

# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN INCOME AND WEALTH

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ANDREW SHARPE (*Executive Director*)

## Memorandum

TO: IARIW Members

FROM: IARIW Executive Director Andrew Sharpe

DATE: March 8, 2005

SUBJECT: Update on IARIW Activities

This has been a major period of transition for the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW), with the move of the secretariat from New York to Ottawa. The purpose of this memorandum is to update the membership on current and future developments related to the Association.

I am pleased to report that the revised IARIW bylaws submitted to the membership in early January were unanimously approved. The bylaws were submitted to the Canadian authorities for incorporation of the Association as a not-for-profit organization and our application was approved in late January. One change in the bylaws required by Canadian corporate law is that the Association hold an annual meeting. In non-general conference years such as 2005, it is planned that this meeting will take place via teleconference, with documents made available in advance. The details of the 2005 annual meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for September, will be worked out in coming months.

Plans are proceeding well for the next biennial general IARIW conference which will take place August 20-26, 2006 in Joensuu, Finland. Statistics Finland is hosting this event. Details on the proposed sessions can be found on the front page of the Association's website ([www.iariw.org](http://www.iariw.org)) and in the announcements section of the forthcoming March issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*. The deadline for submission of proposals to the session organizers is August 31, 2005. An important innovation for next year's conference is the increase from two to six in the number of submitted paper sessions where the topic has not been decided in advance. The conference organizing committee will decide the topics for these sessions on the basis of the proposals received. Members are strongly encouraged to submit proposals either for one of the sessions where the topic has already been selected or for one of the sessions where the topic is to be determined at a later date.

Members will be receiving shortly the March 2005 issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*, the first put together by our new Editors Bart van Ark from the University of Groningen and Stephan Klasen from the University of Göttingen. The lead article is the first Ruggles Lecture, delivered by long-time IARIW member Angus Maddison at the Cork conference last August. His topic is the contours of the world economy and the art of macro-measurement. Members should have recently received notification from Blackwell of procedures and passwords for accessing the journal on Blackwell's Synergy website. PDF files for the year 2001 were recently added to the Association web archives of the journal, with all issues from 1966 to 2001 inclusive freely accessible (and searchable) at [www.roiw.org](http://www.roiw.org).

In response to many requests from the membership, we have developed an on-line credit card payment system by which individual members can pay their dues. We hope members find it user friendly. (Cheques and wire transfers of course will continue to be accepted.) In addition, an on-line application and information update form has also been developed. This form will facilitate new members joining the Association.

The web membership directory has been extensively updated. Members are asked to verify their information therein. Changes can be made on-line through the application and information update form. Members are especially encouraged to provide a valid and up-to-date e-mail address if their information does not already include one.

Individual members who have not pre-paid their 2005 membership dues will find an invoice for these dues enclosed. No invoices will be sent out to individual members who have pre-paid for 2005 or to individuals covered by their organization's institutional membership. Institutions will be billed for their 2005 membership dues in late March or early April.

The Association has a number of objectives that it hopes to achieve, including the following.

- We would like to increase both individual and institutional memberships from developing countries, which currently account for only around 10 per cent of the membership. The IARIW is considering organizing, with the support of China's National Bureau of Statistics, a conference on an aspect of national accounts with a strong policy relevance in Beijing in 2007. This event may be useful for raising the Association's profile in the developing world, particularly in Asia.
- We would also like to improve the usefulness of the Association's website for members by adding links to related associations/organizations and data sources, and a website section where members can discuss and debate topics of mutual interest such as teaching materials for courses on national accounts or income distribution.

Members are invited to contact me with any suggestions on ways to achieve the two objectives outlined above, as well as on any other issues of concern.