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## IN THIS SPECIAL ISSUE:



Today, we commemorate [World Statistics Day 2015](#) with a special issue comprised of articles submitted by participants in *The World of Statistics* from every corner of the globe. The articles either talk to the importance of statistics to government decision-making or report on events that have been or will be held to celebrate World Statistics Day. We thank everyone for participating in the worldwide celebration of statistics. Now let's get to the articles:

**International**—The following statement on the importance of strengthening national statistical agencies was released by the [American Statistical Association, Royal Statistical Society, International Statistical Institute and nearly 50 other global statistical organizations](#):

### **Data for Sustainable Development—A Statement for World Statistics Day**

“In September, at the United Nations General Assembly, heads of states and governments came together to launch a new and ambitious agenda for world development from 2016 to 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals set out 17 goals with 169 targets and more than 300 indicators to monitor progress. In the lead up to the launch of the goals, a report by a High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons set up by the UN Secretary General to advise on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, recognised that for too long development efforts have been hampered by a lack of the most basic data about the social and economic circumstances in which people live.

“If the world is to live up to the promises made by our leaders then more and better data will be essential. To abolish poverty everywhere, in all its forms, the world will need to ensure that everyone is counted, that progress is being monitored and that this information is made available in an accessible and useable form as widely as possible. This will require a true data revolution, one that makes use of the possibilities provided by new technology, but also one that keeps the information about individuals confidential and which provides information that is trusted and credible.

“The signatories to this statement support the call for a data revolution and recognise the importance of data for policy making and for accountability in all countries of the world. The challenges of the new development agenda require new approaches including a much greater emphasis on open data and the use of new data sources. We have to take advantage of the opportunities provided by new technology and big data and national statistical systems are central to this effort. These systems – set up and financed by governments to collect, process and disseminate the information needed to manage government activities – are crucial. They operate within a framework of legislation and ethical principles that promote objectivity, independence, confidentiality and accountability. These principles are likely to be even more important in the next 15 years than they have been in the past.

“Considerable progress has been made throughout the world in building and strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems since the **launch of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000**, but much still remains to be done. Too many countries operate under severe financial and human resource constraints. To meet the data challenges of the sustainable development goals, national statistical systems must be properly financed, the development of statistical skills and expertise must be supported, and access to new tools and technology must be provided. Also, support must be provided not just to the collection of data, but to its transformation into useful and actionable information. Above all a true data revolution that puts useful and useable information into the hands of everyone who needs it, especially the poor and the marginalised, must be pursued.”

[Click here to see the list of statement signatories.](#)

**International**—*The following is a statement by Ms. Ola Awad, president of the **International Association for Official Statistics**, on the occasion of the celebration of World Statistics Day 2015:*

“The world around us is changing rapidly—the data revolution has reshaped our lives. To benefit from this “globalization” we have to speak its language. Words like big data, metadata, spatial data, paradata, tweets, hash-tag and more are now part of our everyday language.



“As official statisticians, we increasingly have to look beyond the structured data of our own making and utilize unstructured data supplied by others. We have no choice if we are to meet the demands of the

wider and wider spectrum of new users and the traditional stakeholders of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs).

“The 2015 World Statistics Day challenge for Official Statistics, then, is how we transform our traditional operations from ones where there was a 'lack of data,' to ones where sometimes there are 'huge volumes of data'—from the data sparse world of seemingly just yesterday to today's data dense world.

“This requires a lot of new learning by us and by our customers. We need to intelligently decide on the plethora of data now at hand. Data presentation, also, can become a determining factor on who will use our data. Traditional ways of presenting data no longer meet the needs of many modern users. Graphical displays are replacing tables, dynamic forms are replacing static ones.

“Still, we need to fall back on our Fundamental Statistical Principles. With the potential contradictions surrounding the globalization that we are facing, three core goals must remain our top priorities. These are 'users,' 'rigorous statistics' and 'partnerships with the private sector.' We must always meet user needs efficiently and ethically. We must continue the rigorous application of better and better statistical methods; and, finally, we must aggressively expand partnerships with the private sector and our fellow NSOs to contain and ever reduce costs.

“The NSOs must play an active role in the global discussion and ensure the engagement of our users and partners and in the process deliver better statistics for better lives!”

**Russia**—A Statistics Olympic Games was held October 17 at **East Siberia University of Technology and Management** to mark World Statistics Day. The event was organized by Inna Antokhonova, chair of the school's Department of Macroeconomics, Economic Informatics and Statistics. In total, 16 teams comprised of three students each participated. The students represented East Siberia University of Technology and Management, Buryat State Agricultural Academy, Buryat State Classical University, and Moscow State Humanity University.



*Students participate in the Statistical Olympic Games at East Siberia University.*

The games were organized in two rounds. During the first round, students had to pass an individual testing in the Moodle program and during the second round each team worked together to analyzed case data themed, “Social and economic mobility and migration processes in the modern world and

Russia.” Winners in each round were awarded diplomas and prizes. Also, the work of individual students and teams were presented prizes for work that was deemed “Scientific Novelty,” “Relevance of Research,” “Methodology and Statistical Tools,” and “Practical Importance.” The Olympic Games were organized under the support of the territorial authority of the Federal State Statistics Service, the country’s national statistical agency.

**United States**—The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) is hosting a special presentation today in recognition of World Statistics Day. Dean Evasius, director of the **Division of Graduate Education**, will present a talk titled “*A Dialogue on Graduate Education at the National Science Foundation*,” which will engage students and faculty in a dialogue on graduate education initiatives at the NSF. Evasius will provide an overview of important NSF programs in graduate education and reflect on some recent reports assessing the state of graduate education in the United States. A reception with cake will follow to celebrate World Statistics Day.



The **Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences** (SBE) funds basic science, including research to improve surveys and statistical methodologies, and also houses the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), the nation’s leading provider of statistical data on the U.S. science and engineering enterprise.

For World Statistics Day 2015, SBE will highlight some of this important research. Survey methodologists Frederick Conrad and Michael Schober [will discuss new frontiers in collecting data](#) and Jeri Mulrow, NCSES deputy division director, [will explain the importance of tracking the scientific and engineering enterprise](#) over time with high-quality data.

Statistics help shape policy-decisions around the world. At SBE, we firmly believe in the theme of this year’s World Statistics Day: Better data will lead to better lives.

