



What is the IASS about and what are our main challenges?

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The International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) represents survey statisticians from across the world. It aims to promote the development of theory and practice of sample surveys and censuses, and raise awareness of their importance among statisticians, governments and the public, with special emphasis on developing countries and countries in transition. Statistics has changed dramatically in the last decade with more and more emphasis on analyzing big data sets, employing advanced computing algorithms, what is referred to these days as "data science". There are major challenges facing the statistics world, and the IASS, which represents professional survey statisticians from around the world, is in a position to deal with these challenges in connection to survey samples and censuses. Examples of challenges facing survey statisticians include the proper use of big data and data obtained from web-panels, addressing problems of response burden and nonresponse, development of indices that measure quality of life, standardization and globalization of official statistics, mode effects and proxy surveys, greater data accessibility but with protection of privacy and confidentiality, integration of geospatial information, accounting for mode effects, and the development of new censuses, which integrate administrative data with small area estimation. During my talk I shall elaborate on some of these challenges.

Keywords: Big data; mode effects; official statistics; web-panels.