



## International Year of Statistics News

March 25, 2013

### Participation Easily Tops 1,800

Statistics2013 participation has streaked by the 1,800-participant mark and now is setting its sights on the next milestone: 2,000. Participation currently sits at 1,835 organizations and 121 countries. As a refresher, the individual participating organization count is three times the original goal of International Year of Statistics organizers. You can check out the updated participant and country lists at the [Statistics2013 website](http://www.statistics2013.org). If you know an organization interested in joining, please tell its representative to go to [www.statistics2013.org](http://www.statistics2013.org) and click on the “Join Statistics2013” icon on the right side of the homepage to become an official participating organization.

### Participating Organization: News & Events

Here’s the latest news on upcoming and recently concluded Statistics2013 meetings and events hosted by participating organizations:

**International**—In celebration of the International Year of Statistics, the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics’ (ENBIS) Greenfield Challenge is going international in 2013. The award recognizes statisticians who tell an outside audience about his or her work in statistics and thereby raise awareness of the public about the contributions of statistics to society. The communication can be through direct contact such as a presentation or an article in a publication. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.—the Greenfield Challenge sponsor—has increased substantially the award prize budget and may further increase it if the number and quality of submissions surpass expectations. The award submission deadline is May 31. To learn more about the Greenfield Challenge, past honorees and award criteria, go to [www.statistics2013.org](http://www.statistics2013.org) and click on the “ENBIS Greenfield Challenge” graphic on the homepage. An ENBIS committee will choose the most outstanding submissions to be awarded and presented at ENBIS—13 in Ankara, Turkey in September. Travel costs of the winner will be provided.

**International**—The Big Data Week Festival will be held worldwide the week of April 22 to 28. Big Data Week is one of the most unique global platforms of interconnected community events focusing on the social, political, technological and commercial impacts of Big Data. It brings together a global community of data scientists, data technologies, data visualizers and data businesses spanning six major commercial, financial, social and technological sectors:

- Media and Entertainment
- Health and Science
- Financial Sector
- Retail and Fast-Moving Consumer Goods
- Public and Government
- Social and Personal

Cities hosting Big Data Week events this year are London, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Perth, Shanghai, New York, Utrecht and Barcelona.

The festival connects a number of global cities through locally hosted meet-ups, events, networking functions, data visualization demos, debates, discussion and “hackathons.” Events are designed to provide a platform to educate, inform and inspire – organized by people who are passionate and knowledgeable about data. You can get involved by applying to add your city to the festival or submit your event in the cities already taking part at [www.bigdataweek.com](http://www.bigdataweek.com).

**Bulgaria**—On March 14 at the St. Cyril Methodius National Library, National Statistical Institute (NSI) President Reneta Indjova Ph.D. opened an exhibition titled "Bulgaria and the world in figures." Organized by the NSI and the National Library, the exhibition is part of the NSI's events to celebrate the Statistics2013 and its own 133rd anniversary. The exhibition is open at the National Library until April 15 after which it will travel to several cities across the country.



*A montage of photos from the opening of the National Statistical Institute's (NSI) "Bulgaria and the world in figures" exhibition.*

**Colombia**—The Agroindustrial Engineering Academic Program at the University La Gran Colombia has created the Statistical Consulting Center under the leadership of instructors Ximena Cifuentes, Maritza Torres and Luis Miguel Mejia, because of their experience in the concept, technological development and prospective techniques for innovation based on design and analysis of experiments applied in agroindustrial environments. The work has created an interaction between the university and companies in the region, including the state coffee producer, Quindio, which demonstrates and reinforces a culture that develops statistics on productivity and competitiveness. Particularly noteworthy is the participation of the statistics students, who have become an essential part of this process since the design of experiments is based on their daily lives.



