



International Year of Statistics News

September 9, 2013

Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop Only Two Months Away: We Seek Your Input

The [Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop](#), the capstone event of the International Year of Statistics, will be held November 11 and 12 in London, United Kingdom. The workshop will bring together statisticians from around the world, scientists who collaborate with statisticians, science writers and representatives from funding agencies.

Participation is by invitation only and will be limited to approximately 100 people. **However, all will be able to view the workshop via the web** thanks to [Wiley Publishers](#).

In addition to statisticians, the workshop will involve representatives from other areas of science and practice that involve problems of a statistical nature. The workshop will be organized around presentations and panels.

Further, we seek the input of all interested parties. One of the major outcomes of the workshop will be a paper—written by a professional science writer—that will be targeted to funding agencies. These agencies must understand the statistical sciences and have a sense of where the profession is heading. To help us prepare this paper, and to help set the tone for the workshop, we invite you to submit a brief statement describing your perspective on the current and near-term future state of the statistical sciences you are most familiar with. We will compile all of the perspectives to develop a global view. But we want to be sure to hear each voice.

Also, if you'd be willing to do so, we would benefit from your comments on the questions in the titles of these breakout sessions at the workshop:

- Core of the Discipline: Does it Exist?
- Large-Scale Statistical Science (Big Data, Data Science, Data Mining, Etc.): What are the Implications?
- Workforce Development, Graduate Education, Online Learning: How Will We Meet the Demand?
- Statistics and Society: Impact on a Global Scale?

Please send your perspectives and comments to Ron Wasserstein, executive director of the American Statistical Association, at ron@amstat.org.

Give it Your Best Shot!: Introducing the Statistics2013 Photo Contest

On the heels of its successful Video Contest, the International Year of Statistics (Statistics2013) is launching a photo contest!

This new competition—appropriately called the Statistics2013 Photo Contest—is sponsored by the [American Statistical Association/National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Joint Committee](#).

The contest is for secondary-school students (grades/years 7-12) around the world. It launches this week and the deadline for entries is November 1. Winners will be announced on or about December 16. [Click here for complete contest criteria](#).

The Statistics2013 Photo Contest is organized by continents (except Antarctica). This set-up will ensure winners are selected in each region of the world.

Contest organizers are seeking high-quality photos that effectively illustrate the impact of statistics. Each submitted image must be an original photo taken by the person submitting it and tell a story about how statistics advances the wellbeing of people in your country or our global society.

In addition to a photo, contestants must submit a title for and a maximum 50-word descriptive of their photo. This descriptive, along with the photo, will be used by the international panel of judges to select the top three winning entries as well as up to three honorable mention winners from each continent.

Speaking of winners, the top three place-winners from each continent will be awarded cash prizes (U.S. dollars) as follows:

- First: \$350
- Second: \$200
- Third: \$150

Also, the judges will select a top overall photo from among all the photos submitted for the Statistics2013 Photo Contest. This best photo will be awarded a prize of \$800.

Please help us spread the word about the Statistics2013 Photo Contest to secondary schools and teachers in your area or country. Send information about the contest to your country's national teacher organizations. Use your education contacts to inform schools and teachers in your country so their students get involved in this exciting photo contest. [You can download a promotional article here](#).

Statistics2013 currently is developing a webform contestants can use to enter their photo and descriptive. This webform will be available soon. You can check its availability by visiting the [Statistics2013 website](#) and clicking on the Statistics2013 Photo Contest story at the top of the homepage. Once the webform is available, contestants can complete it and attach their photos.

For more information, email Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

2013 Will Come to an End (Eventually), But Statistics Rides On!

Now that we are into the second half of the International Year of Statistics, most of you likely already are planning activities for 2014. If so, please send us information about the events so we can post these to the [Statistics2013 Activities Calendar](#). Scroll to page 8 to learn how to submit your event info.

Participation Surpasses New Milestone!

Shortly after the last issue of this newsletter was distributed, Statistics2013 bested the 2,100 mark. In the two weeks since, Statistics2013 participation has continued to grow and is now at 2,112 organizations. Meanwhile, the country count stays steady at 124. To check out the current participant and country lists, go to the [Statistics2013 website](#).

There are still many more groups that should participate in the remainder of the International Year of Statistics. Please encourage other organizations, secondary schools, universities and businesses in your area to join this worldwide celebration. It's easy for them to join. Simply tell representatives of these groups to go to www.statistics2013.org and click on the "Join Statistics2013" icon on the top right-hand side of the homepage to become an official International Year of Statistics participating organization.

