

Information Bulletin

59th World Statistics Congress of the International Statistical Institute



World Statistics Congress

HONG KONG 2013



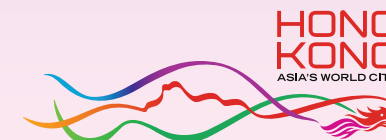
Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Hong Kong, China
25-30 August 2013
www.isi2013.hk



International Statistical Institute

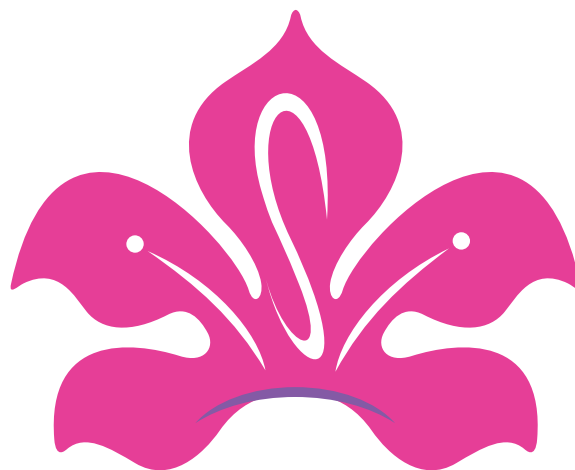


Census and Statistics Department
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



Information Bulletin

59th World Statistics Congress of the International Statistical Institute



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Welcome Messages

From the Commissioner for Census and Statistics, Hong Kong

I would like to extend a warm invitation to you to participate in the 59th World Statistics Congress (WSC) of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) to be held in Hong Kong during 25-30 August 2013.

Since 1853, the biennial meetings of the ISI have provided a great networking platform for statistical practitioners across a wide spectrum of discipline to share experiences, insights and expertise on various statistical fronts.

It is indeed a great privilege and honour for Hong Kong to be the host city of the 59th WSC. Leveraging on Hong Kong's strategic location, world-class convention and exhibition facilities as well as many unrivalled attributes, we pledge to make the event a fruitful and memorable experience for each and every participant.

The Scientific Programme of the 59th WSC will offer you an innovative and stimulating agenda, encompassing a diverse range of statistical topics and issues that shape our future. As young people will become the leaders of the future, we have specially dedicated the theme to “Youth” in the upcoming Congress to encourage more young statistical practitioners to participate in the event.

To add spice to the technical meetings, the Local Organising Committee is planning an impressive social programme to provide you with the opportunity to relax, network with other delegates, and above all, experience the incredible hospitality and vibrancy of Hong Kong – the famous Asia's world city.

Hong Kong is one of the most charming and glamorous cities in the world – with a fabulous mix of history, heritage, culture, attractions as well as an array of shops and gourmet restaurants. Its international outlook today has been shaped by Chinese cultural and historical heritage blended with multi-cultural influences, giving it a flavour and atmosphere unlike any other place in the world. For a truly unique travelling experience, Hong Kong is sure to impress.

I look forward to seeing you at the 59th WSC in Hong Kong in 2013.

Mrs Lily Ou-Yang

Commissioner for Census and Statistics

Hong Kong

Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee of the 59th WSC of the ISI



From the President of the International Statistical Institute

It is my great pleasure to invite you all to the 59th WSC in Hong Kong. The ISI is the only international statistical society that provides an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with fellow statisticians from more than one hundred countries all over the world and in all fields of statistical sciences and their related areas. This biennial conference serves the participants with a wonderful platform to meet old friends as well as make new ones. The scientific programme contains top class presentations by prominent scholars, officials from national and international organisations and practitioners in industry as well. The WSC provides many social events where participants can network for professional collaborations and joint activities.

The ISI WSC in 2013 will be held under a special theme “Youth”. There will be many theme-related sessions for young statisticians and also various activities including the Young Statisticians Satellite Meeting just before the WSC. The ISI recently changed the Statutes to introduce a new category of Regular Membership so that young and entry-level statisticians can join easily. The ISI welcomes young members particularly from developing countries. Our Committee for Young Statisticians is working to find ways to network young statisticians from all ISI Associations and many national statistical societies in the world. It will all begin here at the WSC in Hong Kong.

2013 is a very special year for all of us in the statistical profession. It is the International Year of Statistics (Statistics 2013) to be celebrated by hundreds of statistical societies, departments and organisations all over the world. You can find more on this via the ISI website and please join us in this celebration. It is also the 300th Anniversary of *Ars Conjectandi*, the first book on probability published by Jacob Bernoulli. And it is the 250th Anniversary of Thomas Bayes for his famous essays. There will be interesting programs related to these historical events.