**Mexico**—Among the many myths surrounding statistics is the notion that statistics is not an exact science or that statistics can prove anything and therefore statistical tools can be used to distort reality. The word “statistics” may have different meanings depending on the experience of each person. Even though this science impacts every aspect of daily life, misconceptions still persist about the real scopes and nature of statistics.



*Myths and Realities* is a compilation of texts produced by researchers at Mexico's **Mathematics Research Center** who tried to demystify—in a clear and simple manner—usual misconceptions surrounding statistics and statisticians. These texts were written in 2013 under the supervision of Professor Miguel Nakamura to pursue the primary objectives of the International Year of Statistics of increasing public awareness of the power of statistics on all aspects of society while nurturing statistics as a profession, especially among new generations.

*Myths and Realities* is accessible to a general audience and can be found on [the CIMAT webpage dedicated to The World of Statistics](#). Also, to celebrate the designation of October 20 as the second World Statistics Day, [a digital animation of \*Myths and Realities\* is available online](#). This educational video is targeted to children and young people.

The site [joestadistico.cimat.mx](http://joestadistico.cimat.mx) was designed as a contribution to the global movement of The World of Statistics and is a collaborative effort by CIMAT, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico Autonomous Institute of Technology (ITAM), National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and Mexican Statistical Society. At the site, you will find more than 60 videos about the history, development and professional practice of statistics. If you wish to learn more about statistics, links of interest also are provided on the website.

**Canada**—World Statistics Day 2015 will be a special day at **Statistics Canada**. As Canada's national statistical agency is approaching its 100th birthday, this celebration is an opportunity to highlight its international and national accomplishments as well as recognize and reward the excellent work of employees.

One of this year's accomplishments was the launch of the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean. For the next seven years, Statistics Canada will be working with 14 Caribbean countries to enhance their statistical systems. The people of the Caribbean are looking for answers to fundamental economic questions and they are seeking to increase the depth and scope of official statistics—the kind of information that this project will help them gather. For Statistics Canada, this is a golden opportunity to demonstrate its ability to share statistical know-how, contribute directly to better decision-making, and exchange knowledge and experience with the participating countries.



**Statistics  
Canada**

**Statistique  
Canada**

At the national level, Statistics Canada decided to mark World Statistics Day 2015 by hosting a panel discussion on health statistics, a topic that matters to the population. There will be a presentation on the Canadian Health Measures Survey, which collects important information using household interviews and direct physical measures. Thereafter, experts and data users from the public sector and nonprofit organizations will discuss the use of health data to address important research questions and develop emerging health-related policies. This will contribute to the broader understanding of the impact that Statistics Canada's data have on the life of Canadians; it will also be an opportunity to confirm the relevance of some programs, identify any need for improvement to surveys, and fill any data gaps.

Statistics Canada also will celebrate World Statistics Day 2015 with its employees. Several of them were selected to present their vision of the agency in 2035. This look toward the future will be broadcast to all agency employees across the country via the Intranet on October 20. The event will be recorded, and a reverse time capsule will be produced so employees, at their own World Statistics Day celebrations in 2035, can look back and reflect on the hopes and aspirations discussed in 2015 and can see if they became genuine achievements.

This year, World Statistics Day provides Statistics Canada the opportunity to help lead the agency to a better future for all.

**South Africa—Patrick Tebogo Seleke, a fieldworker for Statistics South Africa, wrote the following article titled “The Significance of the Goals of World Statistics Day”:**

On October 20, the world will celebrate the second World Statistics Day and it is imperative the world becomes conversant with the goals and objectives of this day, especially since it is the second commemoration.

The goals of World Statistics Day, as initiated by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2010, includes enhancing statistical public awareness and publicising the many achievements of both international and national statistics.

As a fieldworker for Statistics South Africa who engages with stakeholders of statistics on a daily basis, I have deduced that all the goals of celebrating World Statistics Day are centered on magnifying statistical literacy and building trust in official statistics.



The objective of this central goal includes conducting programmes on this day that will enhance statistical literacy in our local municipalities and among ordinary citizens of the Republic of South Africa. Putting useful and usable information in the hands of the poor and marginalised should also be prioritised during this day because doing so will serve as reaching the targets of sustainable development goal number one, which is the reduction of poverty in all its forms by 2030.

The theme for this day is “Better Data, Better Lives.” Statistics South Africa, as a national statistical office, will continue to better the lives of South Africans by providing better data, but that can only be achieved by the interminable collection of timely, usable, comparable, relevant and reliable statistics and by educating the public and key stakeholders about the importance of statistics in general. It will also be imperative that the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including the newly adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 169 targets, be communicated to all users of statistics, including the poor and the marginalised. To me as a fieldworker, the above will be a

remarkable achievement of honouring World Statistics Day and thus a milestone for The World of Statistics.

In all national statistics offices throughout the world there are remote areas, especially on the African continent, that are dominated by the poor and marginalised. This World Statistics Day can be used to eradicate the lack of statistical knowledge. Statistical techniques are often complex and their message is often inaccessible to citizens, including politicians charged with significant responsibilities of prioritizing, designing and leading the implementation of public policy. The programmes of this day should enhance statistical literacy and serve as a catalyst for a fruitful, successful and statistically relevant World Statistics Day.

It is important for the world to be statistically capacitated, especially the public from which data is collected. This will ensure that the collected data is much more usable and it will be better data, which will in turn better the lives of all people. Better data for sustainable development should prevail as we celebrate World Statistics Day.

**Malaysia**—The Second World Statistics Day 2015 is being celebrated in more 130 countries around the world, including Malaysia. The Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) along with stakeholders, universities and private sector groups are organising several programs to commemorate the celebration. These programmes include a “Statistics Session with the Community,” “StatsRun 2015,” “Statistics Talk,” “MyStats Conference” and “World Statistics Day promotion. [Click here to learn more about each program.](#)



**Aruba**—October 20 marks the third consecutive year the **Centrale Bank van Aruba** (CBA) is celebrating Statistics Day. In honor of the second lustrum of World Statistics Day and in keeping with the general theme “Better data. Better lives,” the Statistics Department of the CBA is hosting a half-day seminar focusing on the importance of statistics in everyday life. The CBA has invited both internal and external data compilers and daily users of statistics to the seminar as well as to take part in the celebration. External stakeholders include members of several government departments such as the Central Bureau of Statistics of Aruba, Department of Finance, Department of Taxes, Customs, Aruba Tourism Authority, Social Insurance Bank, Department of Labor, and Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry.



