

Annual Report of the Executive Director on IARIW Activities, August 2011-July 2012

This report provides an overview of the activities of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) from August 2011 to July 2012. It has been another successful year for the Association. Key highlights of the period were:

- the holding of two special conferences, the first on income and wealth issues in Africa held in Cape Town, South Africa September 28-October 1, 2011 and the second on economic insecurity held at the OECD in Paris November 22-23, 2011;
- the organization of the 32nd IARIW General Conference, which is to take place in Boston, USA August 5-11, 2012. The conference is expected to have a record attendance of well over 300 delegates;
- initial work on the organization of two special conferences in 2013, the first on income and wealth issues in Latin America to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in September and the second on productivity issues to be held in Sydney, Australia in December.
- the continuation of a strong financial performance, with a surplus of \$69,813 US in 2011 and an increase in net assets to \$962,884 US.

Financial Report

In the 2011 fiscal year, which corresponds to the 2011 calendar year, the IARIW recorded net income of \$69,207 (all figures are in US dollars), based on revenues of \$299,259 and expenses of \$230,052. This was up slightly from a surplus of \$64,813 in 2010. Net assets of the Association on December 31, 2011 were \$962,884, up 3.5 per cent from \$930,371 on December 31, 2010.

Net income in 2012 is expected to be considerably smaller than in 2011 as expenses associated with the General Conference in Boston, particularly the financial assistance for paper givers, will be considerably greater than those associated with the 2011 special conferences.

Once approved by the Council, a detailed audited financial report for 2011 will be posted on the website and will be published in the December 2012 issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

Membership

On July 23, 2012, the IARIW had a total of 455 members. Of this total, 332 were individual members (including 27 student members and 9 gratis members) and 123 were persons nominated by the institutional members as part of their institutional membership. Total membership is up 20.7 per cent from 377 in 2004 and 13.3 per cent from 2007.

The Association has members from 55 countries. The country with the largest number of members is the United States (70 members), followed by the United Kingdom (35), Italy (26), Germany (25), Canada (23), India (21), Australia (20), and the Netherlands (20).

A positive development in recent years has been the growing proportion of the total membership from the developing world. This figure has risen from 6.8 per cent in 2007 to 16.7 per cent in 2012, with most of the gains in developing countries of Asia (7 to 39 members) and Africa (9 to 20 members). These trends reflect the impact of the outreach of the Association to these regions through our financial assistance program for paper givers and our special conferences in developing countries: China in 2007, Nepal in 2009, and South Africa in 2011. It is hoped that the 2013 special conference in Brazil will boost membership in Latin America.

All members are listed in the on-line members directory posted at <http://www.iariw.org/memlist.asp>. Information on trends in IARIW membership by region and membership by country are posted at

The IARIW currently has 50 organizations which are institutional members (mostly central statistical agencies, but also some central banks and international organizations). These members play a very important role in ensuring the financial sustainability of the Association. A list of the institutional members is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/member.asp> and published on the inside back cover of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

In 2011-12, the IARIW welcomed the Central Bureau of Statistics of Israel as a new institutional member. The Czech Republic ended its institutional membership because of budget cuts.

2012 General Conference

The major activity of the Association is the organization of General Conferences held every second year. These conferences bring together leading researchers from across the world to present frontier research in fields of income and wealth. The conferences are hosted by the national statistical offices of the venue country. In 2012, the US Bureau of Economic Analysis is hosting the 32nd General Conference in Boston, USA August 5-11. Much of the time of the IARIW secretariat over the past 12 months has been devoted to preparing this event. In 2014, Statistics Netherlands will host the 33rd IARIW General Conference in the Netherlands. In 2016, the German Federal Statistical Office will host the 34th IARIW General Conference in Germany.

The prestigious Ruggles Memorial Lecture, established in 2004 at the Cork conference, will be delivered on the topic of world poverty at the 2012 General Conference by Martin Ravallion, currently Acting Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist at the World Bank, and one of the world's leading experts on poverty measurement.

The financial assistance program for paper givers first introduced at the 2006 General Conference was considerably expanded for the 2012 General Conference because of the high costs of attending the event. A total of 30 persons received financial assistance, which totaled around \$60,000 US.

Because of the need to allocate additional funds for financial assistance to paper givers, the bursary program is to foster the professional development of economists in central statistical agencies in low income countries was not offered in 2012.

The 2012 General Conference continued the tradition established at the General Conference in Slovenia in 2008 of offering training sessions for the professional development of the membership. Immediately preceding the conference, a training session on national accounts is being given by Peter van de Ven, Head of National Accounts at Statistics Netherlands and a training session on price measurement is being offered by Erwin Diewert from the University of British Columbia.