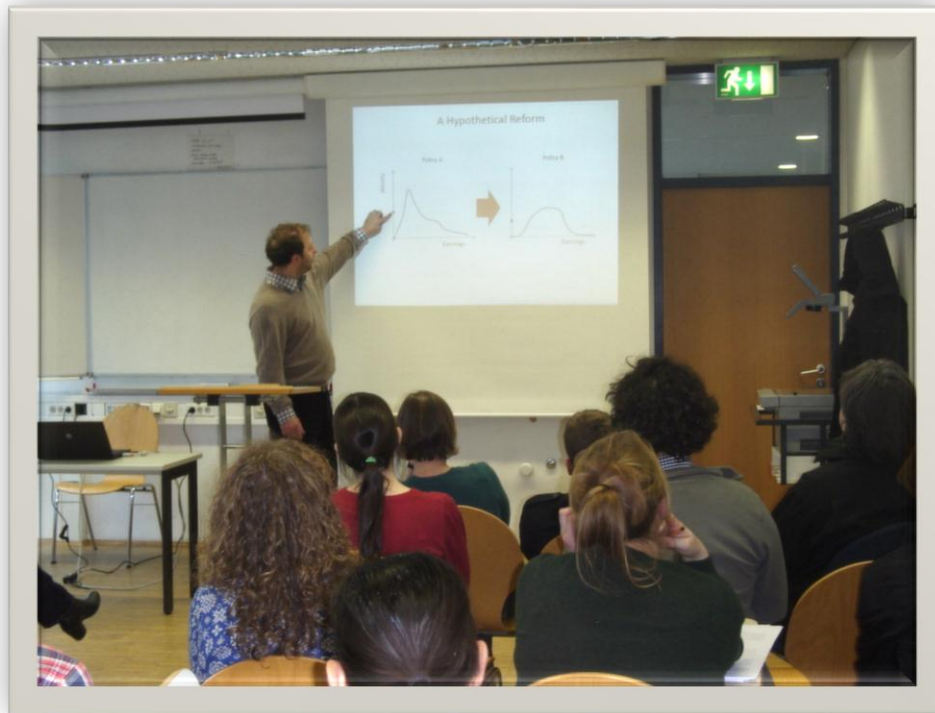
*Students and instructors of the Agroindustrial Engineering Academic Program at the University La Gran Colombia campus in La Santa María.*

**Spain**—The Catalan Statistical Society ([SCE](#)) and the Institute of Statistics of Catalonia ([IDESCAT](#)) are promoting a blog, called [e2013](#), devoted to Statistics2013 in order to foster a statistical view of everyday life. Also, the 4th annual competition for secondary school students called "The Nursery of Polls and Experiments" ([El Planter de Sondeigs i Experiments](#)) is joining Statistics2013 activities by sponsoring a special prize related to the [e2013](#) blog. The prize will be awarded to the best work inspired in the topics published in the [e2013](#) blog prior to March 30.

**Germany**—The University of Mannheim has developed a seminar series combining statistics and econometrics. This new series is named after [Alexander von Humboldt](#), whose quantitative work on botanical geography laid the foundation for the field of biogeography. The goal of the series is to improve the quality of economic research. Particular focus is paid to the evaluation of economic policy.

For example, on March 11, Dr. Patrick Kline gave a public talk titled: "What Distributional Impacts Mean: Welfare Reform Experiments and Competing Margins of Adjustment." In his study of the Connecticut

Jobs First program welfare reform, Dr. Kline combines nonparametric estimation methods with an economic model taking into account underreporting and program-participation decisions in order to understand what lies behind the distributional earnings impacts commonly found in the literature on welfare reform.