**CENTRALE BANK VAN ARUBA**

To kick off the seminar, Jane Semeleer, president of the CBA, will address the audience and will be followed by three guest speakers. The first is Dr. Henk Lub, formerly an economist at De Nederlandsche

Bank (DNB) and the Statistics Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), who will elaborate on the role of central bank statistics in his presentation “Producing Statistics in a Changing World”. The second is Desiree Helder, Ph.D, head of the Project and Research Department of the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of Aruba. In her presentation “A Day with Statistics”, Helder will illustrate the importance of statistics in everyday life in all its simplicity and complexity. Helder will say a day with statistics is a day in which every individual and society as a whole can reach its goals and plan for a better future. The third, Professor Ryan Peterson, professor of innovation economics at the University of Aruba (UA), will discuss Big Data in his presentation titled “Banking on Big Data: Between Blessing and Blight”. Peterson will present the history and hype surrounding the “supersizing” of data analytics and discuss the innovation resilience and idiosyncratic risks that these developments pose in contemporary economies and institutions.

Finally, the CBA will acknowledge the work of statisticians in Aruba, especially their contributions to continuously expand the quantity and enhance the quality of (socio-) economic statistic and contribute to better data and better lives in our community.

**Republic of Moldova**—On the occasion of World Statistics Day 2015, the **National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** and the **Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova** with the support of the project “Improving Regional Statistics in Moldova” will hold a conference titled “Improved Local and Regional Statistics for a Better Life.” The event’s goals are the following:

- Strengthen links between academia and territorial statistics in official statistics
- Present challenges for NBS for the Association Agreement EU-Moldova
- Create opportunities for gaining practical experience for students and doctorate students in the NBS project



The conference will be held in the Senate Hall of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova starting at noon and is open to students, teachers and all interested parties. Confirmation of participation can be made via e-mail to [info@statreg-moldova.eu](mailto:info@statreg-moldova.eu).

“Improving regional statistics in Moldova” is a project implemented by GFA Consulting Group of Germany, a consortium-leader with DevStat (Spain), AAM (Hungary) and the Statistical Office of Slovakia spanning the period November 2014 to November 2016. The main beneficiaries are the NBS and Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Ministry of Economy. Other beneficiaries include RDAs, local governments and other users of regional statistics.

Also, a number of other World Statistics Day events will be staged in Moldova. A series of workshops in Chişinău, the capital, and other cities will be organized with users and producers of regional statistics.



Additionally, a press conference and a conference co-organized with the Academy of Economic Sciences (ASEM) will take place that day. Statisticians, policy-makers at the national and local levels, academic researchers, doctoral candidates, students and journalists will be involved in these activities, under the coordination of International Statistical Institute members Lucia Spoială, NBS director general and ex-officio International Statistical Institute member, ASEM Professor Ion Pârțachi, and José Cervera, team leader of STATREG. [Click here for more information about the STATREG project.](#)

**Croatia**—October is the month in which we celebrate World Statistics Day, but this month is particularly important for statistics in this country because October 19 marks the 140th anniversary of official **Croatian Statistics**.

The Croatian statistical story began in 1875 when the Croatian Ban Ivan Mažuranić, prompted by the relatively harsh living conditions in the former Kingdom of Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia, started an initiative to study economic and social conditions in order to develop indicators on the basis of which specific measures to improve those conditions could be taken. The National Statistical Office was founded August 1 the same year and the first yearbook with data for 1874 was published two years later.

National territory and the constitution have changed over the years, but collecting, processing and distributing data has always been a constant. A long time ago, and today especially in a globalized world, decisions taken by public authorities have an impact on millions of people and it is necessary that they are based on evidence and unbiased information. Therefore, the role and importance of statistics in contemporary society is undeniable and providing timely, accurate and reliable information is imperative.



Thanks to technological advances, today we are able to collect process and put a large amount of data, which the application of modern information and communication technologies has made readily available, at the disposal of users. Almost every aspect of our lives can be represented by numbers or statistics. The birth of a child, marriage, getting a job, going on vacation or starting a business are part of everyday life monitored and recorded by national statistical offices. However, the number itself is not the story. Statistics is the one giving the numbers their meaning and converts them into succinct, objective and easy-to-understand information on the basis of which companies can employ more effective business strategies, politicians can vote for a more equitable public policy, and individuals can improve their quality of life.

To mark the month of statistics and almost a century and a half of operation, the **Croatian Bureau of Statistics** is organizing a conference under the headline “Statistics—Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow” at which the development of statistics over time will be presented with a particular focus on the future. At

the panel discussion that will follow, representatives of the most important user groups will present their perspective and expectations for the official statistics. Also, in order to promote statistics, its long-standing tradition and importance, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics has prepared an exhibition titled “140 Years of Croatian Statistics,” which will be held October 19-28. The most important publications published in the last 140 years, specifically, from the first Statistical Yearbook from 1874 to the latest publications containing data from the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia in 2011, will be presented.

Also, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics has prepared a short story titled “[Life Through the Spectrum of Numbers](#)” that illustrates the extent to which our every step is accompanied with statistical data.

Today, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics is a modern institution that understands that the role of statistics in the modern world is more important than ever and seeks to adapt its activities to the needs of society. Fulfilling the needs of users is the reason we exist, is what drives us to improve and modernize on a daily basis in order to create a brighter future by providing relevant data. That is the essence of our existence—we are gathering data from the past, in the present and for the future.

**St. Helena**—On October 20, the **St. Helena Statistics Office** will be celebrating World Statistics Day by spreading the message of the importance of statistical information for the Island and spreading the message of “Better Data. Better Lives.”

At a critical period in the Island’s development, we remind people of the importance of data to inform policy formation, to enable effective (and accountable) decision-making, and perhaps above all to ensure we can monitor the wellbeing of the island and its people.



In September the island saw two vital advances: the arrival of the first aeroplane closely followed by the “switching on” of the first mobile phone network. This level of access, both physical and communications, are frequently taken for granted in the rest of the world, but here on St. Helena they signal the acceleration of the island and its people toward connection with the rest of the world, irrevocably changing the way the island operates.

On the morning of World Statistics Day, members of the statistics office team will be on the local radio station giving examples of how and where data is used on St. Helena, just how much it matters and repeating the message of Better Data leads to Better Lives. The day itself falls during the local holidays but when pupils return to school there will be a presentation of results from a school census exercise in

which they have been participating. The project is providing firsthand experience of data collection and statistics and providing some inspiration to the next generation workforce.

