



International Year of Statistics News

April 8, 2013

Video Contest Winners Set to be Announced

The winners of the Statistics2013 Video Contest—[sponsored by Wiley](#)—have been selected and will be announced starting this Wednesday on www.statistics2013.org. The contest was judged by a committee of representatives from several countries around the globe, including Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia and Belgium and chaired by Thomas Short, John Carroll University professor of statistics and a member of the [American Statistical Association](#). In all, 59 videos were submitted by individuals and groups in numerous countries.

To refresh your memory, the three award categories are:

- **Best Overall Video**
- **Best Video by a Person or Persons 18 Years of Age or Less**
- **Best Non-English Language Video**

Statistics2013 will conduct a phased roll-out announcement of the winners on the Statistics2013 website homepage. We will start with the honorable mentions in each category, progress to the first place winners, and culminate with the announcement of the Best Overall Video. The stories on www.statistics2013.org will include links to each video so you can view the winning entries. Here is the announcement schedule so you can follow along:

- **Wednesday, April 10**—Honorable mentions in the three categories
- **Monday, April 15**—Third place winners in the three categories
- **Monday, April 22**—Second place winners in the three categories
- **Monday, April 29**—First place winners in each category (except Best Overall Video)
- **Wednesday, May 1**—Best Overall Video

On May 1, after all winners have been revealed, we will distribute to Statistics2013's nearly 1,900 participating organizations and media a press release about the video contest and the winners.

Wiley, which is providing the contest prize money, will be linking to the winning videos on its www.StatisticsViews.com website and including an article about the video contest in its May newsletter. Additionally, *Significance* magazine will be posting all 59 videos on its website.

Sing Along to the "Ode to Statistics" Song!

We encouraged you to be creative in finding ways to celebrate the International Year of Statistics and this has to be one of the most creative ways we have heard to date!

Mr. Anil Gore, who is an instructor for the [Institute for Statistics Education](#) and lives in Pune, India, and some friends wrote and recorded a song appropriately titled “Ode to Statistics” to support Statistics2013. Gore says the song “glorifies the role of statistics for everyone’s use.”

Music was provided by Mr. Ashish Kulkarni and the singing performance is delivered by Mr. Parashar Joshi, Ms. Pooja Tatwawadi and Ms. Megha Palkar.

[Click here to listen to this catchy tune](#). And, here are the song’s lyrics, starting with the chorus:

Chorus:

Hail ye, Hail ye.
Hail fellows, happy news
Statistics is for everyone’s use

Song:

Daily weather and climate change
Statistics can provide the range
Floods and forest fires too
We can project and alert you

(Chorus)

Up and down the roller coaster
Market prices take the swing
Way to manage this fiery dragon
Is with accurate forecasting

(Chorus)

Sickness and epidemics all
Snake oilers and claims so tall
Right and wrong need sorting done
Statistics is the only one

(Chorus)

Politicians and leaders great
Face periodic voter threat
Surveys and models and computers
Often guess the right answers

(Chorus)

What's life if not a complex puzzle?
Uncertainties and risks so sizzle
For riding the tiger, all ye braves
Numbers guide and statistics saves!

(Chorus)

Participation Moves Closer to 2,000

Who would have thought it possible: 2,000 participating organizations in Statistics2013!? That lofty milestone is within reach and we still have nine months to go in our worldwide celebration of everything statistics. As of today, the participation count is 1,867 organizations from 122 countries. You can check out the updated participant and country lists at the [Statistics2013 website](#). You can help us reach 2,000 participating organizations. If you know an organization interested in joining, please tell its representative to go to www.statistics2013.org and click on the "Join Statistics2013" icon on the right side of the homepage to become an official International Year of Statistics organization.

Participating Organization: News & Events

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

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 FMCG
- Public and Government
- Social and Personal

Cities hosting Big Data Week events this year include 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, discussions 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.

India—The [Indian Statistical Institutes'](#) Chennai Centre organized and conducted a two-day workshop March 23 to 24 to observe the International Year of Statistics. Roy Bimal, ISI director, welcomed attendees to the event. Prominent speakers included Prof. C.R. Rao, Prof. J.K. Ghosh, Prof. B.L.S. Prakash Rao, and Prof. T.J. Rao.

Venezuela—An International Year of Statistics celebration was held March 18 at the [University of Carabobo](#) with a special conference titled, “The role of statistics in the generation of climate change scenarios.” The session was led by Professor Lelys Bravo de Guenni of the Center of Statistics and Applied Mathematics at the Simón Bolívar University. The event was part of the XXVI Venezuelan Meeting in Mathematics, which was held March 18 and 21 in Valencia, and featured 16 presentations in four sessions in Probability and Statistics, coordinated by Professors Ricardo Rios of the Central University of Venezuela and Saba Infante of the University of Carabobo. More than 200 people, including professors, researchers and students from the main universities, research centers and other institutions in Venezuela, participated in these events.