*Germany's University of Mannheim hosted Dr. Patrick Kline as part of its seminar series, named after Alexander von Humboldt, focusing on statistics and econometrics*

**Iran**—Two e-books are available for free download in Farsi as gifts in honor of the International Year of Statistics. The first, titled *Problems in Mathematical Statistics* (ISBN 964-7159-28-5), is about the main points and solved problems of *Statistical Inference in 2004* book by Professor Parsian, which is the main resource of advanced-degree statistics students in Iran. In response to many requests from students about the problems in Professor Parsian's book, Mr. Afshin Ashofteh and Dr. Vahid Fakoor, assistant professor of Ferdowsi University, decided to solve all the book's problems and its main educational points. The second book, titled *One Day with Statistics* (ISBN 8-625-318-964-978), is a new educational statistics storybook written by Ashofteh (<http://ir.linkedin.com/pub/afshin-ashofteh/66/25/293>) and published by Fatemi Publisher Company. Both books are being distributed for free with the hope of improving statistical literacy and statistics education in the country. [Click here to download each book.](#)

**India**—This year is going to be remembered in the history of Bayesian Statistics in India, not only because the country organized the International Workshop/Conference on Bayesian Theory and Applications (IWCBT) at Banaras Hindu University but also because the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) entrusted the country to hold its Regional Meeting perhaps for the first time



outside of Asia in the Indian subcontinent. Organizers are excited that they took up this challenge after a span of nearly eight years since they had last organized a major event. The DST Centre for Interdisciplinary Mathematical Sciences, a newly created interdisciplinary research centre, came forward to take a lead role in collaboration with the University's Department of Statistics. The event received worldwide support from various scientific communities and organizations.



*Dignitaries seated on the dais during the ISBA inaugural event (from the left) are: Umesh Singh, S.K. Upadhyay, Merlise Clyde, Jayanta Ghosh, James Berger, S.K. Sengupta, K.K. Singh and S. Tripathi.*

**Iran**—A talk about statistical literacy was held at Malayer University on National Day of Statistics by Afshin Ashofteh, board member of the Iranian Statistics Society and the International Statistical literacy Project coordinator for Iran. During this event, University students and instructors and local residents celebrated Statistics2013 and Iran's National Day of Statistics with a special talk, theater, traditional music and a short video about statistics.

**Spain**—The Spanish National Statistics Institute (INE) and the Statistical Studies Faculty of Complutense University of Madrid have organized their country's first Statistical Olympiad for secondary school students as part of the celebration of the International Year of Statistics. The purposed of the Olympiad is to promote statistical knowledge among students and to make teams work collaboratively while being advised by their teachers. Teams can join the competition until April 8. All the information (only in Spanish) is at: [www.ine.es/olimpiada](http://www.ine.es/olimpiada).

**International**—The International Statistical Institute (ISI) held a side event during last month's 44<sup>th</sup> United Nations Statistical Commission to celebrate Statistics2013. Speakers included ISI President Jae C.

Lee, Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the UN Statistical Division Ronald Jansen, International Association for Official Statistics President-elect Shigeru Kawasaki, American Statistical Association Executive Director Ronald L. Wasserstein, and ISI Director Ada van Krimpen.



*Speakers at the ISI Statistics2013 event during last month's 44<sup>th</sup> U.S. Statistical Commission meeting.*

**Russia**—As a vigorous supporter of Statistics2013, the National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) in Moscow has announced a series of activities to promote statistics as a profession in the country. The core objective of the campaign is to raise awareness of career opportunities in statistics among young people, including students at the HSE and beyond. Among the activities are:

- In February, Alexey Ponomarenko, professor and director of the HSE's International Institute for Statistical Education, spoke to HSE's in-house media about the cross-cutting contributions of statistics to the economy and society. He also unveiled the HSE's plans to encourage the discussion of statistical education and other related issues at various conferences and meetings. [The interview is available in English here.](#)
- HSE's International Institute for Statistical Education [helped establish a dedicated website](#) in Russian that will be the main channel to reach out to the audience at the school and other Russian universities throughout 2013.
- Next month, HSE will host the XIV International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development in Moscow. This is a leading economic conference in Russia and is supported by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Statistics has been chosen as a topical issue and will be addressed in one of the largest sections. [The conference agenda is available in English here.](#)

- The newly reformed Department of Statistics of the HSE Faculty of Economics will hold the 4th student and postgraduate international conference on Statistical Methods of Analysis of the Economy and Society May 14 to 16 in Moscow. The conference, which will celebrate Statistics2013, is supported by the Federal State Statistics Service, the national statistical office in Russia. [A website is available in Russian](#). Additional information can be [obtained via email](#).
- Evgeniy Yasin, who is the HSE academic supervisor, is the chair of HSE's Statistics2013 Organizing Committee.