The value of statistical information is disproportionately large in small places such as St. Helena and never more so than during periods of rapid change. However, with a population of approximately 4,600 people it is not surprising the specialist technical and analytical skills that enable proper use and collection of this data are underrepresented on St. Helena. This is why we often rely on the global statistical community to lead the way. Through showcasing best practices and preferred methodologies to demonstrating the achievements that ensue the way forward is highlighted, enabling us to progress in the right direction and at a far faster rate than we could manage alone. So, on World Statistics Day we will be taking stock of our local achievements and also celebrating the global community and thanking them for sharing their experience and expertise.

**Costa Rica**—Seven students who recently participated in international scientific meetings with the support of the School of Statistics at the University of Costa Rica were asked to write about how their experience relates to one of the goals of the World Statistics Day 2015. The specific goal is the following: To achieve improved data sources, sound statistical methods, new technologies and strengthened statistical systems that enable us to make better decisions that eventually result in better lives for all of us. [Click here to read “World Statistics Day: Reflections from Statistics Students at the University of Costa Rica.”](#)



UNIVERSIDAD DE  
COSTA RICA

**International**—The publisher **Wiley** is celebrating World Statistics Day by sharing special articles about World Statistics Day, offering a discount on book purchases and announcing the winner of the *StatisticsViews* Data Visualization competition.

*StatisticsViews*, the free-to-view website that was specifically created for all users of statistics, has been overwhelmed by the quality of entries submitted to the Data Visualization competition held in recognition of World Statistics Day 2015. You can see the inspirational short-listed entries [here](#) and follow @StatisticsViews October 20 for news of the announcement of the winner.

WILEY

*Significance*, the official magazine of two of Wiley’s most prestigious society partners—the Royal Statistical Society and American Statistical Association, devotes 20 pages in its latest issue to a special section for World Statistics Day. It features an introduction from John Pullinger, the United Kingdom national statistician and chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission, on the importance of World Statistics Day. And what better way to celebrate World Statistics Day than to make the whole devoted section from *Significance* (made up of six exclusive articles), free to read for a limited time. You can read the articles online [here](#).

Last, Wiley will be offering a 20% discount on purchases of statistics books to customers who quote an exclusive code. Follow @Wiley\_Stats on twitter to find out the code.

Happy World Statistics Day reading!

**Malaysia**—MyStats 2015, the third Malaysia Statistics Conference, is jointly organised by the **Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM)**, **Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM)** and **Institut Statistik Malaysia (ISM)**. This year, in recognition of World Statistics Day 2015, the conference will be held in Sasana Kijang, Bank Negara Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur November 17.



The theme “Enriching Statistics in an Interconnected and Digital World” is relevant since the world today is highly interconnected due to greater financial and economic integration as well as advancements in information technology. The borderless world and the fast transmission of information demand and create additional or new statistics for analysis, diagnosis and decision-making. There will be one plenary session with invited speakers, two parallel sessions and a panel discussion session.

In conjunction with the conference, a mini career fair is being organised to facilitate interaction between statistical graduates/undergraduates and institutions that are recruiting statisticians/researchers. The conference is expected to be attended by more than 450 participants. Additionally, three short courses on statistical methods and applications –namely Basic R for Financial Data Analysis, Household Income Survey, and Input-Output Tables—will be held November 16 with 70 invited participants. Participation in the conference, career fair and short courses is free.

**Italy**—The **Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat)** joins the World Statistics Day 2015 celebration with an event, “Better data. Better life”, that will be held in Rome October 20 in partnership with the **Italian Statistical Society (SIS)**.

On the same date, Italy celebrates the Italian Day of Statistics, which is now in its fifth edition. In line with the United Nations guidelines, the focus of the World Statistics Day event will be the need to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators to measure a country’s progress, but also to use new measurement and analysis approaches in support of policies for sustainable development.

The opening ceremony will start with the institutional greetings of the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Rome. The presidents of Istat and SiS will then sign the “Data for Sustainable Development—A Statement for World Statistics Day” sponsored by the Royal Statistical Society and the American Statistical Association. The ceremony will conclude with the awarding of the national winner of the International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP).



A panel of experts will discuss the theme of “Sustainable Development and Social Progress,” which is the focus of the second part of the celebration.

Besides the national event, which can also be viewed via live streaming on the Istat website, promotes about thirty-five regional initiatives and activities in collaboration with organizations, local institutions and universities.

**Romania**—The **Romanian National Institute of Statistics (INS)** will mark World Statistics Day October 20 with the following events:

- Release of a press release about World Statistics Day
- A Romanian language World Statistics Day is published on the [global celebration's website](#)
- An open house themed “Travel in Time—156 Years of Romanian Official Statistics” at its offices
- A roundtable discussion on the topic “*Revenues and Expenditures of Population-balance or Imbalance*” as part of a series of roundtables “***Institutional Cooperation INS - IEN***”. Experts from INS, IEN, the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education and Science, National Commission for Prognosis, Territorial Labour Inspectorate and National Agency for Workforce Employment will participate.



Also, the national statistical agency states World Statistics Day is important to it for the following reasons:

- The day is an opportunity to make better known to the population of Romania the importance of a science involved in making all major decisions of contemporary society
- On this occasion, the Romanian statistics agency reformulates its own objectives linked to its mission to be the main source of information and orientation of the economic development policies of the country at the macro and micro social levels
- The commitment to produce better statistical information that is more comprehensive, more relevant and more accurate at a detail level, even at territorial level as emphasized as possible, faster, closer to the time of the report and, last but not least, with minimum costs in terms of human and financial resources used
- The target commitment to pass mainly to a more extensive access and use of the administrative data. This requires a commitment by consensus of all the other producers of statistics, of the INS as main factor, acting as coordinator of the national statistical system.
- The World Statistics Day 2015 finds the Romanian official statistics to be a strong and credible partner, able to sustain, with accuracy and professionalism, its score within the world statistics, under the undeniable truth that better statistics mean a better life for all

**United States**—*The following article connecting the World Statistics Day and its importance to activities at Oregon State University was written by its College of Science public relations writer Srila Nayak and assistant director of marketing and communications Debbie Farris:*

In the mid-2000s, we witnessed the use of Big Data to drive sales, innovation and commercial productivity. Today, it is hardly implausible to believe that Big Data will determine the future of science, medicine, education, security, markets, industry, consumer behavior, global economic development and even nations. In a countdown of [the most amazing Big Data stories of the past 12 months](#), you can see this pattern of “datafication” turning many aspects of our life into computerized data and transforming this information into something meaningful. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has deemed October 20 [World Statistics Day](#) with the theme, “Better data, better lives.” This theme emphasizes the close relationship between data science and civic development, sustainability and policymaking to ensure a better quality of life for people across the globe. The goals of World Statistics Day and the UNGA highlight the maturation of data science to strategically integrate agendas to guide overall civic, economic, environmental and human health and development.