Nominate a Statistician of the Week

Do you know an outstanding statistician deserving of recognition for his or her work? If so, nominate the person for the Statistics2013 Statistician Job of the Week. To do so, simply send us a 250-to-300-word article about your colleague along with a photograph. In the article, explain the person's job and his or her contributions to the mission of their organization. We'll feature the profile on the Statistics2013 website homepage for a week. Send your nominating submission to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Attention All Participating Organizations

If you want to share news about your organization's activities to celebrate Statistics2013, we invite you to provide a blog entry or article that we will highlight on the Statistics2013 website. Many Statistics2013 organizations have done so already and your group could be the latest to be featured in the [Statistics2013 Blog](#) on the homepage or on the [Around the World in Statistics](#) page. To submit your article or blog, follow these guidelines:

1. *Statistics2013 Blog*—A blog entry up to 500 words. Since the Statistics2013 website is oriented to the public, all blog entries must be written in layman's language (no statistical terminology) and tie into the International Year of Statistics in some fashion (be creative!). Submit all blog entries via email and include as attachments to the email any images and graphics, including the author's headshot photo, to be used in the blog entry.
2. *Around the World in Statistics Article*—A 250-to-500-word article about how statistics makes life better for the people of your country or about an initiative your organization is undertaking to promote statistical awareness among your constituency or audiences.

Submit your blog or article to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Participating Organization: News & Events

Following is the latest news about upcoming and recently concluded events hosted by Statistics2013 participating organizations:

Canada—Each year, The Queen’s University Cancer Research Institute in Kingston, Ontario invites grade 9-11 students to a program called “Cancer Today”. As part of the program, Judy-Anne Chapman, PhD, PStat® (ASA), senior biostatistician NCIC Clinical Trials Group and Queen's University professor of public health sciences, presents a session on cancer statistics. This session gives the high-school students an opportunity to work on frontline cancer projects with their current level of skills. In recognition of the International Year of Statistics, Chapman and Institute’s coordinator for Cancer Today incorporated the official Statistics2013 video—“[Why Statistics is Important to You](#)”—into the presentation. “The video dramatically held the attention of the students, and led to their increased enthusiastic participation, such that the session went well over the allotted period,” reports Chapman. She goes on to highly recommend other Statistics2013 participants use the short video presentation to promote careers in statistics in their country.

Brazil—Several organizations and institutions in the country have banded together to develop an International Year of Statistics-dedicated website that publicizes Statistics2013 activities in Brazil and also promotes the value of statistics to the country’s citizens. The site also refers visitors to www.statistics2013.org for more information about the International Year of Statistics, to learn more about how statistics impacts society, and for statistics-related organizations and schools to sign up for the yearlong celebration. Sponsoring organizations include the [Brazilian Statistical Association](#), [National School of Statistical Sciences](#), and [Regional Council on Statistics, 3rd Region](#). [Click here to check out this great web resource.](#)

Russia—As part of its celebration of the International Year of Statistics, East Siberia State University of Technology and Management in Ulan-Ude, Buryatia is organizing a “Week of Statistics”. The event, which is being organized by the university’s chair of Macroeconomics, Economic Informatics and Statistics, will be held October 28-30. [Click here for more information about this special celebration.](#)

Sri Lanka—Next week, the University of Colombo in Colombo, Sri Lanka will host its annual “Stats Day” celebration. The primary objective of this annual event is to stimulate interest in statistics and other related fields among students, the academic community at the university, and local industry by providing a forum for presenting and discussing various issues related to statistics. This annual event also provides an excellent opportunity for students to get acquainted with industry and attune themselves to contemporary statistical methodology. Among the features of this unique event are:

- **Guest Speech and Panel Discussion**—A number of well-known guest speakers—from the government, quasi-government, academic and business communities of Sri Lanka—will address attendees during the first part of the event. These presentations will be followed by an interactive question-and-answer session.

- **Quiz Programme**—Teams comprised of students from several universities around the country will participate in the quiz, which will test their practical knowledge in the use of statistics. Certificates and prizes will be awarded to the winning team and runners-up.
- **Student Sessions**—This is an opportunity for students to share their knowledge and experience in the practical application of statistics with others by way of presentations on various statistical research projects carried out during their undergraduate program. Certificates will be awarded to students who make presentations at this session.

[Click here to learn more about this year's Stat Day and previous editions.](#)

United Kingdom—At [Imperial College London](#) in the heart of the city more than a hundred attendees gathered for the recent [Young Statisticians' Meeting \(YSM2013\)](#). Participants in the early-July event came from private companies, public organisations and universities. With a marked biostatistical focus (47.5% of talks and posters covered health-related topics), the event was a huge success in both participation and quality of the work presented. Throughout the meeting, special mentions were made to campaigns raising awareness of the need for statisticians, and more particularly to [Statistics2013](#). In line with this celebration's aims, initiatives like the annual YSM have become essential as effective ways to ensure collaboration, networking and general promotion of the field of statistics. This year's event was certainly proof of this. A big thank you goes to the organising committee, comprised of doctoral students from the Imperial College London, for their great work and the sponsors that made this event possible. Those are [BioSS](#), [AQMeN](#), [Atass sports](#), [Phastar](#), [Royal Statistical Society](#) and [Novartis](#).



Attendees of the Young Statisticians' Meeting (YSM2013) gather for a group photo.

