

**Committee of Women in Statistics  
Meeting of Country Representatives  
Monday, August 27, 7:45 until 9:15 a.m**

**AGENDA**

- Introductions
- Role of Country Representatives:
  - Networking
  - Reports
  - Nominations of women to ISI
- Strengthening the role of the ISI Committee on Women in Statistics
- Discussion of 2009 ISI Focus on Women in Statistics – Dr. Mirando Mafafo, So Africa Country Representative

**NOTES**

**Attendees:** Cynthia Clark (ISI CSW chair), Martha Farrar (ISI CWS webmaster),  
**Country Representatives attending:** Matsumi Bose (India), Miranda Mafafo, (South Africa)

**Others attending:** Nancy McBeth (NZ), Siobhan Carey (UK), Shabani Mehta (ISI liaison)

**Introductions and report on status on women in statistics in their country.**

**Matsumi Bose (India)** provided some insight on the study of statistics by women in India. She noted that women are studying statistics and that 40 to 60 % of the first degree graduates in statistics are women. The prominence of information technology was drawing individuals to the study of statistics so that the pipeline is quite good. However, women are not in the workforce in that proportion. However, there are more women proportionately in official statistics than in academic or industry positions. There is a strong cultural bias against women working after their first degree. Women marry and have children. Even among women working the cost of membership in the ISI is a barrier to membership.

**Miranda Mafafo (South Africa).** Miranda spoke of the prominence women statisticians have gained in Africa, particularly in official statistics. She noted that ISI 2009 in Durban will have a focus on women, particularly in Africa. She will be holding a meeting in October 2007 to begin to make plans for this aspect of the ISI meetings.

**Nancy McBeth (New Zealand).** Nancy noted that there are issues of pay parity in New Zealand between men and women statisticians. There are also institutional and perception barriers to women working as statisticians.

**Roles of Country Representative.**

- **Networking.** Shabani suggested that we might establish a forum on the website where individuals could discuss issues with other women statisticians. This might provide an incentive for individuals to consider ISI membership
- **Nominations of Women to ISI.** The discussion focused initially on increasing membership of women in ISI. One of the barriers to doing this is the cost of membership. Matsumi noted that individuals also prefer to be

members of their own countries' statistical society; in India, this is the Indian Statistical Society.

- **Increasing Number of Country Representatives.** Committee members and attendees were encouraged to suggest individuals that might become country representatives. In general, we were looking for women at the mid-career level who would have some time and energy to devote to this.

#### **Other Topics or Issues Raised**

- Can ISI CWS find a way to establish funds to get women (potential or new members) to ISI?
- How can women in statistics be used more as role models or in public roles? A factual example: The head of the NSO in Portugal is a women. She was invited to sit on the stand at the opening ceremony but was not given a public role in that ceremony.