**Spain**—The Department of Statistics and Operations Research of Technical University of Catalonia held a roundtable titled “Trials and Truths” on March 8. Cosponsored by the Catalan Statistical Society and FME, the event featured speakers Rosa Lamarca, head of clinical statistics, Almirall, Barcelona; and Stephen Senn, director of the Competence Center in Methodology and Statistics, Luxembourg. During her presentation, “Time to change disclosing clinical trials”, Lamarca talked about the shift in the position of regulators and journals toward making data publicly available. Senn discussed the quality and significance of the results published in biomedical research journals.



*“Trials and Truths” participants earlier this month at the Technical University of Catalonia in Barcelona.*

**United Kingdom**—The Statistical Laboratory at the University of Cambridge is hosting [a series of four talks by high-profile speakers](#) as part of its International Year of Statistics activities. The talks are:

- April 29—Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, of NICE, *Failings in hierarchies of evidence for controversial health-policy decisions*
- May 22—Tim Harford, of More or Less, *Numbers are weapons: a self-defence guide*
- May 28—Professor Sir John Beddington FRS FRSE, *What’s happening to the world*
- June 29—Professor David J. Spiegelhalter OBE FRS, *Putting life into numbers—how statistical science has transformed health care*

**Thailand**— As part of the International Year of Statistics, professors of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Thammasat University held free R and SAS training sessions on February 23 and 25 at the Rangsit Campus. More than 80 participants—alumni, undergrad students and faculty members—spent six hours each day improving their skills using each software. Participant feedback was positive.



*Participants listen intently at the free R and SAS training sessions at Thammasat University.*

**Mexico**—The Mathematics Research Center (CIMAT) continues to develop its video series called "A look at statistics from the viewpoint of other fields." Recently released chapters document views on the role and impact of statistics in emigration policies and the production of tequila (the popular Mexican beverage). A leading goal of the video series is to enhance communication of the importance of statistics and the need to make statistics a part of the curricula of diverse areas, including law, biology, social work, planning and engineering. [You can see the video series here](#). Also, a series of inter-institutional special seminars were launched in Mexico to celebrate the International Year of Statistics. Professor Thomas Mikosch of the University of Copenhagen delivered a March 19 lecture at CIMAT in Guanajuato and at IIMAS-UNAM in Mexico City March 21. These seminars are a joint effort of several Mexican institutions: ITAM, UAM, UNAM and CIMAT. [Get information here](#).

### **Use New Event Submission Forms on Website**

We have developed two new web-based forms that will make it easier for you to submit your organization's Statistics2013 events as well as a summary and photos after the event.

The first form—called the "Event Submission Form for the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar"—provides you a quick and simple way to submit information about your organization's planned Statistics2013



events. All you have to do is input into the form the requested information and press the “Submit” button. We’ll then take your information and post it to the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar. [You can access this form here.](#)

The second form—titled “Statistics2013 Post-Event Information & Photo Submission Form”—enables you to let us know about the success of your completed event and to submit up to two photos. On this form, you are prompted for information about your event and you also can input a brief summary (up to 1,750 characters). After you submit information about your organization’s event, we’ll run your photos and stories in this newsletter so others can see the creative and fun ways that your organization is promoting the International Year of Statistics. [Click here to access this form.](#)

