

Annual Report of the Executive Director on IARIW Activities August, 2010-August, 2011

This report provides an overview of the activities of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) from August 2010 to August 2011.

It was another successful year for the Association. Key highlights of the period were:

- the holding of the 31th IARIW General Conference, which took place in St. Gallen, Switzerland, August 22-28, 2010;
- the organization of a Special Conference in Cape Town, South Africa for September 2011 on experiences and challenges in measuring national income, wealth, poverty and inequality in African countries, in partnership with Statistics South Africa.
- The organization of a special conference in Paris, France for November 2011 on economic insecurity: measurement, trends and policy responses, in partnership with the OECD.
- the continuation of a strong financial performance, with a surplus of \$64,813 US in 2010 and an increase in net assets to \$930,371US from \$802,985 US in 2009.

Financial Report

In 2010, the IARIW enjoyed a surplus of \$64,813 (all figures in US dollars), based on revenues of \$295,177 and expenses of \$230,364. This was down from a surplus of \$90,567 in 2009. Net assets of the Association on December 31, 2010 were \$930,371, up 15.9 per cent from \$802,985 on December 31, 2009. The rebound in equity prices in 2010 accounted for most of the increase in net worth.

Once approved by the Council at its October 13, 2011 conference call meeting, the audited financial report for 2010 will be posted on the website and will be published in the December 2011 issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

Membership

On September 20, 2011, the IARIW had a total of 421 members, down 8.6 per cent from 465 members on August 13, 2010. Of this total, 285 were individual members (including 13 student members and 10 gratis members) and 136 were persons nominated by the institutional members as part of their institutional membership. All members are listed in the membership directory posted at <http://www.iariw.org/memlist.asp>.

The decline in individual membership reflects two factors. First, since 2011 was a non-General Conference year, there was no major influx of new members related to this event. Second, unlike past special conferences, membership in the IARIW was not required for persons participating in the special conference on income and wealth in Africa held in Cape Town in September, so few new members joined.

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 2010-2011, the IARIW welcomed one new institutional member: the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics. One member withdrew because of budget cutbacks, the Czech Republic.

General Conferences

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 hosted the General Conference in St. Gallen, Switzerland August 22-28. The conference was a major success, attracting nearly 300 delegates. The papers are posted at <http://www.iariw.org/c2010.php>

The prestigious Ruggles Memorial Lecture, which was established in 2004 at the Cork Conference, was delivered at the 2010 General Conference by Francois Bourguignon, currently at the Paris School of Economics and formerly Chief Economist at 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 for economist in statistical agencies in poor countries were continued at the 2010 conference.

A total of 29 persons applied for financial assistance to present a paper at the 2010 General Conference and 22 were awarded at least some support. Persons receiving assistance came from 12 countries: India, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Argentina, Italy, Canada, United States, Poland, Colombia, the Netherlands, Romania, and Sweden.

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 meal expenses, and registration fees of attending the General Conference. With the assistance of the United Nations Statistical Office, the IARIW invited the statistical offices of a large number of African countries to nominate candidates for the bursary. Unfortunately, the number of applications for financial assistance was small and bursaries were only offered to economists from the central statistical offices of Tanzania and Uganda. We hope to increase the number of applications for this program for the 2012 General Conference.

A successful new innovation at the 30th General Conference in 2008 was the organization of a training session on national accounts immediately preceding the conference. This initiative was expanded at the 31st 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, then head of National Accounts at Statistics Netherlands, a training session on simulation modeling lead by Holly Sutherland from the University of Essex was also held.

In 2012, the three US statistical agencies (Bureau of Economic Analysis as lead agency, supported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Census), in association with the NBER's Conference on Income and Wealth (CRIW), will organize the 32nd IARIW General Conference in Boston. In 2014, Statistics Netherlands will host the conference in The Hague.

Special Conferences

Since 2007 the IARIW has organized a special conference in non-General conference years. In 2010-11, this tradition of special conferences was expanded from one to two conferences. For the first conference the IARIW partnered with the Statistics South Africa to organize a conference entitled "Measuring National Income, Wealth, Inequality and Poverty in African Countries." The conference took place in Cape Town, South Africa September 28-October 1, 2011 and attracted around 100 persons, most from South Africa. Details on this event will be included in next year's report.

For the second conference the IARIW is working the OECD on a conference entitled "Economic Insecurity: Measurement, Causes and Policy Implications" to be held in the OECD Conference Centre in Paris November 22-23, 2011.

IARIW Council

The biennial election for the IARIW Council was held in the late spring and summer of 2010. Three persons were elected for a six year term: Albert Braakman from the German Federal Statistical Office; Erwin Diewert from the University of British Columbia; and Sylvie Michaud from Statistics Canada. In addition three persons were co-opted for two-year appointments: Steve Landefeld from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis, Prasada Rao from the University of Queensland, and Adriaan Grobler from Statistics South Africa. Council elected Peter van de Ven from Statistics Netherlands Chair for 2010-2012, upon the completion of the term of Andreas Brandolini from the Bank of Italy.

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 Robert G. Hill from the University of Graz in Austria, Conchita d'Ambrosio from the University of Milan-Bicocca and DIW Berlin 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 the informal economy in developing countries; analysis and measurement was published in May 2011 based on selected papers from the 2009 special conference on the same topic held in Katmandu, Nepal. The guest editors of the issue were Francisco Ferreira and Derek Blades. Future special issues based on the two special conferences to be held in the fall of 2011 are planned for 2012 and 2013.

The editors have produced a report detailing the operations of the journal from August 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011. This report will be posted at the IARIW website and will be published in the December 2011 issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

Acknowledgements

A large number of persons have contributed to the successful operation of the IARIW in the 12 month period from August 2010 to August 2011. I would like to particularly thank the following persons for their contributions to this success: the 45 IARIW institutional members whose support ensures the financial sustainability of the organization; the IARIW Council for its strong support of our activities; IARIW Chair Peter van de Ven for his leadership role in any areas; staff of the Federal Statistical Office, Switzerland, especially Ruth Meier and Jurg Furrer, for the organization of the 31th General Conference; Albert Braakman for chairing the Financial Committee; Stephan Klasen for chairing the program committee for the organization of the 2011 special conference on income and wealth in Africa; Riaan Grobler for local arrangement for the 2011 special conference in Cape Town; Conchita D'Ambrosio and Lars Osberg for serving as members of the program committee for the special conference on economic insecurity; Conchita D'Ambrosio, Stephan Klasen and Robert Hill, for editing the *Review of Income and Wealth*; the Wiley-Blackwell staff, especially Helen Ashton and Hester Tilbury for the production of the *Review of Income and Wealth*; Brian Watson, Sarah and Ray Folkins for accounting and auditing services, and CSLS staff member Elspeth Hazell for excellent assistance with administrative matters.

Andrew Sharpe
Executive Director, IARIW
Executive Director, Centre for the Study of Living Standards
October 7, 2011
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada