

## **59<sup>th</sup> World Statistics Congress Closing Ceremony**

By the Commissioner for Census and Statistics

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

Welcome to the Closing Ceremony of the 59<sup>th</sup> World Statistics Congress. As I speak, it strikes me that it has been 120 years — more than a century -- since the first World Statistics Congress was held, and concluded, in 1887.

Over the years, time has changed and so have circumstances. But the congress continued to network among the brightest minds in the statistics field, and to inspire further development in face of challenges. If it was passion that first kicked start the congress, it is perseverance of generations that kept it going. Indeed, we are all part of an amiable tradition. In this relaxing evening, there would be no more statistical discussions for us. But allow me to present a little statistics to conclude our journey through which we come to at this final stage of the Congress.

In the past week, a total of over \_\_\_\_ papers were put forward from the International Statistical Institute Associations and other relevant groups. A diverse range of topics were covered and discussed. This includes the recent advance in statistical machine learning, statistical challenges in astronomy, cultural differences in statistics education, and many others. We also have interesting discussion on how statistics put into the context of measuring quality of life, for the analysis of social networks or how time use surveys influences the experiences and perspectives for the future.

In our Special Topics Session, nearly \_\_\_\_ papers were deliberated on issues such as ‘*Promoting statistics amongst the youth through fun activities*’ or ‘*What are the quality impacts of conducting high profile official statistical collections on a voluntary basis?*’. The volume of paper submission this year has been unparalleled.

Does this delightful statistics not speak of dedication and enthusiasm? Does it not indicate the hard work you have all put in, to make this Congress memorable? Indeed, the Congress would not have been nearly as successful, was it not for your effort. Let us give ourselves a round of applause. (....*Applause*)

Keep it up! Ladies and gentlemen, the journey before us is not easy. At the current speed of globalization, collaboration among different statistical bodies across the globe is more important than ever. People demand more transparent statistical information. It is up to us to take the challenge.

Last but not least, may I express my gratitude to our sponsors, whose generosity has made this wonderful Congress possible. They are: the Census and Statistics Department, the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers, SAS, the Hong Kong Statistical Society, Fong Shu Fook Tong Foundation and the Hong Kong Federation of Insurance. This includes all the organizers who held and will hold Satellite Meetings both before and after this Congress.

And my blessings go to Brazil, our future hosts. I am sure the 60<sup>th</sup> Congress will continue giving statistics its due recognition as a precondition for development in our advanced society. On top of the 2014 World Cup which is also being hosted in Brazil, it is an occasion I very much anticipate.

So until then, I wish you all well.

Thank you.

(Gala Dinner)

Tonight, it's such a joyful time to share a dinner with all our friends together. After all the hard work, surely we are ready for some chilling and good cuisine? If you wonder what Hong Kong has to offer as a gourmet heaven, here is a slice of it for sampling. We leave the rest for you to explore.

Here, special recognition must go to the Hong Kong Tourism Board for sponsoring nearly all of the cultural performances this week. I do hope you all enjoy them, and thanks again for their welcoming reception for delegates at the airport.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the Hong Kong Statistical Society and the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers for their efforts to help local students attend this event. Their sponsorship has encouraged and brought about students' participation in the event by supporting \_\_\_\_ schools with a total of \_\_\_\_ students aged as young as \_\_\_\_.

Upon the spectacular views that Victoria Harbour affords us, let's toast to our achievements and friendship before reconvening at the next Congress in Brazil.

Cheers!