I cannot list all the interesting and exciting activities that are scheduled in Hong Kong. Please find more in this Bulletin, the ISI website (www.isi-web.org) and plan to come to Hong Kong next year. As you already know, Hong Kong is one of the most attractive tourist destinations in the world.

Come to Asia and join us for this great gathering in Hong Kong.

Professor Jae Chang Lee

President, International Statistical Institute



From the Director of the International Statistical Institute Permanent Office

It is my pleasure to reiterate the invitations by Commissioner Mrs Lily Ou-Yang and ISI President Jae C. Lee to welcome you to the 59th WSC. Attending the ISI flagship event in the fabulous Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre next to the Victoria Harbour will be a wonderful experience for all of us.

As you feel the vibrancy of this city, you will understand its popularity with locals and visitors from all over the world. Packed on a small area of land, the city has an enormous variety of attractions and yet, the silent and green areas are never far away.

The ISI WSC has a unique concept in offering the latest developments in statistics for statisticians from academia, business and official statistics, stimulating discussions and offering network opportunities for all.



For the ISI and its Associations, this will be the showcase event where not only the scientific programme is exciting but where we will have all the Executive, Council and General Assembly meetings and where the members of our Associations come together to discuss future directions. The numerous ISI Committees and networks, such as the Young Statisticians Committee, the Committee on Women in Statistics, the Committee on Agricultural Statistics, the Astrostatistics Network and so forth, are all having their meetings and round tables during this week. Should you plan to come to Hong Kong and are interested in an area of work of the aforementioned groups, feel free to liaise with them.

You will have noticed that “Youth” is the theme of the 59th WSC. It will be expressed in the scientific programme as well as special events organised for young delegates: a Young Statisticians Satellite Meeting prior to the WSC, a variety of short courses, and a young statisticians’ reception on the first day of the Congress. I invite you, young or not so young, to come to Hong Kong, experience what the ISI has to offer, and in the end, I hope to welcome the newcomers as an ISI member: Make the ISI stronger and more active.

Join the 59th WSC for an inspiring event and let’s celebrate the International Year of Statistics 2013 while enjoying Hong Kong’s unsurpassed skyline.

Ms Ada van Krimpen

Director, International Statistical Institute Permanent Office



World Statistics Congress

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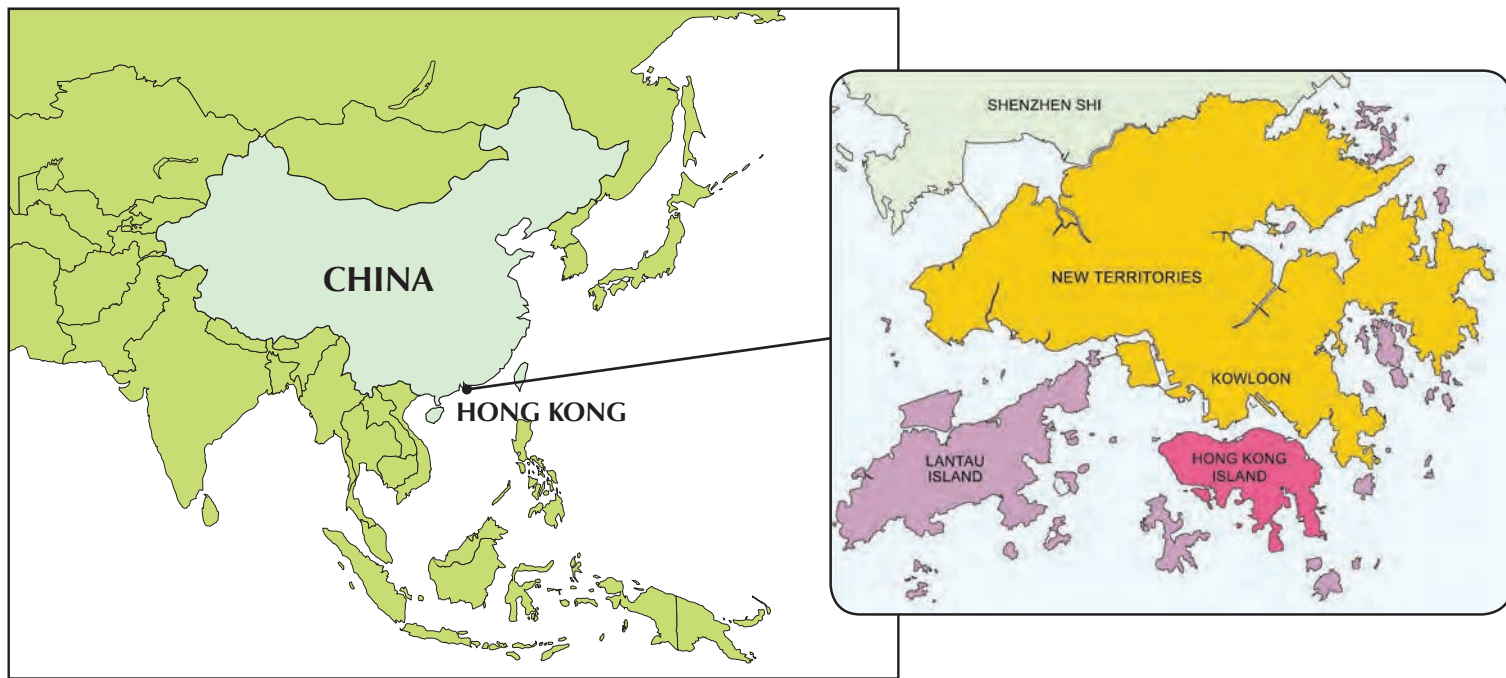
About Hong Kong

