

**Minutes of IARIW Members Meeting, August 22, 2018, Plenum Room, DGI-Byen Conference Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark (approved and revised August 27, 2021)**

**Chairs:** Albert Braakmann (Out-going President) and Marshall Reinsdorf (In-coming President)

The following documents were available to meeting participants in hard copy at the meeting:

- 1) Agenda for the 2018 Members Meeting
- 2) Session Proposals for the 36th IARIW General Conference

**Opening Remarks by President**

Albert Braakmann opened the meeting at 8:10 pm and thanked all members present for their attendance (approximately 60 persons in attendance including Council members)

The first item of business was the approval of the minutes of the 2016 Members Meeting, held on August 23, 2016 at the 34th IARIW General Conference in Dresden, Germany. The minutes were approved unanimously by the members.

Albert introduced to the membership the new President for 2018-2020, Marshall Reinsdorf (IMF); the four newly elected Council members for the 2018-2022 term, Charles Yuji Horioka (Asian Growth Research Institute, Japan), Robert Inklaar (University of Groningen, The Netherlands), Sabrina Pabilonia (US Bureau of Labor Statistics) and Catherine Van Rompaey (Statistics Canada) and the three co-opted Council members for 2018-2020, Ann Lisbet Brathaug (Statistics Norway), Dean Jolliffe (World Bank), and Ilya Voskoboynikov (Higher School of Economics, Russia).

Albert announced that the Council had approved the reappointment of Conchita D'Ambrosio and Prasada Rao for another five-year term as Managing Editors of the *Review of Income and Wealth* and Thesia Garner for another five-year term as Review Article Editor. He also announced the renewal of the IARIW's contract with the Centre for the Study of Living Standards for the provision of secretariat services for a five-year term.

Finally, Albert publically recognized the long term contribution to the Association of André Vanoli, from the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies in France, who since 1966 has only missed one IARIW General Conference.

**Report of the Executive Director**

IARIW Executive Director Andrew Sharpe provided an overview of the IARIW activities from August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018. The main developments of the past year were the preparation of the 35<sup>th</sup> IARIW General Conference in partnership with Statistics Denmark, the holding of the conference "Experiences and Challenges in Measuring Income, Inequality and Poverty in South Asia" in Delhi, India, November

23-25, 2017, the continuation of a strong financial performance with a net income surplus of \$151,815, and positive developments in membership.

### *Individual and Institutional Membership*

Andrew noted that the total membership had increased 5 per cent from 417 on July 31, 2017 to 436 on July 31, 2018. Of the 436 members, 309 were individual and 127 were institutional. The reduction of the annual individual membership fee from \$75 US to \$40 US for those who do not wish to receive a hard copy of the *Review of Income and Wealth* was popular among members, with two thirds of the renewing members and one half of the new members choosing this option.

Andrew also noted that the distribution of the membership by region has changed significantly, with 17 per cent of the membership from developing countries in 2018, up from 8 per cent in 2004.

### *Financial Assistance Program*

Andrew noted that \$50,000 was allocated in financial assistance to a total of 25 participants of the 2018 IARIW General Conference by the Financial Assistance Committee. The recipients were from 12 different countries, including Sudan, Gambia and Egypt. He also reported that the Bursary Program for National Statistical Offices from very poor countries, for which \$10,000 was allocated, had allowed five economists from Somalia, South Sudan, Niger, Uganda and Mozambique to attend the 35<sup>th</sup> General Conference.

For additional information, see the Annual Report of the Executive Director on IARIW Activities, August 1, 2017-July 31, 2018 available at <http://iariw.org/E2017-2018.pdf>.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

Treasurer Marshall Reinsdorf reported that the finances of the Association were in excellent shape. In 2017, the Association recorded net income surplus of \$151,815 (all figures are in US dollars) based on an operating loss of \$34,169, with expenses of \$251,509 and operating revenues of \$217,340. The operating loss was offset by investment income of \$73,231 and unrealized market gains of \$112,753.

Marshall also reported that net assets of the Association on December 31, 2017 were \$1,428,400, up 11.9 per cent from \$1,276,585 on December 31, 2016.

Marshall shared the Council's concern that the Association's ratio of net assets to annual spending is much higher than the recommended 1.5-2 to 1 ratio for non-profits. The Council has agreed to explore initiatives to reduce this ratio, a move supported by the membership.

For additional information on finances, see the Audited Financial Statement, 2017 available at <http://iariw.org/fin-2017.pdf>.

### **Report of Editors of the Review of Income and Wealth**

Conchita D'Ambrosio reported that the *Review of Income and Wealth* is doing very well. The rejection rate has gone up in the past two editorial years in an attempt to reduce the long backlog of articles waiting to be published in the 'hard copy' of the *Review of Income and Wealth* caused by the large number of submissions. The impact factor (the ratio of total citations to total articles published, in the previous two years) has increased sharply to 1.211 in 2017 from 0.990 in 2016. This increase, however, was erroneously computed, as it was recently discovered that articles from one full issue were missing in the calculation of the impact factor. This means the journal's impact factor in 2017 could be as low as 0.95 if no one has cited any of the articles included in the missing issue.

Given the importance of the impact factor, Conchita highlighted the negative effect that review articles have on the impact factor since they generate few citations. There was no consensus among the members as to how best to address this problem. Some members suggested publishing review articles online only but many members opposed this as it would take away the incentive to write a review article in the first place.

Conchita also mentioned the continuation of the practice of making a survey article commissioned by a leading scholar in a particular area freely accessible each year. The editors and Wiley will use the article to increase the social media presence of the RIW through Twitter.