### **National Statistical Organizations: News & Events**

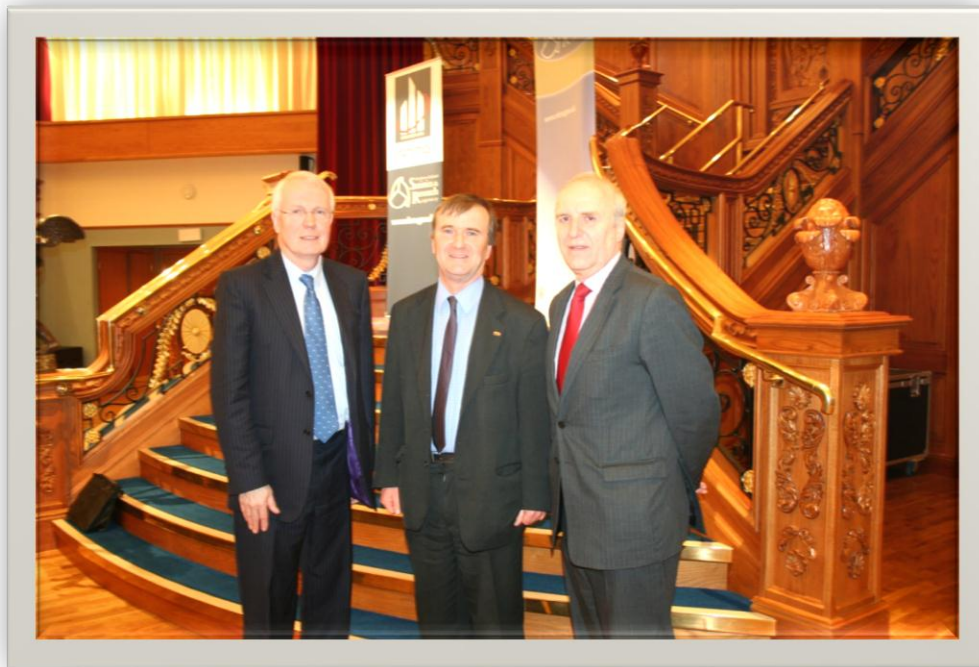
Here’s the latest news on upcoming and recently concluded Statistics2013 meetings and events conducted by national statistical organizations (NSO):

**Lithuania**— Statistics Lithuania has conducted a Statistics2013 photo contest, titled “Statistics in Pictures. A total of 115 photos reflecting the social and economic life of the country were submitted. All photos, viewable on Statistics Lithuania’s [Facebook](#) page, were judged by Statistics Lithuania representatives and professional press and art photographers. Winners of the best photos received special prizes. Twelve of the winning photos will be published on the monthly covers of a publication—*Economic and Social Development in Lithuania*—throughout 2013. An exhibition of all submitted photos is being held at the Statistics Lithuania offices in Vilnius.



*The winning entry by Inga Liauskiene for Statistics Lithuania’s “Statistics in Pictures” photo competition.*

**Northern Ireland**—The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) conducted its biennial conference—themed “The Significance of Statistics”—over a two-day period last month. Held at the iconic Titanic Building in Belfast, the event marked the agency’s celebration of the International Year of Statistics and featured three plenary sessions and 10 parallel sessions. The keynote presentations were given by Andrew Dilnot, chair of the United Kingdom Statistics Authority, and Jil Matheson, the United Kingdom’s national statistician. NISRA staff also enjoyed presentations by colleagues in the parallel sessions, which served to highlight the wide range of work taking place across the agency in terms of statistical and research methodologies, new data collections, interesting and insightful analyses and thoughtful reflections of NISRA’s work in the United Kingdom and global contexts.