Situated on the southeast coast of China at the tip of the Pearl River facing the South China Sea, Hong Kong is one of the world's most international and cosmopolitan cities. With a reputation for exceptional infrastructure, efficiency and dynamism, Hong Kong is a global business hub and financial centre as well as the event capital of Asia.

Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on 1 July 1997. Under the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong) that prescribes the systems to be practised in Hong Kong, Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy in accordance with the principle of "One Country, Two Systems". Hong Kong exercises executive, legislative and independent judicial power.



Geography



At the south-eastern tip of China, Hong Kong covers Hong Kong Island, Lantau Island, the Kowloon Peninsula and the New Territories, including 262 outlying islands. Between Hong Kong Island and the Kowloon Peninsula lies the Victoria Harbour, one of the world's most renowned deep-water harbours.



Attractions

As a premier tourist destination, Hong Kong is a unique blend of East and West, featuring Chinese traditions, Western heritage, high-tech modernity and Cantonese gusto.

Hong Kong offers a host of memorable tourist attractions within its compact area, with The Peak, Victoria Harbour and the Big Buddha among the most awe-inspiring. You will be amazed by the diverse contrasts and close proximity of stunning cityscapes and soaring mountains, heritage sites and extensive green countryside.



The Peak

Hong Kong's most popular attraction, The Peak offers spectacular views over the city, harbour and mountains beyond. Getting there is an unforgettable trip. Riding the Peak Tram is a visual experience in its own right – Hong Kong Island's skyscrapers slide past your window at what appear to be impossible angles as you make the ascent to The Peak on the city's historic, funicular railway.



Victoria Harbour

Victoria Harbour is one of Hong Kong's most popular spots for sightseers. The deep waters between Hong Kong Island and the Kowloon Peninsula are why a collection of fishing villages grew to become an international centre of trade. Today, the harbour is still the city's throbbing heart and one of the world's most awesome urban landscapes.

You can first take the iconic Star Ferry to enjoy stunning views around the harbour, and then hang around for “A Symphony of Lights”, which involves more than 40 buildings on both sides of the harbour. Named as the “World's Largest Permanent Light and Sound Show” by Guinness World Records, coloured lights, laser beams and searchlights perform in an unforgettable all-round spectacle synchronised to music and narration that celebrates the energy, spirit and diversity of Hong Kong.



Outlying islands

Hong Kong's laid-back outlying islands seem a world away from the city's trademark hectic pace. Yet, these islands embody the contrasts that make Hong Kong such an alluring destination: tradition and innovation, serenity and dynamism, and influences of East and West. They are the city's best kept secret that shows another facet of Hong Kong.

The Big Buddha

Once merely a remote monastery hidden by lush and mountain scenery, the Po Lin Monastery made it to the world map when the extraordinary Tian Tan Buddha statue (informally known as the Big Buddha) was erected in 1993. Sitting 34 metres high and facing north, this majestic bronze Buddha draws pilgrims from all over Asia.