Angus Deaton, the 2015 Nobel Laureate in Economics, spoke recently about the important need for better data that leads to better lives. As he said in an interview on [PBS Newshour](#):

“...the very word data means ‘given.’ And yet most of the numbers we have are not ‘given.’ They’re produced by statistical offices, many of whom are under terrible budget pressure and threats from politicians who don’t understand how important the numbers are. And.....if we don’t know what sort of progress we’re making and how we’re doing, we don’t really know where we are.

A lot of people think the world is getting to be a worse place. A lot are thinking it is getting to be a better place. We have got to be able to resolve these questions and know what is happening. We talk about inequality a lot. We have got to measure it, and we have got to be able to say whether those people who say it is getting worse are right, or if those people who say nothing is happening are right. So measurement is a very, very important part of this, and careful measurement is something that’s not always in great supply.”

The College of Science at Oregon State University believes in the importance of better data for better research that supports our mission of having healthy people living on a healthy planet in a healthy economy. Our research in data science extracts useful and actionable information from big data by developing new statistical methods, mathematical models, visual analytics and computational algorithms. We value the importance of collecting good data efficiently, whether it is for better government, education, innovation, mitigating hazards, risk assessment or resource management.

We are committed to training computational and data-enabled leaders in science. This fall, Oregon State will select graduate students for a National Science Foundation funded five-year, \$3 million grant program, in which they will use big data to analyze and understand the effects of human activities and climate change on the ocean system around the world. Faculty and students will examine large data sets in new ways to quantify uncertainty and risks in order to better manage ocean resources.

Along with these efforts, our upcoming M.S. in data analytics program and courses in data visualization and data mining will position OSU as a national leader in data science and big data training and research. An often cited McKinsey & Company report predicts a work-force gap of 1.5 million managers and analysts with the skills required to decipher and translate data patterns for decision-making.

Our Data Science Initiative at OSU integrates disciplines to increase overall impact. We will deepen expertise and engagement among data science and the fields of mathematics, physics, biological sciences, statistics, computer science, genomics and business. OSU’s premier Center for Genomics Research and Biocomputing comprising scientists from a wide-range of disciplines, including statisticians, are using large datasets to conduct research in bioinformatics, biological computing and genomic biosciences.

Within OSU, big data and data analytics are moving seamlessly among disciplines, research programs and classrooms. The College of Science is making strategic investments in mathematics, statistics and biology faculty to extend the reach and impact of data science on transdisciplinary research, including the challenges presented by complex data structures of coastal and ocean systems.

We are deeply committed to preparing the next generation of leaders in data science and powering human development through scientific and statistical literacy. We enthusiastically support the goals of

ASA and the World of Statistics to promote the practice and profession of statistics, and we are proud to be a part of the World Statistics Day celebrations with its focus on better data for better lives.

**United States**—The Central Indiana Chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA) will celebrate World Statistics Day 2015 by participating in an outreach program with Carmel High School in Carmel, Indiana. This World Statistics Day event was organized by student Cynthia Yue and faculty member Matt Wernke. Yue is enthusiastic about statistics and wanted to recognize this special day.



*Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics*

She asked the local chapter to help organize the event and identify statisticians who could speak to an audience of about 200 students about how statistics is used to solve problems in business and research. In keeping with this year's World Statistics Day theme of "Better data. Better Lives," topics that will be presented include the importance of statistical literacy in the 21st century; how statistics is used to handle missing data, to design clinical studies, and to conduct medical research; and how statistics is used in the actuarial sciences.

As students arrive for the presentations, they each will receive a World Statistics Day button they can wear or attach to their backpack. On the back of each button will be a set of three digits corresponding to three dice (i.e., the numbers 1 through 6). Three dice will then be rolled and the student who matches the three-dice in order (with a little side discussion on combinations vs permutations) will win a World Statistics Day t-shirt. Reaching out to students is one of the primary goals of our chapter as we seek to educate and inform students about the importance of statistics in our lives and the career opportunities available in the statistical sciences.

Also, Sameera R. Wijayawardana, president of the Indiana Chapter of the ASA, invited speakers from the pharmaceutical industry, academia and consulting to participate in the celebrations at Carmel High School. The presenters will give talks on topics related to statistics in medical research, survey research, and actuarial science.

Nathan Enas will present a talk titled "Sizing the Clinical Trials" and Vipin Arora will present a talk on "Challenges of Missing Data." Other speakers will share their knowledge with students on topics related to actuarial science, scientific experiments and consulting. Students will ask questions to the speakers including general and specific topics pertaining to their projects.

**Australia**—*The following article, titled "Significance of World Statistics Day 2015," was written by **Liton Kumar Saha**, a member of the Statistical Society of Australia:*

Significances of World Statistics Day 2015 are versatile, including awareness, scope, practice, implementation, statistical body, statistical problem, values, limitation, misuse and statistical tools. It should not be limited to official statistics which help general public and strategy makers develop



informed policies that impact millions of people all over the world, but also need to concern on use of application of statistics any fields.

On World Statistics Day, the slogan would be improved data sources, sound statistical methods, new technologies and strengthened statistical systems enable better decisions that eventually reflect on better lives of millions of people around the world. The celebration of World Statistics Day 2015 is very exceptional which include the sustainable goal and lesson and learning the Millennium Development Goals. There are 60 indicators to measure progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. A vision for the future: a world with less poverty, hunger and disease, greater survival prospects for mothers and their infants, better educated children, equal opportunities for women, and a healthier environment that took the shape of eight Millennium Development Goals, which provide a framework of time-bound targets by which progress can be measured. The first World Statistics Day was commemorated October 20, 2010 and was celebrated in over 130 countries and areas and involved worldwide statistical offices and associations, universities, international organizations, civil society organizations and individuals. It would be celebrated every five years all over the world.

