

## **Annual Report of the Executive Director on IARIW Activities, August 1, 2020-July 31, 2021**

This report provides an overview of the activities of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) from August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021. Unfortunately, the in-person conferences planned for this period were either postponed or turned into virtual events because of the pandemic. The three main activities in 2020-2021 were:

- in partnership with Statistics Norway, the 36<sup>th</sup> IARIW General Conference that was to be held in person in Oslo, Norway August 24-28, 2020, was postponed one year and turned into a virtual conference to be held August 23-26, 2021;
- in partnership with the UK Economic Statistics Centre for Excellence (ESCoE), the IARIW organized the conference “Measuring Intangible Assets and Their Contribution to Growth” that was to be held in June 2021 in London. Because of the pandemic this conference, which will remain an in-person event, was postponed to November 11-12, 2021; and
- in partnership with the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics, the IARIW organized the conference “Measuring Income, Wealth and Well-being in Africa” that was to take place in October 2021 in Arusha, Tanzania. Because of the pandemic, this conference, which will remain an in-person event, was postponed to April 14-16, 2022.

### **Financial Report**

In 2020, the IARIW recorded a net income of \$117,928 (all figures are in US dollars). There was an operating surplus of \$67,630, based on expenses of \$210,896 and operating revenues of \$278,526. Operating costs were lower than expected in 2020 because of the postponement of the General Conference.

The operating surplus was augmented by realized and unrealized market gains of \$50 298 due to an improvement in financial markets by December 2020, following the severe downturn precipitated by the pandemic in March 2020.

Net assets of the Association on December 31, 2020 were \$1,525,908, up 8.4 per cent from \$1,407,980 on December 31, 2019.

Once approved by the Council, the audited financial report for 2020 will be posted on the website at <https://iariw.org/iariw-final-afs-2020>.

With no in-person General Conference in 2021, as well as the considerable improvement in financial markets, a significant surplus is projected.

## Membership

On July 31, 2021, the IARIW had a total of 405 members, a 15.1 per cent fall from 477 on July 31, 2020. This decrease was due to the non-renewal of a large number of individuals who joined the Association in the fall of 2019 to participate in the two IARIW special conferences. IARIW membership is on a calendar year basis. Because these persons joined in the second half of the year, their membership was credited to 2020 and they failed to renew in 2021. The Association welcomed 43 new individual members from August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021 and had 102 individual member non-renewals.

Of the total membership, 294 were individual members (including 16 student members and 10 gratis members) and 121 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 <https://iariw.org/member-directory/>. This membership directory is now password protected.

The IARIW currently has 39 organizations which are institutional members (mostly central statistical agencies, but also some central banks and international organizations). In 2020-2021, the Association welcomed as a new institutional member the Institute for International Inequalities at the London School of Economics. Institutional members play a very important role in ensuring the financial sustainability of the Association and in hosting IARIW conferences. A list of the institutional members is posted at <https://iariw.org/membership/institutional-members/> 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 36<sup>th</sup> General Conference in Oslo August 24-28. Council decided in April 2020 to postpone the conference. However, it was decided to go ahead virtually with the plenary session on the SNA revisions and related international standards. A four-hour session was held on August 26, 2020. Over 150 persons from 23 national statistical offices and five international organizations participated. The agenda for the session with papers is found at <http://iariw.org/iariw-digital-session-on-the-sna-update-and-related-international-standards-wednesday-august-26-2020/>.

In early 2021, Council decided to make the 36<sup>th</sup> General Conference a virtual instead of an in-person event because of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic. The conference is scheduled to run four days from Monday, August 23 to Thursday, August 26, with two two-hour sessions per day. Statistics Norway is hosting the event, organizing the digital conference platform and the opening plenary session on the economic and social consequences of the pandemic. The conference program includes 100 papers in 25 regular sessions (one IARIW-organized plenary and 24 concurrent sessions) and 20 poster papers.

The IARIW has also organized a virtual training session on the SNA to be given by Brent Moulton from the IMF, formerly Deputy Director at the US Bureau of Economic Analysis. The course will run four hours per day from August 16 to August 19. The response to the course has been excellent, with 115 persons including representation from eight national statistical offices and several international organizations registered. This strong demand for on-line training may have implications for how the Association organizes such sessions at future General Conferences.