The Hong Kong Global Geopark of China

Covering an area of 50 square kilometres, the Geopark includes the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region and the Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region, which, together, feature eight scenic areas containing Hong Kong's major exotic landforms. You don't have to be a rock nerd to enjoy the Geopark. Here, the timeless beauty of the weird and wonderful landforms created by the earth's movements can be appreciated by anyone.

Hong Kong Wetland Park

Hong Kong Wetland Park provides local and overseas visitors with an extraordinary experience on the nature of Hong Kong. This world-class eco-tourism attraction demonstrates the biodiversity of wetland ecosystems and the need to conserve them. The Park has a 10 000 square metre visitor centre "Wetland Interactive World" and 60 hectares of outdoor "Wetland Reserve" with walking trails, mangrove boardwalk and bird hides, all of which are great spots for wildlife exploration.

For more information, please visit www.geopark.gov.hk and www.wetlandpark.com.





Culture and heritage

Culture and heritage are what sets Hong Kong apart from the rest of Asia – and even the world. Hong Kong is a unique fusion of Western and Eastern cultures. Its incense-filled temples, heritage and glass-and-steel skyscrapers, along with its ancient traditions and lively festivals, have made Hong Kong a living cultural experience.



Shoppers' paradise

Hong Kong offers some of the best shopping in the world. The value, variety and quality of shopping services are unparalleled. Whether looking for the latest in Western fashion, electronics or optical goods, or searching for the perfect Chinese gifts to take home, shoppers usually find what they are seeking in Hong Kong.



Culinary capital of Asia

Renowned as the culinary capital of Asia, Hong Kong boasts more than 11 000 restaurants, many of them clustered in defined food districts. Apart from enjoying the best Cantonese and regional Chinese food, visitors can sample a full choice of authentic Asian cuisines and Western fare. Local must-try dishes are dim sum and fresh seafood.

The “Discover Hong Kong – Official Travel Guide” (www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/) contains all the details for you to plan your visit.



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The International Statistical Institute and World Statistics Congress

The International Statistical Institute



Established in 1885, the International Statistical Institute (ISI) is one of the oldest scientific associations operating in the modern world. Its success can be attributed to the worldwide demand for professional statistical information, its leadership in the development of statistical profession, and in the collective dedication of its members.

Its influence can be seen in the improvements in information and analysis throughout the economic, social, biological and industrial sectors. Its industrial influence is evidenced in advanced statistical practices, resulting in improved quality assurance. The ISI is also proud of its continuing support of statistical progress in the developing world.