*From left to right, Stephen Peover, Northern Ireland permanent secretary of the Department of Finance and Personnel; Will Haire, Northern Ireland permanent secretary of the Department of Social Development; and Norman Caven, chief executive of the NISRA, at NSO’s conference last month.*

### **Statistics2013 Celebrating “World Day” Events**

Earlier this month, the International Year of Statistics honored women worldwide and women statisticians on International Women’s Day (March 8). As part of the celebration, a press release was distributed to Statistics2013 participating organizations. Numerous participants either posted the Statistics2013-prepared release on their website or shared it with the media or conducted their own International Women’s Day activity. Here are links to examples of a participating organization’s use of the Statistics2013 press release and a national statistical organization initiative, respectively:

- [Sweden](#)
- [Slovenia](#)

This is the first of several “World Day” celebrations in which Statistics2013 will participate throughout the year. Upcoming “World Day” observances to which Statistics2013 can logically conduct tie-in promotions via the public website and press releases provide to your organization are:

- World Health Day—April 7
- International Clinical Trials Day—May 20
- World Environment Day—June 5
- World Population Day—July 11
- International Literacy Day—September 8
- World Teacher's Day—October 5
- International Students Day—November 17

We highly encourage your organization to participate in these tie-in promotional activities. These are an excellent way to extend the message of Statistics2013 to new audiences.

### **New Promotional Resource Available on Website**

The *Significance* magazine poster promoting Statistics2013 is now available for download from the [Statistics2013 Posters section](#) of the International Year of Statistics website. At this page you will find a total of four posters for your use in promoting the International Year of Statistics to your organization’s public audiences. Those posters are:

- The “Bubbles” poster
- The “Statistics in Various Languages” poster
- The newly added “*Significance*” magazine poster (this poster is 19MB, so expect slower than normal download)
- And, a poster provided by the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics titled “I want to be a statistician like my mommy”

Use these posters to spread the word about the International Year of Statistics in your community or at your school or place of work. Simply print copies of each Statistics2013 poster and display these in several high-traffic, visible locations at your school (e.g., library, student union), office building, public library, favorite coffee shop, or other popular meeting spot.

### **Significance, RSS Young Statisticians Sponsoring Writing Competition**

A writing competition, the second jointly sponsored by the Young Statisticians Section of the [Royal Statistical Society](#) (RSS) and *Significance* magazine, will celebrate The International Year of Statistics. The first competition, held in 2012, was hugely success with 24 entries; four were published in the magazine. Anyone is welcome to enter, regardless of membership or affiliation. The only stipulation for the competition is that you be “young” (in career terms, not necessarily in age); that is you must be a

student or within the first 10 years of your career. Before sitting down to compose your article, the organizers suggest that you can read [last year's winning entry](#) and a [runner-up entry](#) plus [learn more about the writing competition](#) and what makes a submitted article stand out. In light of the success of last year's competition, the sponsors are encouraging more young writers to put pen to paper—or fingers to keyboard! Entries should be submitted via email to [significance@rss.org.uk](mailto:significance@rss.org.uk) as a text or Word file or as a PDF. The submission deadline is June 1. *Significance* is published jointly by the RSS and the [American Statistical Association](#) and is for anyone interested in statistics and the analysis and interpretation of data.

### **Check out Website for Activities & Ideas**

On an almost daily basis, we are adding new items to the [Activities Calendar](#) on the [Statistics2013](#) website. This list is an excellent place for finding activities in which you and your organization can participate to celebrate Statistics2013. It also is a great place to see what other organizations around the world are doing to mark the celebration and use those ideas as the starting point for your group to brainstorm ideas of its own. Check out the Activities Calendar today and start planning your organization's event! And when your event's plans are finalized, go to the "[Event Submission Form for the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar](#)"—to submit key information about it to us and to let other participating organizations know what your group is doing to celebrate Statistics2013.

### **Statistics2013 Website is for You!**

Since the [Statistics2013 website](#) was launched, we have received numerous requests from participants seeking permission to link to the site and use its content—particularly the [posters](#) and the [downloadable flyer](#)—in their public promotional efforts.