### **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 37<sup>th</sup> IARIW General Conference in Luxembourg August 22-26, 2022. Proposals for sessions will be presented and voted on at the members meeting on August 27, 2021. Because of the one-year delay in the holding of the 36th General Conference, there will only be 12 months, not the usual 24 months, for the organization of the 37th IARIW General Conference.

### **Special Conferences**

The IARIW organizes special or regional conferences in non-General Conference years. In 2021, this tradition was to continue, with one special conference planned for June 2021 and a second for October 2021. The pandemic forced the postponement of both conferences.

The IARIW, in partnership with the Economic Statistics Centre for Excellence (ESCoE), organized the special conference “Measuring Intangible Assets and Their Contribution to Growth.” The co-chairs of the Program Committee were Rebecca Riley from ESCoE and Mary O’Mahony from King’s College London. The preliminary program with 24 papers and two keynote speakers (Jonathan Haskel from Imperial College and Dan Sichel from Wellesley College) was released in the winter of 2021. The program is posted at <https://iariw.org/Program-IARIW-ESCoE-2021/> The conference was to take place in London, England June 24-25, 2021. Because of travel restrictions related to the pandemic, the conference has been postponed to November 11-12, still in London. It will be held as an in-person event. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

The IARIW, in partnership with the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics, organized the special conference “Income, Wealth and Well-being in Africa”. The chair of the Program Committee is Lars Osberg from Dalhousie University. The preliminary program with 36 papers and two keynote speakers was released in the spring of 2021. The program is posted at <https://iariw.org/iariw-tnbs-conference-program/> The conference was to take place in Arusha, Tanzania October 7-9, 2021. Because of travel restrictions related to the pandemic, the conference has been postponed to April 14-16, 2022. It will be held as an in-person event. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

## **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 was 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.

The IARIW organized sessions at the WSC in 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019. Because the 2021 WSC took place in July very close to the IARIW General Conference in August, it was decided that the IARIW would not organize a session at the event. Consideration will be given to organize a session at the WSC Conference in Ottawa in the summer of 2023.

## **IARIW Council**

The most recent Council election was held in June 2020 for the 2020-2022 term, with the results reported in the annual report for 2019-2020. There were no changes in Council membership in 2020-2021.

## ***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, 2020 to July 31, 2021, will be posted on the IARIW website at [https://iariw.org/review-of-income-wealth/annual-report-of-the-editors/roiw\\_editorial\\_report\\_2021\\_final/](https://iariw.org/review-of-income-wealth/annual-report-of-the-editors/roiw_editorial_report_2021_final/).

The highlights of the report include the following:

- the registered impact factor (IF) increased in the last four years from 0.990 in 2016 to 1.402 in 2019. The IF jumped to 2.122 for the current editorial year, 2020. The boost registered in the current IF is in part due to a modification in the method followed by Clarivate to compute IF of all journals. The journal ranking in Economics has risen in the last year from 189/373 to 168/377.
- the number of submissions during the reporting year, excluding supplement issues, increased to 376 papers in 2020-2021. This is up from 279 manuscripts in 2015-16, 302 in 2016-17, 299 in 2017-18, 287 in 2018-19 and 335 in 2019-2020.

- in Issue 4 of Volume 66 in 2020 and Issues 1 to 3 of Volume 67 of 2021 39 original articles, an obituary and one book review were published.

## **Website and Social Media**

In December 2020 the IARIW launched a new website. This website has a more modern look and was well received by the membership.

## **Acknowledgements**

A large number of persons and institutions have contributed to the successful operation of the IARIW in the difficult 12-month period from August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021. 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; Kevin Fox for leadership as IARIW President; Past President Marshall Reinsdorf for continuing on in his role as Chair of the Program Committee for the 36<sup>th</sup> General Conference; Ann Lisbet Brathaug and colleagues from Statistics Norway for local organization of the 36th IARIW General Conference as a virtual event; 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, Monika Sofrenovic, Rachel Hammond and Abrar Arif for assistance with administrative matters.

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