

WEBINAR FOR YOUNG AFRICAN STATISTICIANS

Theme: Mobilization of Young African Statisticians to actively participate in the 2022 International Young Statisticians Prize

Date: 17 November 2021

Time: 2.00pm – 4.00pm EAT (Nairobi Time)

Talking points for the opening remarks

Good morning young statistician, statistics elders and senior colleagues that I have joined us at this very important occasion.

I want to give special recognition to Professor Lehana Thabane, Vice President of Research at St Joseph's Healthcare—Hamilton, Canada. He has other titles too many to mention. I have been associated with him for many years. Prof. is not new to the work of young statisticians in Africa.

I also want to recognize another special friend Ms. Gemma Van Halderen, senior member of the Executive team of Australian Bureau of Statistics. Gemma many thanks for joining us today

You are all welcome to this webinar for young African Statisticians.

I am privileged and honoured to give short remarks on the eve of the African Statistics Day, which falls tomorrow on November 18, 2021. This makes this occasion today momentous.

Tomorrow, 18 November 2021, the African statistical community will celebrate the African Statistics Day. This is an annual event celebrated on 18 November all over Africa around varying themes to raise public awareness on the pivotal role which statistics plays in all aspects of social and economic life.

The theme for this year's is "*Modernizing National Statistical Systems to support sociocultural development in Africa*".

Several events are being held at the regional level, like this one we are having now, but also at country level. Some countries dedicate a whole week

or even a whole month to celebrate the importance of data and statistics and advocating for evidence-based policy making.

Modernizing and transforming National Statistical Systems need innovative and strategic ways of thinking and doing things. This is where you should come in as young statisticians. The webinar is intended to build on the potential of the youth and their problem-solving abilities in contributing to finding solutions to the challenges faced by the African Statistical System.

Young Statisticians are expected to drive the change and the process, and this includes in other domains as well beyond statistics.

Before talking about why we are here, let me talk about the ECA Young Statistician Programme, which is coined as Takwimu programme

Since the launch of the Takwimu Young African Statisticians on 5 July 2021, we have been working with partners to provide a solid institutional background for the Programme.

The developments have culminated into a need to develop a 4-year strategy for the Takwimu. A consultant is being recruited to develop a strategic plan. The strategy builds on the concept note and existing initiatives. The ultimate goal is to operationalize the Takwimu Programme, defining a 4-year roadmap, 2022-2025. The strategy will be presented to Africa Statistical (Commission StatCom) for endorsement before submitting to senior management of ECA.

Now why are we here

We are here as part of a continued engagement with African Young Statisticians in the statistical development spheres, and also as a recognition of their potential to influence the statistical agenda in the region. It is ECA wish that young statisticians engage and participate in the international statistical agenda through conferences and other forums.

And therefore, one of objectives of the webinar is to publicize the 2022 IAOS Prize among Young African Statisticians. This includes providing guidance for a more effective participation and to answer the questions that Young African Statisticians may have regarding the 2022 IAOS Prize for Young

Statisticians. My good friend Gemma who is Member of the International Association of Official Statistics Executive Committee and Coordinator of the IAOS Young Statistician Prize will speak to this

A bit of history about the International Association of Official Statistics - It was founded in 1985 as an international non-governmental organization, which was created and developed as a specialized section of the International Statistical Institute. It is an Association of physical and legal persons who have scientific or professional interest in the field of official statistics.

Let me emphasize that the Prize is for all Young Statistician across the board, including those working in the private sectors, CSOs and NGOs. Please feel free to ask as many questions to seek clarity.

The webinar today is also graced by the presence of a renowned Professor in the area of mentoring and coaching. He will also speak to the issues of mentorship and what it entails to be mentored, and relationships between a mentor and mentee. I believe that mentorship and coaching is a good ingredient to career development

And finally, we are convinced that your involvement in statistical affairs on the continent is of pivotal importance and of mutual benefits. ECA is determined to work with other partners including the ISI capacity committee to make this happens.

I wish you a fruitful webinar and Happy African Statistics Day to all!!!