Special Conferences

The IARIW organizes special or regional conferences in non-General Conference years. In 2011, this tradition was continued and in fact expanded from one to two conferences. The IARIW partnered with Statistics South Africa to organize a conference entitled “Measuring Income, Wealth, Inequality and Poverty in African Countries.” The conference took place in Cape Town, South Africa September 28-October 1, 2011 and attracted around 60 persons from outside South Africa, including representatives from 12 African countries as well as around 60 local representatives. A total of 30 papers were presented in three plenary and eight concurrent sessions. The program is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/c2011.php>. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* to be released in late 2012 or early 2013, edited by Derek Blades and Stephan Klasen.

The IARIW also partnered with the OECD to organize a conference entitled “Economic Insecurity: Measurement, Trends and Policy Implications.” The conference took place at the OECD Conference Centre in Paris November 23-24, 2011 and attracted around 100 persons. A total of 30 papers were presented in six plenary sessions. There were also four keynote addresses and two policy panels. The program is posted at <http://www.iariw.org/c2011.php>. Selected papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* to be released in late 2012 or early 2013, edited by Lars Osberg and Romina Boarini.

Plans have begun for the organization of two special conferences in 2013. The first, to be organized in collaboration with the Brazilian national statistical agency (IBGE) will focus on income and wealth issues in Latin America, and is scheduled for Rio de Janeiro in September 2013. The second, to be organized in collaboration with the University of New South Wales, will be on productivity issues and will be held in Sydney in late November or early December of 2013.

IARIW Council Election

The biennial election for the IARIW Council was held from June 7, 2012 to August 1, 2012, with five candidates running for the three openings. The results will be announced at the members meeting at the 2012 General Conference on August 7.

Review of Income and Wealth

The *Review of Income and Wealth*, the leading international journal in the income and wealth field and the flagship publication of the Association, is distributed to all members as part of the membership benefits. The number of submissions received increased in 2011-2012, as did the impact factor of the journal. Editors Conchita d’Ambrosio from the University of Milan-Bicocca and DIW-Berlin, Robert G. Hill from the University of Graz in Austria, and Stephan Klasen from the

University of Gottingen are to be congratulated for a job well done. Effective January 2012. Stephan Klasen stepped down as Editor after six years of service, with his duties assumed by the other two editors. The Association would like to thank Stephan for his major contribution to the journal during his tenure as Editor.

In addition to the four regular issues, the journal publishes supplemental or special issues based on selected papers presented at conferences. In 2011-12 work is on-going for two supplemental issues of the journal based on the two IARIW special conferences held in 2011. Guest editors Stephan Klasen and Derek Blades are putting together an issue based on selected papers from the conference on income and wealth in Africa held in September 2011. Lars Osberg from Dalhousie University and Romina Boarini from the OECD are editing a supplementary issue on economic insecurity based on selected papers from the conference on economic insecurity held at the OECD in November 2011. These issues will be released in late 2012 or early 2013.

The editors have produced a report detailing the operations of the journal from August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2012. This report will be posted on the IARIW website and will be published in the December 2012 issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth*.

Acknowledgements

A large number of persons and institutions have contributed to the successful operation of the IARIW in the 12 month period from August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2012. I would like to particularly thank the following for their contributions to this success: the 50 IARIW institutional members whose support ensures the financial sustainability of the organization; the IARIW Council for its strong support of our activities; IARIW Chair Peter van de Ven for his leadership role in many areas; staff of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, especially Steve Landefeld and Shaunda Villones, for the organization of the 32nd General Conference; Albert Braakmann for chairing the Financial Committee; Peter van de Ven and Markus Jantti for serving on the financial assistance committee; Thesia Garner for chairing both the Ruggles Prize committee and the Kendrick Prize Committee; Stephan Klasen for chairing the program committee the 2011 special conference in South Africa wealth in Africa; Adriaan Grobler for local arrangements for the 2011 special conference in Cape Town; Lars Osberg, Conchita d'Ambrosio and Romina Boarini for serving on the program committee for the 2011 special conference on economic insecurity; Conchita D'Ambrosio, Stephan Klasen and Robert Hill for editing the *Review of Income and Wealth*; the Wiley-Blackwell staff, especially Hester Tilbury, for the production of the *Review of Income and Wealth*; Christina Hendricks for accounting services; Group Associates for auditing services, and CSLS office manager Whitney Hamilton for excellent assistance with administrative matters. I deeply regret to note the passing of Brian Watson in August 2011. Brian served very ably at the accountant for the IARIW for the 2005-2010 period and will be greatly missed.

Andrew Sharpe
Executive Director, IARIW
Ottawa, Canada
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