

# CASE STUDY

## FAST FACTS



### Event

62<sup>nd</sup> International Statistics Institute (ISI) World Statistics Congress (ISI WSC) 2019

18 – 23 August 2019

### Venue

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre



### Host Organisation

Department of Statistics  
Malaysia  
Bank Negara Malaysia  
Malaysia Institute of Statistics



### Attendance

More than 2,500 delegates



### Economic Contribution to Malaysia

RM37 million

## MALAYSIA MADE ITS MARK BY SUCCESSFULLY HOSTING THE OLYMPICS OF STATISTICS - THE ISI WORLD STATISTICS CONGRESS (ISI WSC) FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2019



## THE BACKGROUND

Malaysia hosted the 62<sup>nd</sup> International Statistics Institute (ISI) World Statistics Congress (ISI WSC) 2019 for the first time in Kuala Lumpur from 18 – 23 August to high praises. It was held at Malaysia's premiere purpose-built convention centre, the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

The institute was founded in London in 1885 by 81 prominent statisticians from governments and academia. The ISI, its seven Associations and its organisational members, covering a range of statistical areas and interests, make up the ISI family with over 4,500 members from over 100 countries. Their work and influence within the international statistical community are supported by standing and operational committees, special interest groups and regional networks.

Prior to Malaysia, the Congress was held in Marrakech, Morocco in 2017. Malaysia won the bid to host the WSC 2019 against Japan and Abu Dhabi at the final presentation at WSC 2015 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The ISI Executive Committee were very impressed with Malaysia's proposal – making a compelling case for holding WSC in the region, and the benefits to be gained both for the region and the international statistical community.

## INTRODUCTION

Welcoming 2,500 delegates from 130 countries globally, the ISI WSC 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia has chosen “Come, Connect, Create” as the theme of this prestigious event. Comprising of statistical researchers, academia, industry practitioners, analysts, policymakers and leaders, the delegates gathered in Malaysia to share their insights into the development of statistical science.

Returning to South East Asia after 40 years, the Congress began with a Welcoming Address by the Minister of Economic Affairs, YB Dato’ Seri Mohamed Azmin bin Ali, followed by an inspiring Opening Keynote Address by the Prime Minister of Malaysia himself, YAB Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad during a colourful opening ceremony showcasing Malaysia as melting pot of Asian cultures.

YB Dato’ Seri Mohamed Azmin bin Ali highlighted the importance of integrity of data and implementation in formulating public policies. “Sound, relevant and timely statistics pave the way for policies and decisions formulation as well as guide us to realign policies that are misguided or misconceived. In this regard, we cannot overstate the importance of the integrity of data. But even more crucial is integrity in the implementation of policies.”

“As the saying goes, we may have the best formulated policies founded on the most precise statistics, but without integrity, transparency and accountability in implementation, the final objectives will not be achieved. Hence, while statistics are the eyes of the country’s administration, good governance strikes at the heart of fulfilling the legitimate expectations of the people. With that, I think that the Congress has made the right decision by choosing Malaysia to host this world scale event.” concluded YB Dato’ Seri Mohamed Azmin bin Ali.

Elaborating on the Congress, Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics Malaysia and Chairman of National Organising Committee of ISI WSC 2019, Dato’ Sri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin, shared, “We are very excited that the Congress is finally here in Malaysia. Everything starts with statistics, data can change trends and with good facts and figures, we can change imbalances and help develop government policies to benefit the people now and in the future. This has been five years in the making and is a huge milestone in our mission to elevate and develop Malaysia’s statistics industry.”

This biennial event is jointly organised by the Department of Statistics Malaysia, Bank Negara Malaysia and Malaysia Institute of Statistics, and supported by the Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB), an agency under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia (MOTAC).

## OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthening the capacity of international statistics in areas such as application statistics, education and research at all levels of the organisation, society and community statistics.
2. Encouraging discussions and providing a platform for innovation whilst sharing best practices through a network of intelligent networking of professionals in the field of statistical science at international level.

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YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad

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3. Providing a platform for researchers, academics and industry players, both locally and globally, to directly participate in global stage conference, which would then benefit and indirectly allow feedbacks, dialogues and discussions with worldwide statistic scientists.
4. Numerous activities and awards such as the Young Statistician Award will improve general interest for the younger generation to further pursue a career in the field of statistical science.
5. Strengthening the expertise and statistical systems of member countries by covering new discoveries in statistical science research, best practices, research development and the challenges faced in the implementation of public policy relating to big data, open data policy and data evolution.

## EVENT LEGACIES

### DIRECT IMPACT TO MALAYSIA AS A FIRST-TIME HOST

There are several positive impact to Malaysia as a first-time host, the biggest being an opportunity for Malaysia to present scientific papers in the field of statistical science to the panel discussion which are attended by leading researchers, academicians, thinkers and practitioners of statistical science.