According to the report of the United Nations general secretary on World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2010/12), "World Statistics Day will aim to raise awareness of the many contributions of official statistics premised on the core values of service, integrity and professionalism. It will address a broad audience, ranging from decision makers and data providers to the generally very heterogeneous data-user community, at the national, the regional and the global levels. The celebration will encourage their support of statistics, bringing together users and producers of statistics. The celebration of World Statistics Day will also acknowledge the service provided by international, regional and subregional agencies in promoting and facilitating the development of national statistical systems."

Statistics hold a central position to everybody including business, nonprofit organization and government agencies. The application of statistics is very wide. It plays a vital role in determining the existing position of per capita income, unemployment, population growth rate, housing, schooling medical facilities and so on. To guide our economics and decision making, it is vital to find out the statistical questions such as: how would we know the current unemployment rate, what kind of social and health services are needed our communities, Where is the best place to build the new factories or stores, and so on. The result of survey and censuses also affect us by driving policy decision. Official statistics provide the quantitative or qualitative information on all major areas of citizens' lives, such as economic and social development, education, living conditions, health and the environments.

There is no doubt about the using and magnitude of statistics in different aspects including being used to find temporary housing where millions of people affected by demonstrating flood; used to monitor and study recovery of small businesses; helped to determine the economic impact of evacuation by business owners; helping researcher keep children around the world healthy with analysing data from viral vaccines to ensure consistency and safety; used to map carbon footprint and reduce emissions to make climate-neutral city; improving HIV AIDS programs by tracking patients & monitoring treatment with healthcare provider; forecasting the spread of HIV in order to negotiate better prices for medicine with pharmaceutical company and used to study and track endangered species. Government agency

over the world relies on statistics to clear understanding their county, its business, and its people. “Statistics are critical for evidence-based decision-making across all cultural and historical backgrounds of countries and irrespective of their level of development,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in an August 2015 letter to heads of state. “I am encouraged by the efforts made in recent years in many countries to strengthen their statistical capacity, under the leadership of national statistical offices, in areas such as population and housing censuses and the monitoring of the progress of Millennium Development Goals.”

We also need to keep in mind for proper using of statistical models and methodology in study and experiment that is not a fashion to make complexity for publication purpose but it desires to claim for appropriateness for relevant studies- why they are here. Conceptually and logically approval need to be established, obviously should not relay on practice, personal influence and government desire. Sequential explanation for using them also needs to be the special attention when it is related with publication or report. Therefore proper investigation should be established in every level including data collection, data entry, data analysis, using appropriate methodology, tools and so on. In that way, the significance of world statistics day would be increased and reached the Millennium Development Goals.

*Sources:*

- <https://worldstatisticsday.org/>)
- <http://www.un.org/en/events/statisticsday/>
- <http://papersmart.unmeetings.org/media2/2173484/statement-by-desa-item-3m.pdf>
- [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.3/2010/12&lang=E](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.3/2010/12&lang=E)
- <http://mdgs.un.org>

**United States—Virginia Tech’s Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis (LISA)** and the university’s **Department of Statistics** will cohost an event October 20 to celebrate World Statistics Day.

The event, titled “Envisioning the 21st Century Global Land Grant University to Build Research Capacity in Developing Countries,” will introduce the LISA 2020 Program to the Virginia Tech and local communities and celebrate the program’s successes to date.

The celebratory occasion will begin at 5 p.m. in Goodwin Hall Auditorium on the campus with a featured talk followed by a reception. Guest speakers are Ian Crandell, LISA 2020 ambassador to Nigeria; Ayele Taye Goshu, LISA fellow from Hawassa University in Ethiopia; and LISA Director Eric Vance.

### **What is LISA 2020?**

The LISA 2020 Program was created in 2012 by Virginia Tech’s Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis to build statistics capacity and research infrastructure in developing countries. Its goal is to help scientists, government officials, businesses and nongovernmental organizations use data to solve real-world problems and make decisions.

Through this program, statisticians from developing countries are trained to effectively communicate and collaborate with non-statisticians and help to create statistical collaboration laboratories modeled

after LISA at their home universities or institutions. These new statistical collaboration laboratories foster education in collaborative statistics and promote the proper application of statistics and data science to solve local problems.



With a strong mentoring network, a single statistician trained to communicate and collaborate with non-statisticians can enable and accelerate 50 or more research projects per year with each project impacting hundreds or even thousands of people.

LISA 2020 will help unlock the collaborative potential of technically trained statisticians who in turn will unlock the research potential of their collaborators and teach the next generation of statisticians to do the same. These collaborations—now with the power of statistical thinking available to them—will be vital to improving human welfare worldwide, especially in developing countries.

### **LISA 2020 Network Progress**

LISA has hosted and trained seven fellows, helped establish five new stat labs, and two LISA ambassadors—Crandell and Adam Edwards—have worked at two of these stat labs.

To date, the program has hosted seven fellows from around the world. They are: Olawale Awe of Nigeria; Dr. Benedicto Kazuzuru, Emanuel Msemo and Richard Ngaya from Tanzania; Jingli Xing of China; Dr. Mohamed Djedour from Algeria; and Dr. Ayele Taye Goshu of Ethiopia. In addition, BECCA—a stat lab at the University of Pennsylvania—helped train Awe.

**Poland**—The Third International Workshop “Advanced Analytics and Data Science” will take place on October 20—World Statistics Day. The workshop is organized by the **Warsaw School of Economics** (Collegium of Economic Analyses, Institute of Statistics and Demography, Event History and Multilevel Analysis Unit) in cooperation with **SAS Poland** under the honorary patronage of HM Rector - Professor Tomasz Szapiro.

The workshop is a unique event gathering academic and business leaders to discuss the challenges regarding financial analytics in the era of Big Data and the analytically focused education programs designed to address real-world business needs. The event’s motto is “Big Data for Finance—Finance for Big Data.” [Click here for more information.](#)

**Northern Ireland**—The **Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)** is inviting area schools to its headquarters for World Statistics Day. As the next day—October 21—coincides with “Back to the Future Day” (the destination day in Back to the Future II ), and of course because the DeLorean car was

built in Northern Ireland, we are having 1985 and 2015 themed areas. Pupils will see examples of the types of technology that were used to produce statistical outputs in 1985 and see how developments in information technology have helped statisticians over the past 30 years. The event enables NISRA to demonstrate changes in Northern Ireland society as well as the important role statistics play in monitoring social change. NISRA also will be hosting a speed networking event and placing statistical information posters in government buildings throughout the country.

