

IARIW-ICRIER Conference on “Experiences and Challenges in Measuring Income, Inequality, and Poverty in South Asia” November 23-25, 2017, Delhi, India

Background and Motivation

The International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW), established in 1947, organizes conferences on topics related to income and wealth throughout the world, generally in partnership with national statistical offices.¹ In addition to its biennial General Conference the IARIW also organizes special conferences in non-General Conference years. In 2017, the IARIW plans to organize a special conference on the measurement of income, inequality and poverty in South Asia in partnership with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). This document presents a proposal for this event.

Objective of Conference

In recent years there has been much progress in raising income and reducing poverty in many countries of South Asia, and in the measurement of these phenomena. Yet much remains to be done.

The objective of this special IARIW-ICRIER conference is to advance our understanding on issues related to income, inequality, and poverty in the countries of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, and the Maldives) through an examination of past experiences related to the measurement of trends in these variables and the identification of future measurement challenges. Papers are invited in the following theme areas:

- National Accounts;
- Productivity;
- Poverty and Inequality;
- Human Capital and Education;
- Regional Integration and Global Value Chains;
- Well-being, including Health, Food Security and Hunger;
- Labour market, Skills and Jobs; and
- Structural Transformation in South Asia.

¹ For example, national statistical offices that have co-organized special conferences with the IARIW include the National Bureau of Statistics of China (2007), Statistics South Africa (2011), IBGE, Brazilian statistical office (2013), and CAPMAS, the Egyptian statistical office (2015). The IARIW has also co-organized two special conferences with the OECD (2011 and 2015) and one with the University of New South Wales (2013) and the South Asia Institute of Management in Nepal (2009). Since 2006 IARIW general conferences have been co-organized with Statistics Finland (2006), Statistics Slovenia (2008), the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (2010), the US Bureau of Economic Analysis (2012), Statistics Netherlands (2014), and the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (2016), and will be organized with Statistics Denmark (2018).

Papers may be on specific South Asian countries, comparisons between two or more South Asian countries, or comparisons between countries in South Asia and other parts of the world.

Size, Date and Location

The number of delegates attending IARIW special conferences in the past has been between 100 and 150. A similar number is expected for this conference.

The conference will be hosted by ICRIER and will take place November 23-25, 2017 at the India Habitat Centre in Delhi, India. National Statistical Office in South Asia will be invited to participate in the conference.

Conference Program

The conference will take place over a three day period. The first two days will be devoted to the program and the third day will feature an excursion to Agra to visit the Taj Mahal. There will be a farewell dinner the evening of the second day of the conference.

The conference program will include paper sessions, keynote addresses, panels, and a farewell dinner. One panel will be on national accounts challenges in South Asia, with speakers invited from South Asian National Statistical Offices.

It is expected that there will be 20-30 papers presented in plenary sessions. If there are a large number of high quality submissions, parallel sessions and/or a poster session may be added.

Program Committee

A program committee composed of experts in the well-being research area will be formed to oversee the development of the conference program. Barbara Fraumeni, a past chair of the IARIW and Kusum Deb Das Professor of Economics at the University of Delhi and an ICRIER Associate will co-chair the program committee. Confirmed members of the committee include Martin Rama, Chief Economist for South Asia at the World Bank, Rajat Kathuria, Director and Chief Executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), Prasada Rao (University of Queensland and Editor of the Review of Income and Wealth and a representative from the Reserve Bank of India. The role of this committee is to identify potential paper givers to be invited to submit proposals and to make decisions on the proposals received.

Organizational Responsibilities

The organization of the conference will be divided between the IARIW secretariat and the ICRIER. The IARIW secretariat will assume responsibility for communications with all conference paper givers and maintain the conference program on the IARIW website. The ICRIER will assume responsibility for the conference website, conference registration, and local arrangements.

The IARIW will cover the costs for paper givers in need of financial assistance, expenses of keynote speakers, and the cost of the special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* that will contain selected papers from the conference. ICRIER will cover the costs of the venue, meals, including the farewell dinner, and the excursion.

There will be no registration fee for the conference, but all attendees, except those invited by ICRIER, must be IARIW members, or join the IARIW. If not provided financial assistance by the IARIW, delegates are responsible for their own travel costs, and hotel.

The IARIW will provide some financial assistance to paper givers on a needs basis. The IARIW Financial Assistance Committee will consist of the IARIW President and IARIW Treasurer.

Selected papers from IARIW special conferences are normally published in special or supplementary issues of the *Review of Income and Wealth*. RIW Editor Prasada Rao will serve as editor of the issue, with the assistance from Barbara Fraumeni and Deb Kusum Das. Conference paper givers are given three months to revise their papers after the conference and then to formally submit the paper to the *Review of Income and Wealth* for possible for inclusion in the issue. All submissions go through the normal *RIW* review process.

Persons interested in presenting a paper at the conference are asked to submit an abstract or proposal of 1,000-1,500 words through the web tool posted at www.iariw.org/2017india. The deadline for submissions is February 28, 2017.

Timelines

October, 2016	Announcement of Call for Papers
February 28, 2017	Deadline for Receipts of Paper Proposals
March 31, 2017	Decisions on Proposals and Release of Preliminary Conference Program
April 30, 2017	Deadline for Applications for Financial Assistance
May 31, 2017	Decisions on Financial Assistance
October 31, 2017	Deadline for Receipt of Papers for Posting on IARIW Website
November 23-25, 2017	Conference
February 28, 2018 Issue	Deadline for Submission of Papers for RIW Special Issue
Spring 2019	Release of RIW Special Issue