special conference in Beijing forged relations between the IARIW and the National Bureau of Statistics of China, an important result of the 2009 special conference was the development of closer ties with the National Bureau of Statistics of Nepal, the Central Statistical Organization of India, and our sister organization, the Indian Association for Research on National Income and Wealth. The Chief Statistician of India was one of the many senior officials who participated in the conference.

Plans have begun for the organization of a special conference on the theme of experiences and challenges in Measuring National Income, Wealth, Poverty, and Inequality in African Countries. Statistics South Africa has agreed to co-organize the event and Stephen Klasen, one of the Managing Editors of the *Review of Income and Wealth* and a specialist in development economics with particular reference to Africa, has agreed

to chair the program committee. The conference is scheduled to take place in September 2011 in Cape Town.

### IARIW Council

The biennial election for the IARIW Council was held in the late spring and summer of 2010. The results will be announced at the members meeting at the 2010 General Conference on August 24.

### *Review of Income and Wealth*

The *Review of Income and Wealth*, the leading international journal in the income and wealth field and the flagship publication of the Association, is distributed to all members as part of the membership benefits.

On August 1, 2009 a new team took the reins of the *Review*. The team consists of Conchita d'Ambrosio from the University of Milan-Bicocca and DIW-Berlin, Robert G. Hill from the University of Graz in Austria, and Stephan Klasen from the University of Gottingen. The editorial office of the *Review of Income and Wealth* has moved from the University of Groningen to EconPubblica at Universita Bocconi in Milan Italy.

In addition to the four regular issues, a special issue on experiences and challenges in measuring income and wealth in transition economies, based on selected papers from the 2007 special conference on the same topic held in Beijing, China and edited by Peter Saunders and Harry Wu, was published in July 2009. In July 2010 a special issue based on selected papers from the 2008 World Congress on National Accounts, edited by Robert Hill and Alice Nakamura, was published. A special issue based on the selected papers from the 2009 special conference on measuring the informal sector in developing countries is planned for release in 2011.

The editors have produced a report detailing the operations of the journal from August 1, 2009 to July 31, 2010. This report will be posted on the IARIW website and will be published in the December 2009 issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

### Acknowledgements

A large number of persons and institutions have contributed to the successful operation of the IARIW in the 12 month period from August, 2009 to August, 2010. I would like to particularly thank the following for their contributions to this success: the 46 IARIW institutional members whose support ensures the financial sustainability of the organization; the IARIW Council for its strong support of our activities; IARIW Chair Andrea Brandolini for his leadership role in many areas; staff of the Federal Statistical Office, Switzerland, especially Ruth Meier and Jurg Furrer, for the organization of the 31<sup>th</sup> General Conference; Peter van de Ven for chairing the Financial Committee; Markus Jäntti for chairing the training committee; Thesia Garner for chairing the Ruggles Prize committee; Derek Blades for assuming the responsibility for the organization of the 2009

special conference after the untimely passing of Michael Ward; Bishnu Pant for local arrangement for the 2009 special conference; Conchita D'Ambrosio, Stephan Klasen and Robert Hill, for editing the *Review of Income and Wealth*; the Wiley-Blackwell staff, especially Hester Tilbury and Carmen Sherry for the production of the *Review of Income and Wealth*; Brian Watson, Sarah Bandukda, and Ray Folkins for accounting and auditing services, and CSLS staff (Eve Tsiroulnitchenko, Eric Thomson, Crystal St. Denis, Geoffrey Cullwick) for excellent assistance with administrative matters.

Andrew Sharpe  
Executive Director, IARIW  
Executive Director, Centre for the Study of Living Standards  
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Ottawa, Ontario, Canada