## NISRA

**Pakistan**—The Department of Health Local Government of Nowshera is celebrating World Statistics Day 2015 on October 20 under the theme “Real Statistics, Real Decisions.”

The activities will be led by Dr. Arshad Ahmed, Khan District Health Officer Nowshera, and Dr. Abu Zar Taizai, Coordinator District Health Information System & Coordinator Public Health, will coordinate all activities. The following activities will be held to contribute to the celebration of World Statistics Day:

- Creating awareness among newly elected members of local government and all line departments to help us improve data quality and its regular updating.
- Discouraging the issues of poor quality/faked data, engineered or cooked and delayed data sharing
- Updating of select outdated data tools that do not convey the data that decision-makers need
- Providing refresher training to data entry operators about how to collect, organize, display analyze and interpret data. They will be specially trained how to display data using various types of graphs and tables to make it easy for the public to understand
- Illustrating to line departments how statistics plays an important role to their area of responsibility.
- Impressing upon the health department that it should ensure timely dissemination of data regarding any disease outbreak or any untoward health related issues so the issue can be addressed in a timely matter.

**United States**—*The following article was written by **Lisa Werwinski of Miami University** in Oxford, Ohio:*

To promote and celebrate World Statistics Day, Miami University in Oxford, Ohio is hosting Trevor Butterworth, editor of [stats.org](http://stats.org), and launching an American Statistical Association (ASA) Student Chapter—the Miami University StatHawks.



The Department of Statistics and the Department of Media, Journalism, and Film will be co-hosting Butterworth for a series of classroom visits and lectures. Butterworth, a Cornell University visiting fellow and director of Sense About Science USA, is an accomplished science journalist focused on promoting statistical literacy worldwide. He will be a featured guest on [Stats + Stories](#), a podcast that explores applications of statistics and journalism in our daily lives. His broadly targeted evening lecture on World Statistics Day, titled "Words Are Not Enough: Why Statistics is the New Journalism," focuses on decoding the language of statistics.

The StatHawks is a new student-run organization affiliated with the ASA with the mission to build a community at Miami interested in the statistical sciences and related disciplines, to enhance the experience of Miami students with leadership opportunities, to provide social and networking activities, and to facilitate career preparation through interactions with fellow students, faculty, alumni and industry statisticians. Both undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to participate.

We welcome all students, statisticians, members of the university community and public to join us October 20th in celebration of World Statistics Day.

**Uzbekistan**—The National University of Uzbekistan Department of Probability Theory & Mathematical Statistics hosted its 3rd Scientific Conference: "Statistics and Its Applications" October 16 and 17 in Tashkent. The conference was dedicated to World Statistics Day 2015. Scientists from Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Poland, Malaysia and South Korea participated. [Click here for more information.](#)



**Europe**—The following article, titled "ENBIS: Every Day of the Year is Statistics Day," was written by **Irena Ograjenšek**, ENBIS past president (2009-2011) and a member of the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) Faculty of Economics:

The European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS) was established in 2000 as a platform where statistical practitioners and academic statisticians (regardless of whether they are formally trained or not) from Europe and beyond to meet, exchange ideas and launch new projects. During its initial years, the platform developed into the framework of the EU-funded Thematic Network called *pro-ENBIS*, which was set up in 2001 as a three-year collaboration of 37 partners from 18 countries coordinated by Dave Stewardson of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (United Kingdom).

In over a decade of its existence, ENBIS membership has been acting in line with what George Box said in an interview for the *International Journal of Forecasting* (Peña, 2001) "... I believe it is application that most often suggests new theory, and not the other way around." ENBIS named a medal after George. It is awarded annually to an extraordinary statistician who, with his life work, contributes greatly to the

development and application of statistical methods in European business and industry. He was the first recipient of the *Box Medal* in 2003 followed in subsequent years by Søren Bisgaard, Sir David Cox, Gerald J. Hahn, Poul Thyregod, Douglas Montgomery, Tony Greenfield, Dave Stewardson, Henry Wynn, Bill Woodall, David Steinberg and Geoff Vining.



A *Young Statistician Award* was established by ENBIS in 2005 to highlight the work of young people aimed at introducing innovative statistical methods and promoting the use of statistics in daily practice. Not surprisingly, despite their age, some of its recipients are already renowned experts in the industrial use of complex signals resulting from nondestructive sensor technologies for quality assessment.

In 2005, ENBIS also created a special award for decision-makers. The *Best Manager Award* recognizes managers who made a significant contribution to success of their companies by advancing the use of statistics.

Past Presidents of the network—Henry Wynn, Dave Stewardson, Tony Greenfield, Poul Thyregod, Shirley Coleman, Fabrizio Ruggeri, Ron S. Kenett, Andrea Ahlemeyer-Stubbe, Irena Ograjenšek, Xavier Tort-Martorell and Rainer Göb), along with the current President Marco Seabra dos Reis and President-Elect Antonio Pievatolo—are championing the widespread use of sound science-driven applied statistical methods to the benefit of European businesses and industry. Actions to support this endeavour include numerous and varied initiatives such as an annual conference with presentations from a wide variety of sectors ranging from manufacturing to service and from private to public sector. The conference is held every September. The ENBIS Spring Meeting is usually dedicated to a narrow specialist topic. There are also bimonthly ENBIS Webinars, Statistics in Practice Challenges, formal and informal training courses, industrial visits, pan-European projects, books, articles and a newsletter. The ENBIS Publications Panel chaired by Ron S. Kenett continuously contributes to [Wiley's Statistics Views](#).

In 2016, the Annual Conference of ENBIS will be held from September 11-15 in Sheffield, United Kingdom. ENBIS-16 will feature a number of distinguished keynote speakers, invited and contributed sessions, workshops and panel discussions as well as short pre- and post-conference courses. You are cordially invited to participate. If you are not yet a member of ENBIS, [do register online](#); it's easy and there is no membership fee for individual members.

At the conference, the winners of the *Best Presentation with Industrial Focus* and *Best Student Presentation* along with the winners of the *Greenfield Challenge by Wiley* (an ongoing ENBIS activity established to honour Tony Greenfield and aimed at promoting the usefulness of statistics to non-statisticians) will be announced. Check out the "Activities" section of ENBIS Web to find out how to prepare your entry. The deadline for the *Greenfield Challenge by Wiley* submissions is June 30, 2016.

*Reference:*

[1] Peña, D. (2001). George Box: An Interview for the International Journal of Forecasting. International Journal of Forecasting, 17, 1-9.