Professors Lelys Bravo de Guenni (at the podium) and Ricardo Rios (with microphone) address attendees at the Statistics2013 kickoff celebration at the University of Carabobo in Venezuela.

Slovenia—Andrej Blejec, president of the Statistical Society of Slovenia, reported recently that his organization has translated to Slovenian the [International Year of Statistics flyer](#) available at www.statistics2013.org. The organization has printed the translated flyer and is distributing copies to schools and institutions across the country, select public and private institutions as well as its members. The QCR code is pointing to www.statistics2013.org so readers can quickly access the website. [Click here to view the Slovenian version](#) of the flyer. Kudos to the [Statistical Society of Slovenia](#) for this wonderful initiative to spread the word about Statistics2013 to the public in its country!

United Kingdom—The [Local Area Research and Intelligence Association](#) (LARIA) is making the International Year of Statistics a key theme of its annual conference. The organisation, which is nearly 40 years old, supports public-sector researchers working in local areas, such as local authorities, health, police and fire services. This sector has been under increased budgetary challenges in recent years and a conference in Manchester May 13 to 14 will be looking at how these researchers make a difference. There will be key strands examining statistical analysis on key policy areas and a focus on making best use of the findings from the 2011 United Kingdom Census. LARIA also is launching a new award called the “Best Use of Public Data”. To win this award, the successful entrant must show how he or she has used secondary analysis of publically available data to lead to a greater understanding of a local area, community or health issue. This could include official statistics such as census, health, economy or labour market or any other publically available datasets, such as public opinion, transparency or financial data. Entrants also must show that their work has led to evidence-based decision-making within the public sector. More information about the conference and the award can be found at www.laria.gov.uk.

United Kingdom —Recently, more than 100 experts came to York to discuss and debate issues of inequality and poverty in the world today—and yesterday. For more than a century, York has been at the centre of this debate, since Seebohm Rowntree completed his path-breaking poverty survey in 1900. Rowntree's story was addressed by Professor Jonathan Bradshaw from York University. Another York speaker was Professor Richard Wilkinson, whose celebrated book *The Spirit Level* argues why greater equality is better for everyone. This is an argument accepted by most attendees of the conference, which was organised by Radical Statistics, a group of left-wing, progressives interested in applications of statistical data. Other sessions discussed inequality in India and the 2011 United Kingdom Census and debated whether the 2021 census should be cancelled. The theme of the final speaker, Stewart Lansley, was "The Costs of Inequality", on which he has written a very well-received book. [Click here to access the Radical Statistics website](#); the organisation also is on Twitter and Facebook.

Portugal—Maria Manuel da Silva Nascimento, statistics professor at the [University of Tras-os-Montes and Alto Douro](#) in Vila Real, recently presented a talk about enhancing the importance of statistical literacy to a national meeting of mathematics teachers. Her talk March 22 at PROFMAT 2013—the largest annual meeting of mathematics teachers in the country—was titled "Statistics2013: In God We Trust, All Others Must Bring Data!" During her talk she encouraged the teachers to join Statistics2013, saying: "Celebrate the International Year of Statistics, STATISTICS 2013, as a big event!"



Maria Manuel da Silva Nascimento presents "Statistics2013: In God We Trust, All Others Must Bring Data!" at PROFMAT 2013

Venezuela—As part of its celebration of the International Year of Statistics, the [Central University of Venezuela](#) is developing two e-books about statistics:

- *Statistics Education in Latin America: Trends and Prospects*
- *Statistics in Research: Cross Competition in University Education*

An international program committee will select the research articles for each book. The books will be published in October as part of the university's official activities for Statistics2013.

United States—The [Clinical and Translational Science Institute](#) of Southeast Wisconsin (CTSI) and the [Milwaukee Chapter of the American Statistical Association](#) (MILWASA) are sponsoring [a two-day R workshop](#) on the advanced topics of Bioinformatics with Bioconductor and seamless R/C++ integration. During the event, each attendee will receive a folder of information about the International Year of Statistics.

Turkey—Professor Sat N. Gupta, professor of statistics in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro in the United States, gave a talk March 14 as an invited speaker of [Hacettepe University's Department of Statistics](#). The title of his speech was "Randomized Response Models: Efficiency vs. Privacy Protection."



Professor Gupta (third from right) poses with attendees at his Hacettepe University talk.

Netherlands—[International Statistical Institute](#) Director Ada van Krimpen was interviewed by Statistics Netherlands' external relations magazine for an article about the International Year of Statistics. The article only is available in Dutch. For those of you who read the language, [you can view the article here](#) (see page 30). Van Krimpen was featured as well in a cover story for the national statistical agency's staff magazine.

