

Annual Report of the Executive Director on IARIW Activities, August 1, 2019-July 31, 2020

This report provides an overview of the activities of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) from August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020. The three main activities in 2019-2020 were:

- in partnership with Statistics Norway, the organization of the 36th IARIW General Conference that was to be held in Oslo, Norway August 24-28, 2020. Because of the pandemic this conference has been postponed to August 16-20, 2021;
- in partnership with the National Research University Higher School of Economics, the holding of a special conference entitled “Experiences and Challenges in Measuring Income and Wealth in CIS Countries and Eastern Europe” in Moscow, Russia, September 17-18, 2019;
- in partnership with the World Bank, the holding of a special conference entitled “New Approaches to Defining and Measuring Poverty in a Growing World” in Washington, D.C. November 7-8, 2019.
- the Association has an excellent financial performance in 2019, recording net income of \$234,806 US; and
- IARIW membership increased 16 per cent to 477 in 2019-2020 from 412 in 2018-2019.

Financial Report

In 2019, the IARIW recorded a net income of \$234,806 (all figures are in US dollars). There was an operating surplus of \$65,566, based on expenses of \$236,481 and operating revenues of \$302,047. Operating costs were lower than in 2018 because there was no General Conference.

The operating surplus was augmented by unrealized market gains of \$169,240 due to a improvement in the financial market offsetting the unrealized losses recorded in 2018.

Net assets of the Association on December 31, 2019 were \$1,407,980, up 20 per cent from \$1,173,174 on December 31, 2018.

Once approved by the Council, the audited financial report for 2019 will be posted on the website at <http://www.iariw.org/Fin-2019.pdf>.

With no General Conference expenses in 2020, a significant surplus is projected.

Membership

On July 31, 2020, the IARIW had a total of 477 members, up 15.8 per cent from 412 on July 31, 2019. This increase was due to the two special conferences, which both attracted a large number of new members. The Association welcome 112 new members in 2019-2020 and had 47 non-renewals, for a net increase of 65 members.

Of the total membership, 346 were individual members (including 38 student members and 10 gratis members) and 131 were persons nominated by an institutional member as part of the institutional membership. All members in good standing are listed in the on-line members directory posted at <http://www.iariw.org/memlist.php>.

In 2020, the IARIW has members in 57 countries. 78.6 per cent of IARIW membership is from the developed world, down from 85.4 per cent in 2004. Western Europe accounts for 43.1 per cent of membership and North America 20.9 per cent. Transition economies account for 5.9 per cent of membership and developing economies 15.5 per cent. Developing economies in Asia, especially India, account for 10.4 per cent of the membership, up from 2.1 per cent in 2004. Africa accounts for 3.3 per cent and Latin America 1.6 per cent. Additional information on the distribution of membership is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/memberinform.php>

The IARIW currently has 40 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.php> and published on the inside back cover of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

36th IARIW General Conference

The major activity of the Association is the 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 area. The conferences are organized by the national statistical office of the host country. In 2020, Statistics Norway was to host the 36th General Conference in Oslo August 24-28.

Arrangements for the conference were proceeding well when the pandemic hit in March 2020. The program had been finalized (<http://www.iariw.org/c2020oslo.php>), financial assistance to paper givers allocated, a training session organized, the conference website constructed and delegates had begun to register. Because of the pandemic, Council made the decision on April 23 to postpone the conference one year. The members meeting, which takes place in person, has also been postponed.

Statistics Norway has graciously agreed to hold the conference in Oslo August 16-20, 2021. All persons on the program can present their current paper, or a revised version. Details on the conference will be announced in September 2020.

Because of the short timelines for the SNA update, it was decided to take the plenary session on this topic planned for the General Conference digital. The session will take place by Zoom on August 26, 2020.

37th IARIW General Conference in 2022

The national statistical office of Luxembourg, the Central Service for Statistics and Economic Studies (STATEC) has agreed to host the 37th IARIW General Conference in Luxembourg in the second half of August 2022.

Special Conferences

The IARIW organizes special or regional conferences in non-General Conference years. In 2019-20, this tradition continued, with two special conferences taking place.

The IARIW partnered with the National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) on the organization of a conference entitled “Experiences and Challenges in Measuring Income and Wealth in CIS Countries and Eastern Europe” which took place at the HSE in Moscow September 17-18, 2019. Ilya Voskoboynikov from HSE and Marshall Reinsdorf from the IMF chaired the program committee. The program had 36 papers in plenary and parallel sessions, a keynote speaker (Branko Milanovic from City University of New York) and a closing panel. A total of 120 persons from 22 countries attended. The program is posted at <http://iariw.org/c2019moscow.php>. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

In recognition of its contribution to the organization of the Moscow conference, the IARIW has granted HSE a five-year complimentary institutional membership in the IARIW. The HSE holds each spring a major economics conference in Moscow. The HSE has invited the IARIW to co-organize a session at this conference. Ilya Voskoboynikov from HSE will serve as the coordinator of the session.