The website is filled with information to educate the public about how statistics improves their lives, the work of statisticians as well as careers in the statistical sciences. We invite and encourage all International Year of Statistics participating organizations to make use of these resources.

If you have not visited the site yet, take the time soon to peruse its public-oriented informational content, including these helpful resource areas:

- *What is Statistics?*—An explanation in layman's language
- *Stats2013AtSchool*—A statistics quiz for school students
- *Statistics2013 Video*—The informative two-and-a-half-minute video: [Why Statistics is Important to You](#)
- *Statistics as a Career*—Information about the work of statisticians and careers in statistics
- *Teacher Resources*—Primary and secondary school resources, a downloadable flyer and posters

There also is a section dedicated to participating organizations, titled "Statistics2013 Global Supporters", where you can access the roster of participating organizations, a comprehensive list of Statistics2013 activities, and the official Statistics2013 logos in various languages.



## Use the Statistics2013 Video

We encourage your organization and its members to use and share the International Year of Statistics video. Created by [SAS Institute](#), the video relates the many and varied ways that statistics impacts our lives. The video is accessible at [www.statistics2013.org](http://www.statistics2013.org).

You can:

- view the video
- post the video to your organization's website
- e-mail the link to your members/employees
- share it with your organization's stakeholders
- promote it to the public, media and other external audiences in your area or country
- show it at your meetings and other events

The video narration is in English. However, thanks to SAS and many Statistics2013 participants who are providing translations, subtitles are being added in other languages. Currently available languages are:

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| • Catalan          | • Indonesian            |
| • Czech            | • Italian               |
| • Dutch            | • Portuguese (Portugal) |
| • Euskara (Basque) | • Russian               |
| • English          | • Spanish (Mexico)      |
| • French           | • Swedish               |
| • German           | • Turkish               |

To access these subtitles, follow these easy instructions:

- Press "Play" on the video
- Click the "CC" button to see the list of subtitle options
- Click on the desired language (the subtitles will appear onscreen)

We will be adding other subtitled languages soon, so check the video frequently to see if your language is available.

If you want the video subtitled in your country's language, please e-mail [Jeffrey@amstat.org](mailto:Jeffrey@amstat.org) to request a copy of the script that you can translate.

## Official Statistics2013 Logos

With the move to the new public website, the link to the Statistics2013 logo and the various language-specific versions has changed. That new direct link is:

<http://www.statistics2013.org/iynos/logos.cfm>

Be sure to save the link in your web favorites.

You also can access the logos page by going to the “[Statistics2013 Global Supporters](#)” area of [www.statistics2013.org](http://www.statistics2013.org) and then clicking on “[Resources](#)” in the pull-down menu. The link to the logos is listed first on the page.

### **Language-Specific Logos Available**

The Statistics2013 logo is available in [34 languages](#) and we are ready create new ones for you. To have a version of the logo created in your language, please e-mail the following to [Jeffrey@amstat.org](mailto:Jeffrey@amstat.org):

- The interpretation of the phrase “International Year of Statistics” in the appropriate font in this format: International Year of Statistics=“The interpreted phrase”
- The interpretation of the phrase “Participating Organization” in the appropriate font in this format: Participating Organization=“The interpreted phrase”
- A high-resolution PDF document or a tif file of the interpretations of the phrases “International Year of Statistics” and “Participating Organization”. (This file will be used to compare against the font to ensure it was transmitted properly. If it doesn't compare accurately, we will use the image of the interpretations from the PDF or tif in the logo instead. This step will ensure accuracy of your logo.)

Once your language-specific logo is created, it will be posted to the Statistics2013 website [here](#) and we will send you an email to let you know the logo is available for download.

### **Follow Us on Twitter, Facebook**

Get the latest International Year of Statistics news and updates by following us on Twitter at @Statistics2013. Also, when you use Twitter to spread the word about Statistics2013, be sure to use the hashtag #STATS2013. You also can become a “friend” of Statistics2013 on our [Facebook](#) page.