Venezuela—In observance of the International Year of Statistics, the Central University of Venezuela (UCV) Postgraduate Statistics Studies Program sponsored a course of survival analysis from June 3 to 7. Fifty professionals from different areas and various levels of knowledge participated in this special course, which used the R language and other statistical packages. The classes were taught by Francis Abreu, a doctoral student at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland in the United States; and Dr. Maura Vasquez and Dr. Guillermo Ramirez, members of the UCV academic staff. “It was very interesting to approach this topic from different point of views, discussing both theoretical and applied aspects, and showing several examples of research in different diseases,” reports Ramirez. The main objective of these type activities is to promote the adequate use of statistics and to present important and useful results.



Teachers and several course participants.

United Kingdom—We welcome new Statistics2013 participant StatsJobs and [extend our kudos to the company for promoting the International Year of Statistics on its website](#). Upon joining Statistics2013, the company immediately posted the Statistics2013 logo in a prominent location on its website. In case you are not familiar with it, StatsJobs is the first online recruitment operation to specialize entirely on the job market for professional statisticians. It works with a large number of high-profile international companies, most of which have used StatsJobs for several years as their recruitment partner for attracting statisticians.

National Statistical Organization: News & Events

Following is the latest news about upcoming and recently concluded events hosted by national statistical organizations (NSOs) participating in Statistics2013:

Palestine—The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) announced recently that it will be hosting an international conference on official statistics under the auspices of Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas. The conference, which is titled “Efficient Statistical Information System for the State Building”, will be held September 24 in the Ramallah Cultural Palace in Ramallah, said Ms. Ola Awad, PCBS president. The conference will commemorate PCBS’s 20th anniversary, the International Year of Statistics, the launching of a national strategy for official statistics for the period spanning 2014–2018, and the launching of a statistical monitoring system. Expected participants include the leaders of numerous Arab international and national statistical offices, Arab institutions, international organizations and foreign experts in the field of official statistics and research institutions, Arab journalists and prominent Palestinian figures. This conference is the first of its kind to be staged in Palestine with wide international and Arab participation. [Click here to view the conference website.](#)

Palestine—In addition to its international conference, the PCBS has developed a number of resources to mark the International Year of Statistics. Key among these is a webpage that features the Statistics2013 logo as well as video documentaries, press releases and monthly bulletins with information about Statistics2013 and other PCBS news. [You can view this webpage here.](#)

Spain—Each year since 1983, the Basque Statistical Institute (EUSTAT) has organized an International Statistical Seminar. The seminar typically features two or three monographic topics of interest for different collectives of professionals, university staff, researchers and others. In honor of Statistics2013, this year’s speaker will be Marcello D’Orazio of the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat). D’Orazio will present “Statistical Matching: Methodological Issues and Practice with R-Stat Match” on November 21 and 22. Prior seminar presentations are published online (see International Seminar in the [Products Catalogue](#)) in the original language in which it was presented, in some cases also in Spanish, and also a brief summary in Euskara. The seminar brings to the Basque Country illustrious international professors and researchers in statistical subjects who present first-hand the most recent developments either in the field of official statistics or in basic and applied statistical research. These presentations help strengthen EUSTAT’s international and institutional relationships. [Click here for more information about this year’s seminar or previous seminars.](#)

United Arab Emirates—Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi (SCAD) participated in the 59th World Statistics Congress (WSC) held in Hong Kong late last month. The SCAD high-level delegation included a number of senior officials who attended to share innovative ideas in the field of statistics. Centre officials stressed the importance of participating in international events in order to become acquainted with best international practices. The event also gave the SCAD delegates insight into approaches to follow in order to sustain the success achieved by the Centre’s first session of the Abu Dhabi Statistics Conference earlier this year, and ways to take the conference along with all of SCAD’s specialized activities to new heights of excellence. The 2013 WSC was a platform for the international statistical community to share and present the latest knowledge and innovation in statistics. The scientific programme encompassed a wide range of topics facilitating professional exchanges and sharing among experts and practitioners in various statistical areas. A series of sessions were organized to address—from various statistical perspectives—topics relevant to “youth” through tailored events, including a scientific programme that

offered prospects for knowledge-sharing among the 3,000 statistical practitioners from across the globe who attended the WSC. [Click here for more details of SCAD's WSC participation.](#)



WSC attendees visit the SCAD booth in Hong Kong.

Calling All National Statistical Organizations

Statistics2013 is seeking informative, educational and insightful statistics about your country to feature in the “Statistic of the Day” area of the [Statistics2013 website homepage](#). These can be a series of four or five brief statistical facts about your country’s population, economy and education systems; the health of its citizens; and similar social, economic, government and other relevant topics. Send your submissions along with a link to your organization’s website to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Event Submission Forms on Website

Two web-based forms make it easy for you to submit your organization’s Statistics2013 events as well as a summary and photos after the event is over.

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.](#)

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!

The [Statistics2013 website](#) is filled with information and resources—particularly the [posters](#) and the [downloadable flyer](#)—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, including these helpful resource areas:

- *What is Statistics?*—An explanation in layman's language
- *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.

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
- Czech
- Dutch
- Euskara (Basque)
- English
- French
- German
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Portuguese (Portugal)
- Russian
- Spanish (Mexico)
- Swedish
- 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 to request a copy of the script that you can translate.

Get the Official Statistics2013 Logo

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/iyos/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 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 [37 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:

- 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.