The IARIW also partnered with the World Bank for a conference entitled “New Approaches to Defining and Measuring Poverty in a Growing World” which took place in Washington, DC November 7-8, 2019. The program committee was chaired by Dean Joliffe from the World Bank. The program has 32 papers in plenary and parallel sessions, a poster session with 17 papers, a keynote speaker (Martin Ravillon, formerly Chief Economist at the World Bank) and a closing panel. A total of 130 delegates from 18 countries attended the conference. The preliminary program is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/c2019washington.php>. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

In 2019-2020 the IARIW began plans for two special conferences to be held in 2021. The Association will partner with the UK Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence (ESCoE) on a special conference on intangible capital to be held at King’s College London June 24-25, 2021. The co-chairs of the Program Committee are Rebecca Riley from ESCoE and Mary O’Mahony from King’s College London. The call for papers was distributed to the membership in July.

The IARIW was planning to organize a special conference on human capital, to be held in Beijing China in December 2021. The Central University of Economics and Finance was the local host. Because the deterioration in relations between the West and China and possible travel restrictions, this conference has been postponed. It may take place in 2023.

As a substitute for the China conference, the National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania has offered to host a special conference on measuring income, wealth and well-being in sub-Saharan Africa in Arusha, Tanzania in the fall of 2021.

IARIW Session at the World Statistics Congress

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) is a long-established international association that brings together statisticians from around the world. Its most important activity is the organization of the World Statistics Congress (WSC), every two years. Given the common interests of the ISI and the IARIW in measurement issues, the IARIW Council felt greater collaboration between the two organizations is desirable. In 2018-19, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established between the two organizations. As part of this MOU, the IARIW organizes a session every two years at the WSC.

Following on the organization of IARIW sessions at the WSC in 2013, 2015 and 2017, the IARIW organized a session on past experiences and future challenges in the system of national accounts at the 62nd World Statistics Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia August 18-23, 2019. Past IARIW President Albert Braakmann from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany was the session organizer. The program, with links to the papers, is found at <http://iariw.org/c2019kualalumpur.php>. A symposium based on the papers is planned to appear in the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

Renewal of IARIW Council

The biennial electronic election for four positions on the IARIW Council for the 2020-2024 period was held from June 15, 2020 to August 15, 2020, with six candidates running for the four openings. A total of 136 members voted, a 29 per cent turnout.

The newly elected Council members are Diane Coyle (Cambridge University), Thomas Crosslet (University of Essex), Dennis Fixler (US Bureau of Economic Analysis), and Shatakshee Dhongde (Georgia Tech).

Three co-opted Council members are to be appointed for 2020-2022: John Haas (STATEC), Rebecca Riley (ESCoE) and Gabriel Simbila (National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania). These individuals serve as the local organizers for future IARIW conferences.

In 2016, the IARIW membership approved a bylaw change that reduced the term for Council members from six to four years. This is resulting in two cohorts of Council members leaving Council in 2020, the three members elected for six years in 2014 and the four members elected for four years in 2016. The members of the first cohort are Gordon Anderson (University of Toronto), Stephen Klasen (University of Gottingen) and Maria Grazia Pittau (Sapienza

University of Rome). The members of the second cohort are Andrew Clark (Paris School of Economics), Kevin Fox (University of New South Wales), David Johnson (University of Michigan) and Mary O'Mahony (King's College London).

The three out-going co-opted members are Ann Lisbet Brathaug (Statistics Norway), Ilya Voskoboynikov (Higher School of Economics, Moscow) and Dean Joliffe (World Bank).

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 either electronically or in hard copy format as part of the membership benefits. The editors are Conchita d'Ambrosio from the University of Luxembourg and Prasada Rao from the University of Queensland.

The annual report of the editors covering the period from August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020, will be posted on the IARIW website at <http://www.iariw.org/EditorialReport2020.pdf>.

The highlights of the report include the following: (Editors report not yet received)

- Number of submissions, excluding supplementary issues, during the reporting year declined to 288 from 303.
- The impact factor recorded an increase in 2018-2019 to 1.206 from 1.211 in 2017-2018.

Website and Social Media

In 2019-2020, the IARIW worked on the modernization of its website, although the structure remains the same. The new website will be released in September 2020. The IARIW has also expanded its social media presence, increasing the number of followers on Twitter building and expanding its use of Facebook.

Acknowledgements

A large number of persons and institutions have contributed to the successful operation of the IARIW in the 12-month period from August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020. I would like to particularly thank the following persons for their contributions to this success: IARIW institutional members whose support ensures the financial sustainability of the organization; the IARIW Council for its strong support of all activities; Marshall Reinsdorf for leadership as IARIW President; Ann Lisbet Brathaug and colleagues for local organization of the 36th IARIW General Conference in Oslo ; Conchita D'Ambrosio and Prasada Rao for editing the *Review of Income and Wealth*; the Wiley staff for the production of the *Review of Income and Wealth*; Frouin Group for auditing services; and CSLS staff, especially Inez Hillel and Monika Sofrenovic for assistance with administrative matters.

Best Regards,

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Ottawa, Canada
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