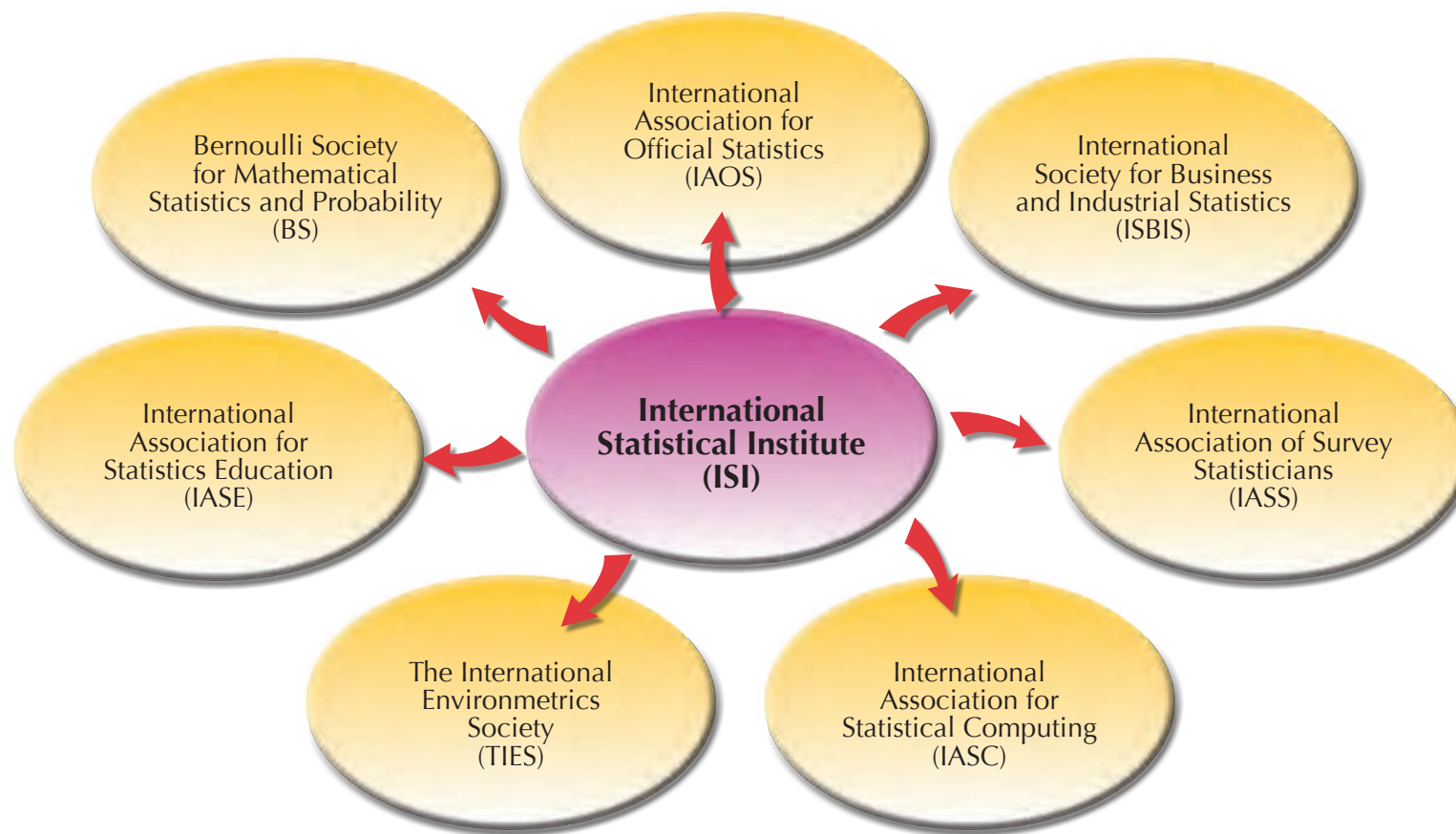
The Institute's activities are funded by the membership's contributions and grants from inter-governmental organisations, governments, local authorities, foundations, private businesses and others.

The ISI is composed of more than 2 000 elected members who are internationally recognised as the definitive leaders in the field of statistics. Its membership crosses all borders, and is drawn from over 130 countries. This reservoir of expertise is supplemented by approximately 3 000 additional individual members of the Institute's specialised Associations.

The ISI publishes a variety of professional books, journals and reports, representing the cutting edge in the development of contemporary statistical knowledge.

Its Permanent Office is situated in The Hague, Netherlands, where it is incorporated. The Institute has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The ISI Family



The ISI is especially renowned for its biennial World Statistics Congresses, where the international statistical community congregates to exchange ideas, develop new links and discuss current trends and developments in the statistical world.

For more information about the ISI, its activities and how you can become member, please visit the official website of the ISI (www.isi-web.org), follow it on Twitter@IntStat or Like us on Facebook (on.fb.me/LpZlx9).

The ISI Executive Committee 2011-2013

President



Jae Chang Lee
(Korea)

President-Elect



Vijay N. Nair
(USA)

Vice-President



Pali Lehohla
(South Africa)

Vice-President



Helen MacGillivray
(Australia)

Vice-President



Hallgrímur Snorrason
(Iceland)

The ISI Council Members

2009-2013	2011-2015
Bovas Abraham (Canada)	Daniela Cocchi (Italy)
Martha B. Aliaga (USA) [†]	Lawrence H. Cox (USA)
A. John Bailer (USA)	Stephen E. Fienberg (Canada)
Marie Husková (Czech Republic)	Enrico Giovannini (Italy)
Jens Ledet Jensen (Denmark)	Shigeru Kawasaki (Japan)
Geoffrey F. Lee (Australia)	Claudia Klüppelberg (Germany)
Awa Thiongane (Senegal)	Aad van der Vaart (The Netherlands)
Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi (Italy)	James V. Zidek (Canada)

[†] Martha B. Aliaga passed away on 15 October 2011.