**Australia**—To mark World Statistics Day 2015, **Shahjahan Khan**, professor of statistics at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba, wrote an article titled “Statistics on Spotlight: World Statistics Day 2015.” Following is the article’s abstract:

“In the age of evidence-based decision-making and data science, statistics has become an integral part of almost all spheres of modern life. It is being increasingly applied for both private and public benefits including business and trade as well as various public sectors, not to mention its crucial role in research and innovative technologies. No modern government could conduct its normal functions and deliver its services and implement its development agenda without relying on good quality statistics. The key role of statistics is more visible and engraved in the planning and development of every successful nation state. In fact, the use of statistics is not only national but also regional, international and transnational for organisations and agencies that are driving social, economic, environmental, health, poverty elimination, education and other agendas for planned development. Starting from stocktaking of the state of the health of various sectors of the economy of any nation/region to setting development goals, assessment of progress, monitoring programs and undertaking follow-up initiatives depend heavily on relevant statistics. Only statistical methods are capable of determining indicators, comparing them, and help identify the ways to ensure balanced and equitable development.”

[Click here to read the complete article.](#)

**Qatar**—The United Nations General Assembly has called on member states to observe World Statistics Day and organize many activities with the aim of raising the level of awareness on the importance of data and indicators in the life of communities. It further invited member states to rely on official statistics as a major source in formulating their policies and driving their investments in social, economic and environmental fields and to activate the fundamental principles of official statistics adopted by the General Assembly.

The Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics is conducting a forum on World Statistics Day that aims to achieve the following goals:

- Highlight the importance of official statistics in formulating policies and monitoring achievements at the developmental level
- Provide an opportunity for participants to learn about the data revolution launched by the United Nations and its statistical impacts on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, at the national and international levels
- Determine the possibility of providing data needed to formulate the second generation of the Qatar National Development Strategy for 2017-2022

- Strengthen the relationship and partnership between the producers and users of data in the State of Qatar with a view to enable the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics to produce qualitative data related to the development process in a timely manner

**Catalonia**—The **Statistical Institute of Catalonia** and **Catalan Statistical Society** are organizing an October 20 event in Barcelona to celebrate World Statistics Day 2015. A “Data Manifesto,” signed by 12 research centres and institutions, will be made public at the event. Also, Diego Puga, CEMFI, will present a talk titled “Advantages of the Use of Administrative Data in Social Science Research.” The manifesto will be published on [the Statistical Institute of Catalonia website](#) following the event.

**Canada**—The **University of Moncton** in New Brunswick, on the occasion of World Statistics Day 2015, will present the special lecture “The Multivariate Normal Distribution: Theory (some) and Applications (a lot)” on October 20. Guest lecturer will be Thu Pham-Gia, Department of Mathematics and Statistics emeritus professor and director of the Applied Multivariate Analysis Research Group (AMARG) of the University of Moncton and Ho Chi Minh University of Science.

The normal distribution—univariate and multivariate—is omnipresent in statistics. During his talk, Phan-Gia will present its theoretical forms, but mostly its applications in education, science and engineering. In particular, he will introduce an approach based on the maximum function he developed for statistical discrimination and classification and the corresponding module of the Hammax software presently in development by AMARG.

**Australia**—The University of Southern Queensland (USQ) in Toowoomba will celebrate World Statistics Day 2015 by hosting Dr. Neil Gordon of the Defence Science & Technology Group based in Adelaide and Dr. Ross Darnell, principal research scientist at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Brisbane. The USQ School of Agricultural, Computational, and Environmental Sciences also is supporting the celebration.

Gordon, who was part of the Australian team to search for missing Malaysian Airline Flight MH37, will speak on “Bayesian Statistics and the Search for Flight MH370”. On March 7 last year, MH370 carrying 239 passengers and crew from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing lost contact with air traffic control and was subsequently reported missing. In his talk, Gordon, a member of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau search advisory team, will show how Bayesian statistical estimation methods have been used to process the Inmarsat data and produce a probability distribution of MH370 flight paths that defines the current search zone in the southern Indian Ocean.



Darnell will present a talk titled “Data Literacy in a World of Big Data”. There is an increasingly large amount of data available either publicly or available to scientists across the globe. Making honest



predictions from these data is not necessarily determined by quantity. Even large datasets can be generated with limitations which define their quality. In his talk, Darnell will argue data scientists need to be trained to understand these limitations of empirical evidence.

In the opening session, Professor Shahjahan Khan, the event organiser, will provide a brief introduction on “Why World Statistics Day?”

**India**—The Department of Statistics at Maharajah Sayajirao University of Baroda in Gujarat will celebrate World Statistics Day 2015 October 20 with a national seminar appropriately themed “Better Data. Better Lives.”

The event’s objective is to bring the importance of official statistics to the attention of policy decision-makers at the highest levels of national governments and the public.



**The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda**

A number of other important topics such as the data revolution and Big Data will be discussed during the seminar. With the widespread use of mobile devices and other forms of telecommunication driven by innovations in technology, a high volume of digital information is continuously generated. The data revolution is giving the world powerful tools that can help usher in a more sustainable future.

This type of information is often referred to as Big Data and its potential resides in the timely and frequent availability of large amounts of data, which are usually generated at minimal cost.

The proposed event will provide a common platform at which young statisticians can interact with subject experts from various parts of India. As a result, they will acquire the skill to develop appropriate new methodologies and theoretical.

**Italy**—*At the following link, a video, created by statistician Daniela Cocchi from the Department of Statistical Sciences ("Paolo Fortunati") at the University of Bologna, amusingly equates the lyrics of a famous aria in Don Giovanni with statistical concepts. Enjoy! The link:*

<https://youtu.be/zUATk2xf8fo>

**China**—Getting a jump on its observance, the Renmin University of China School of Statistics held its celebration titled “Better Data, Better Lives—The Symposium for World Statistics Day” on September 23. The symposium featured a special “teacher group,” including Weimin Zhang—the deputy director of the [National Bureau of Statistics of China](#) and other guests.

Also, several statistics students shared their thoughts of this special day and its theme of “Better Data, Better Lives.” Students Honghao Zhu, Kun Yang and Yifan Xu in level three and Zirui Zhu, Yao Xiao, Ying Xie in level four participated in the discussion about such hot topics as statistics in life and great data.

[Click here to read the complete report of the symposium.](#)

