

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN INCOME AND WEALTH

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ANDREW SHARPE (*Executive Director*)

Memorandum

To: Members in the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth

From: Andrew Sharpe, IARIW Executive Director

Date: May 31, 2006

Subject: Update on IARIW Activities

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the members of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth on our current activities.

The 29th General IARIW Conference, which is being held in Joensuu, Finland August 20-26, is less than three months away. Statistics Finland has done an excellent job in the organization of this conference. We are expecting record attendance. I hope as many members as possible will be able to participate in this important event. Please note that because of our migration to email distribution, members will not be receiving hard copies of conference registration materials. This information is posted on the conference registration website maintained by Statistics Finland, which is www.stat.fi/iariw2006/.

Please note that the **deadline for registering for the conference is July 1**. After that date accommodation is not guaranteed.

The conference program updated as of May 31 is posted at www.iariw.org/c2006.asp.

All conference paper givers will have recently received, or will receive shortly, an email from their session chair informing them of the details of the session.

The Association's improved financial position has allowed us to institute a program for the provision of financial assistance to paper givers to cover partial expenses associated with participation in the conference. The program is especially targeted to our members in medium and low-income countries. We are pleased to report that 16 paper givers have been awarded some financial support, including economists from

Turkey, Russia, Croatia, Kenya, Brazil, South Africa, China, Argentina, Bulgaria, and Moldova.

The IARIW has also instituted a conference bursary program to foster the professional development of economists working in the areas of national accounts and households surveys in the statistical agencies of the least developed countries. We have extended invitations to statistical agencies in 11 low-income African countries to nominate an economist or statistician working in the national accounts or households survey field who they believe could most benefit professionally from attending this year's General Conference. Up to five applicants will be selected on a competitive basis and these individuals will have their travel and accommodation expenses covered to attend the General Conference. The IARIW would like to thank the United Nations Statistical Office for assistance in the development of this program.

The IARIW is working with the National Bureau of Statistics of China on the organization of a conference on experiences and challenges in measuring national income and wealth in transition economies. The objectives of the conference will be to discuss issues related to the update of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and implications for China and other transition economies and to present recent studies on China and other transition economies in the areas of the measurement of growth and productivity, income distribution, and other macroeconomic variables. The conference will be held in Beijing in late September or early October 2007. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*. The formal call for organized sessions and papers will be released shortly and emailed to all IARIW members.

Members will be receiving by mail the June 2006 issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* shortly.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible in August at the General Conference.