International—The [International Mathematical Union's](#) March newsletter includes an editorial of support for the International Year of Statistics. "Fully aware of the importance of Statistics, the IMU is supporting the International Year of Statistics and is planning some additional activities to be held at the ICM in Seoul in 2014 (roundtables, presentation of IYS results) to underline 'Statistics2013'," writes Manuel de Leon, a member of the IMU Executive Committee. "The celebration of 'Statistics2013' will undoubtedly be a wonderful opportunity to extend relations between the IMU and the main statistical associations around the world." [You can read the complete editorial here.](#)

International—The [International Conference in Statistics that will be in Ho Chi Minh City](#) from June 5 to 7 has extended its registration period to May 1. The event is themed "Statistics and Its Interactions With Other Disciplines." In addition to a large number of articles to be presented by international educators and researchers, the event will feature workshops on Bayesian statistics, statistics for researchers, and correlation analysis plus a panel discussion titled "Teaching Stat to Non-math Students." A poster session with prizes also will be held. The four workshops that will be conducted at Can Tho University,

which is located 140 miles from Ho Chi Minh City, are data mining, Minitab, statistical modeling and stock market strategies. Can Tho is one of the event's host institutions. [More information about this international event can be found here.](#)

Scotland—[Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland](#) (BioSS) celebrated its 25th anniversary March 18 in the fittingly historic environment of [the Royal Society of Edinburgh](#). Attendees included numerous statisticians, academics, scientists and other invited guests. Professor Denise Lievesley, head of the School of Social Science and Public Policy at King's College in London and a member of the Statistics2013 Steering Committee, delivered the anniversary lecture under the title of "Living Statistics: The Interplay Between the Development and Application of Statistical Methods." Professor Lievesley's talk addressed many of the issues that BioSS members currently face. She remarked on the importance of professional ethics, the tension between humility and confidence among other challenges faced by statisticians, and the distinction between communication intended and communication received.



Professor Lievesley addresses attendees at the Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland's recent 25th anniversary event.

United States—Virginia Tech's [Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis](#) (LISA) is requesting statisticians in developing countries to apply to become the first "LISA Fellow" as part of the LISA 2020 program to build a network of 20 statistical collaboration laboratories in developing countries by 2020. LISA Fellows will be trained to communicate and collaborate with non-statisticians and, beginning this fall, work in LISA at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, USA. While at LISA for one year they will help researchers in many different fields use statistics as well as data science to answer research questions and improve human welfare. Initial funding for the LISA Fellows and LISA 2020 comes from a Google

Research Award presented to Dr. Eric Vance, the director of LISA. Details about the [LISA 2020 plan and the LISA Fellow application are available here](#). Application reviews will begin May 1.

Ethiopia—Through the joint efforts of the [Ethiopian Statistical Association](#), the [Statistics Department of Jimma University](#), and the [Flemish Interuniversity Council—University Development Cooperation](#) (Belgium), more than 200 participants traveled to Jimma University from all over the country for a conference themed, “Statistics in Ethiopia: Emerging Opportunities, Challenges and Prospects”. As the photo below show, the conference was a big success!



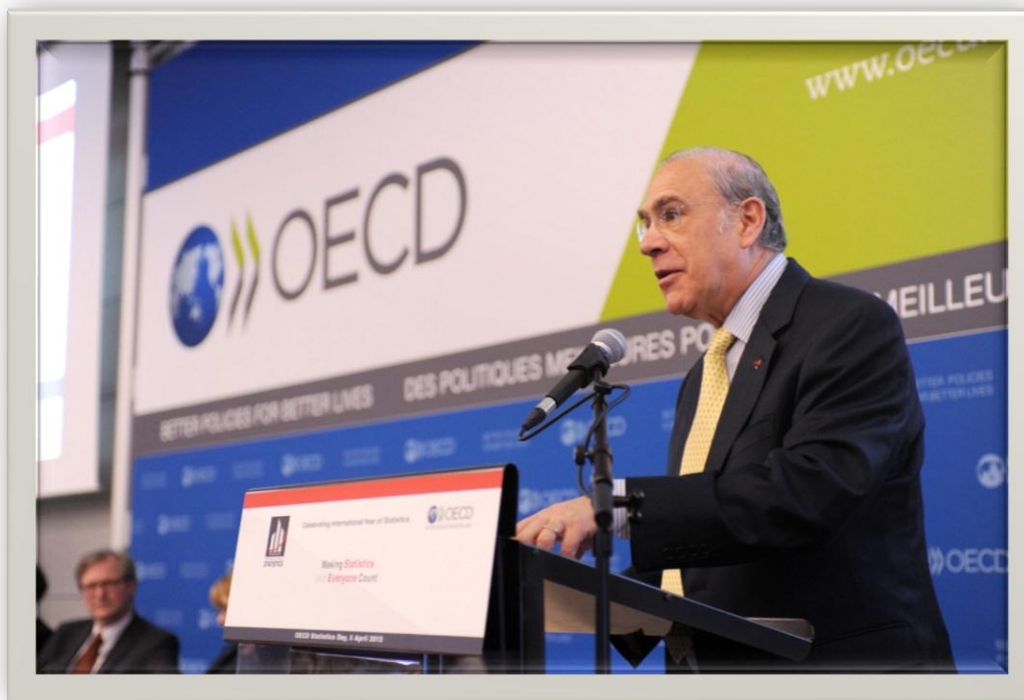
Some of the 200 people who attended Ethiopia’s International Year of Statistics event gathered for this photo.