For additional information, see the Review of Income and Wealth Editorial Report of the Editors, available at <http://iariw.org/EditorialReport2018.pdf>.

Thesia Garner, RIW Review Article Editor, presented the Kendrick Prize for 2017, awarded for the best paper in the Review of Income and Wealth in the previous year. The award is worth \$1,000 US. Based on 73 papers published in the Review of Income and Wealth over the previous year, the Kendrick prize committee awarded the Kendrick Prize to the following paper:

- Jorgen Modalsli, "Decomposing Global Inequality," September 2017, Series 63, Issue 3, pp.445-463.

The winner for 2016 was also announced.

- J Daniel Mesler and Iqbal Syed, "Life Cycle Price Trends and Product Replacement: Implications for the Measurement of Inflation," September 2016, Series 62, Number 3, pp. 509-533 [PDF](#)

### **Installment of the New President**

Albert Braakmann thanked Marshall Reinsdorf and Andrew Sharpe for their important contribution to the well functioning of the Association in the past two years. He then invited Marshall Reinsdorf to replace him on stage as the new president of the IARIW. Marshall Reinsdorf accepted and thanked Albert Braakmann for his commitment and good humor as President.

### **Reports on IARIW Conferences**

*IARIW-Bank of Korea Conference on Economic Well-being, Seoul, Korea, April 26-28, 2017*

Andrew Sharpe reported that the IARIW-Bank of Korea conference “Experiences and Challenges in the Measurement of Economic Well-being” held at the Westin Hotel in Seoul, Korea April 26-28, 2017 was very successful. With attendance of around 120 persons, a total of 30 papers were presented. There were two keynote speakers, Francois Bourguignon from the Paris School of Economics and Martine Durand, OECD Chief Statistician. A highlight for many was the excursion to the Demilitarized Zone on the third day. The conference generated a stimulating and insightful debate on future directions for well-being research. It also attracted a considerable number of new members to the Association. There will be a supplementary issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* based on selected papers from the conference, to be guest edited by Andrew Clark and Andrea Brandolini.

*2017 IARIW-ICRIER Special Conference in Delhi, India*

Andrew Sharpe reported that the IARIW-ICRIER Special Conference “Experiences and Challenges in Measuring Income, Inequality and Poverty in South Asia” in Delhi, India, which took place in November 23-25, 2017, was also a success. A total of 30 papers were presented and a keynote speech was given by Martin Rama, World Bank Chief Economist for the South Asia region. Selected papers from the conference, including a paper on Inequality in India coauthored by Thomas Piketty, will be published as a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* guest edited by Barbara Fraumeni and Deb Kusum Das.

*2019 Special IARIW-HSE Conference on Income and Wealth*

Ilya Voskoboynikov from the National Research University Higher School of Economics made a presentation on the 2019 IARIW-HSE Special Conference on Income and Wealth that will take place in Moscow, Russia September 17-18, 2019. The objective of this special IARIW-HSE conference is to advance knowledge related to measurement of income, wealth, inequality, poverty, and well-being in Eastern Europe and CIS countries, based on the specific historical circumstances and structural characteristics of this region. Branko Milanovic will be a keynote speaker. Specific topics on which the organizers are interested in receiving submissions include National Accounts framework for measurement of performance and globalization, the role of supply and use tables in understanding income and wealth, problems and challenges of regional PPPs, measurement and impact of abundance of natural resources on well-being and growth and consequences of the planned economy period on long-run growth and well-being. He noted that the call for papers will be posted in September 2018.

*2019 Special IARIW-World Bank Conference on Perspectives on Poverty Measurement*

Andrew Sharpe reported that the IARIW will be organizing a joint conference with the World Bank on Perspectives on Poverty Measurement to be held at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, November, 2019. The purpose of this proposed special conference is to draw lessons from the diverse literature on the conceptualization and measurement of poverty to help inform and shape how the international

development community moves forward in defining, measuring and monitoring poverty. The call for papers will be posted in November 2018.

#### *2020 General Conference in Norway*

Ann Lisbet Brathaug reported that preparations for the 2020 General Conference in Norway are going well. Statistics Norway is an experienced host as the conference has already been hosted there two times before. The city where it will be held is currently being finalized, with the options being Bergen, Stavanger and Oslo. Aware of the high cost of life in their country, Statistics Norway is trying to make the registration fee as low as possible. The conference will be held August 24-28, 2020.

#### **Discussion of Session Proposals for the 2020 General Conference**

A printed list of the 30 proposals submitted by members prior to the meeting was available for the meeting participants. The members who had drafted a session proposal for the 2020 General Conference were given one minute each to present their proposals. At the end of each presentation, the membership voted on whether the proposal should be included in the program. These preferences were used by the Council to decide on which proposed sessions to include in the 2020 program

#### **Other Business**

##### *Change in the Rule Regarding the Organization of Sessions in the General Conferences*

A motion was proposed to change the rule that states that session organizers cannot have a sole authored or jointly authored paper in any of the sessions they organize. After some discussion, the motion was voted on and passed. Session organizers can now have one sole authored or jointly authored paper in any of the sessions they organize.

##### *4 days versus 5 days Conference*

Some members complained about the shortened length of the General Conference (while it used to be a 5 days conference it was shortened to 4 days this year) arguing that it makes it less worth it for researchers travelling from far away. A representative from Statistics Denmark stated that they decided to shorten the length of the conference in order to reduce costs and to attract more researchers from statistical offices who might have otherwise not been able to attend. A member pointed out that the actual difference in the conference sessions length was only half a day since the excursion was no longer a full day trip but a half day trip instead. The president stated that these concerns would be discussed in the Council Members meeting.

Andrew Sharpe  
September 25, 2018