It will also enhance the country's image and credibility in hosting world-class scientific events.

### KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND COLLABORATION

The Prime Minister believed that ISI WSC 2019 was the best platform for both local and international participants to not only share visions on development in statistical science, but also to advance the application of statistics for discovery, innovation and decision-making. In his opening remarks, the Prime Minister said, “By hosting a congress of this scale, I am certain it will create interest not just with private or government entities, but also academic institutions. We want to challenge the young in our country to understand and grasp the importance of statistics in imparting knowledge.”

“We want them to understand that in order to shift Malaysia successfully as a leader in the digital economy, we need young minds to connect with people, businesses, devices, data and processes,” said YAB Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad further.

Throughout the Congress, a total of 27 sessions of Special Invited Paper, 126 sessions of Invited Paper, 102 sessions for Special Topics and 353 papers for Poster Sessions of papers were presented – amounting to more than 1,300 papers being presented over the five days.

This ultimately gives delegates from all participating countries to exchange ideas with experts across the globe to discuss key topics under 38 themes including economy, technology, environment, big data and other topics.

## SHOWCASING MALAYSIA'S POTENTIAL TO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

The spectacular exhibition lined up a series of social programmes which include a total of 34 booths from 28 organisations allowing delegates to discover and experience the diversity of Malaysia.

The Malaysian Pavilion staged the best exhibition on journey of statistics. This platform allowed delegates to observe how statistics have contributed to the development of the nation and the journey forward in tandem with technological advancements and emergence of big data. Moreover, visitors discovered things to do, places to visit and events to attend in Malaysia.

At the Pavilion, visitors witnessed how the statistical institutions' roles extend beyond number-crunching in order to interpret these data into actionable strategies for the well-being of the nation and valuable stories for the people on the street, all levels and all ages. Next to the Malaysian Pavilion, the Heritage area showcased local products and the country's rich traditional heritage.

The Career Pavilion dedicated to students and young professionals who are keen to find out more about how to pursue a career in statistics and data science. It also serves as a platform for recruiting institutions to interact with undergraduates and graduating students on their career opportunities.

The Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, a world-class facility as venue of the event received high reviews from international delegates. The Centre's General Manager, Alan Pryor said, "We are truly honoured to be the venue of choice for the prestigious ISI WSC 2019. We pride ourselves on being the 'People's Centre' connecting the world's leading experts with Malaysians, and ISI WSC 2019 perfectly fits with this, as it will create a lasting legacy for the country."

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In conjunction with ISI WSC 2019, a number of exciting social programmes are also being organised to increase public participation and create awareness about the importance of statistics and data in today's digital world. The Congress kicked off with a bang with the World Stats (WSC) Run 2019 at Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, 18 August.

Impressed with Malaysia's creativity in involving the public in ISI WSC2019 through the World Stats (WSC) Run 2019, the next destination Amsterdam, Netherlands, are planning to emulate a similar public event and create a bike ride to celebrate the hosting of the congress.

Commenting on getting the buy-in from the Malaysian public to participate in the Congress, Dato' Sri Dr Mohd Uzir, Chief Statistician, Department of Statistics Malaysia said, "By hosting this Congress in Malaysia, we can bring the local statistics industry to a new level by showcasing how important accurate facts and figures can be to our society. While the government and the business community use statistics all the time, what we really want is the people of Malaysia to embrace data too, benefiting their daily lives and well-being. We truly believe statistics is an important tool to increase citizen participation in public policy, which will help the country progress in a very open and transparent way."

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Dato' Sri Dr Mohd Uzir





## EDUCATION AND CREATIVITY

The ISI WSC 2019 is historic in many ways. For Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the National Organising Committee has composed an official theme song, "Statistics Bloom in Harmony".

In conjunction with the Congress, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) also launched its inaugural School Outreach Programme to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the organisation. It kicked off at Sekolah Kebangsaan Bukit Changgang, Banting on 18 June 2019 and the programme took place at selected schools throughout Malaysia organised by their respective state DOSM. It is hoped that such activity will also inspire other future host countries to initiate programmes that will bring statistics closer to the younger generation.

## LET'S MEET AND GREEN

With a greener nation in mind, ISI WSC 2019 also worked with MyCEB and Forest Reserve Institute Malaysia (FRIM) as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme. The project aims to support MyCEB's efforts in recognizing the government's vision to offset 40% of carbon emissions by year 2020. Throughout the conference, industry delegates, trade visitors and exhibitors were given the opportunity to contribute a minimum of USD10 towards MyCEB's "Let's Meet & Green" campaign and pave the road to a greener future. It ties in with the overall WSC theme in ensuring sustainable future global growth.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Congress contributed RM37 million in estimated economic impact.