Palestine—The Department of Mathematics Faculty of Science and Technology at [Al-Quds University—Abu-Dies](#) in Jerusalem is holding a symposium tomorrow to celebrate Statistics2013. Topics of the presentations range from “Why an International Year of Statistics” to “What Role Economic Statistics Play in Econometrics?” Also, outstanding students in the university’s math department will be honored. Dr. Abdulhakeem Eideh will be the master of ceremonies.

United States—Westat, one of the foremost research and statistical survey organizations in the United States, has posted [an excellent promotional article about the International Year of Statistics](#) (see the first April 3, 2013 article) in its online newsletter. In the article, David Morganstein, vice president of Westat's Statistical Group and the vice president of the [American Statistical Association](#), points out the dynamic nature of the field. "Statistics is not a staid or routine field. Statistics is an ongoing process of

learning and application. At Westat, statisticians are encouraged to not only do statistical work but also learn about statistical thinking and make data-driven decisions with statistical techniques." Westat is headquartered in Rockville, Maryland, USA and has offices in numerous other locations around the country as well as several international locations. A major Statistics2013 supporter, [Westat](#) is the sponsor of "A World Without Statistics" area on the www.statistics2013.org homepage.

International—The [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) (OECD) held its annual "Statistics Day" April 5 as part of its celebration to mark the International Year of Statistics. The event's objective was to showcase OECD statistics and the work of statisticians at the organization, and to celebrate and recognise the contribution of statistics to everyday life. The event was chaired by OECD Chief Statistician Martine Durand. OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría delivered opening remarks and François Lenglet, a renowned French journalist, delivered the keynote address. There were a number of interesting presentations from various statistical areas within the organisation. Also, an exhibition featuring statistical work from different sectors throughout the OECD was held. There was a big turnout and participants were happy to learn more about what OECD statisticians are doing and to see their work firsthand.



OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría delivers opening remarks at the organizations "Statistics Day" event (Photo credit: OECD/Michael Dean)

Spain—Last Thursday, the [Aragonese Statistics Institute](#) conducted an Open Doors Day for children. The event’s objective was for the kids to have a good time while learning about the place where their parents work and the job of a statistician. The children visited all the institute’s facilities and enjoyed different and fun activities, including drawing, watching videos, and playing statistical games organized by Dr. Javier López of the Statistical Methods Department at the University of Zaragoza. Finally, the kids and the institute staff had a nice lunch together. The event was a success and the little “statisticians-to-be” returned home eagerly anticipating next year’s Open Doors Day.



Youngsters learn about statistics at the Aragonese Statistics Institute’s Open Doors Day

National Statistical Organization: News & Events

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

Abu Dhabi—[Statistics Centre—Abu Dhabi](#) (SCAD) recently held a lecture titled “Meeting Customer Needs With Confidence” and presented by Dr. Stephen Penneck, president of the [International Association for Official Statistics](#). The talk is part of a series of specialized lectures in statistics being held by SCAD to promote statistical awareness and to celebrate the International Year of Statistics. Dr. Penneck tackled two themes: statistical governance and open data. [Click here to read more about this lecture.](#)

Egypt—The country’s statistical agency—the [Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics](#) (CAPMAS)—organized its African Statistics Day celebration as part of the International Year of Statistics. The celebration included several activities, including a presentation about equality of men and women in census counts, videos demonstrating CAPMAS activities and the importance of public cooperation

with data collection researchers, and releasing its new “Population Electronic Board,” which displays a second-by-second count of Egypt’s population.

Use New Event Submission Forms on Website

We have developed two new web-based forms that make it easier 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.](#)

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 high-traffic, visible locations at your school (e.g., library, student union), office building, public library, favorite coffee shop, or other popular meeting spot.

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!

Statistics2013 Website is for You!

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.

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/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 [35 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.

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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.