Additional Members

Past President	Jef L. Teugels (Belgium)
Ex-Officio Member	Gosse van der Veen (The Netherlands)
Association Presidents 2011-2013	Bernoulli Society: Edward Waymire (USA)
	IAOS: Stephen Penneck (UK)
	IASC: Karen Kafadar (USA)
	IASE: John Harraway (New Zealand)
	IASS: Raymond Chambers (Australia)
	ISBIS: Vijay N. Nair (USA)
Secretary/Treasurer	TIES: Don Stevens (USA)
	Ada van Krimpen (Director, ISI Permanent Office)

The World Statistics Congress (WSC)

The ISI has been organising the WSCs, formerly known as the ISI Sessions, every two years starting in 1887 to provide an opportunity for its entire membership as well as organisations / individuals who are interested in the theories and applications of statistics to congregate to exchange innovative ideas, develop new links and discuss current trends and developments in the statistical world. Each WSC usually lasts about one week, comprising a Scientific Programme and a Social Programme. The Scientific Programme includes over 200 professional sessions, which are classified into Invited Paper Sessions, Special Topic Sessions and Contributed Paper / Poster Sessions. The Social Programme comprises a number of hospitality functions and short tours to enable the participants to maximise the networking and communication opportunities with other statisticians from around the world. In addition to the main programme, Satellite Meetings and Short Courses on statistics are usually held before and after the WSC in places in the vicinity of the host city.

The 59th WSC will be held in Hong Kong during 25-30 August 2013. It will be the first WSC that offers the option of virtual participation.

The following persons are encouraged to attend the 59th WSC: ISI Honorary, Elected, Regular and Ex-officio Members; ISI Associations' Members; Corporate / Institutional and Affiliate Members; Representatives of (Inter-) National Organisations; and Academics and Students.

The 59th WSC Scientific Programme Committee (SPC)

Name	Organisation	Contact
Chairperson of the SPC		
Xuming He	University of Michigan, USA	xuming.he@gmail.com
Chairperson of the Short Course Committee		
Steve Heeringa	University of Michigan, USA	sheering@isr.umich.edu
Youth Theme Co-Organisers		
Delia North	University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa	northd@ukzn.ac.za
Byeong U. Park	Seoul National University, Korea	bupark@stats.snu.ac.kr

The 59th WSC Local Organising Committee (LOC)

Chairperson of the LOC	
Lily Ou-Yang	Commissioner for Census and Statistics, Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong
Vice Chairperson	
Kai-wang Ng	Patrick S C Poon Professor in Statistics and Actuarial Science, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, The University of Hong Kong
Members	
Ngai-hang Chan	Department of Statistics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
David Fong	Hip Shing Hong Group of Companies
Margaret Fong	Hong Kong Trade Development Council
Matthew Leung	Information Services Department, Hong Kong
Irene Law	Hong Kong Tourism Board
Peter Tam	The Hong Kong Federation of Insurers
Leslie Tang	Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong
Heung Wong	Department of Applied Mathematics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Philip Yu	Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, The University of Hong Kong

The 59th WSC Local Programme Committee (LPC)

Chairperson of the LPC	
Kai-wang Ng	Patrick S C Poon Professor in Statistics and Actuarial Science, Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, The University of Hong Kong
Members	
Ping-shing Chan	Department of Statistics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Bing-yi Jing	Department of Mathematics, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Kwok-leung Tsui	Department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management, The City University of Hong Kong
Philip Yu	Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, The University of Hong Kong
Xing-qiu Zhao	Department of Applied Mathematics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Li-xing Zhu	Department of Mathematics, Hong Kong Baptist University



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The Census and Statistics Department of Hong Kong

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) is the official statistical agency responsible for services relating to the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of official statistics in Hong Kong. Apart from running a full-fledged programme of official statistics meeting both international standards and domestic requirements, the Department is also keen in promoting statistical literacy and development of statistical work in both the local and international communities.

The Department, with its highly dedicated team of professional staff, is well prepared to continue to make contribution to the development of statistical activities on various fronts. It is committed to joining hands and sharing experience with statistical professionals from all over the world to pursue the enhancement of statistical knowledge and applications which are vital to the building of a more informative and thriving community.

For more information, please visit the official website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk).





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Scientific Programme

The Scientific Programme of the 59th WSC is developed with the aim of reaching out to researchers and practitioners in the statistical community and to share and exchange the latest insights in their work. Key components of the Programme include Invited Paper Sessions, Special Topic Sessions and Contributed Paper / Poster Sessions.

Invited Paper Session (IPS)

The IPSs are developed by the SPC of the ISI and its Associations. IPSs usually consist of 3-4 papers and a discussant invited by the organiser of the Session, but different formats are possible in consultation with the Chair of the SPC. As of September 2012, the following IPSs have been confirmed:

IPS	Title	Organiser
IPS001	Probabilistic and statistical contributions in climate research	Philippe Naveau
IPS002	Improving health statistics in the context of measuring quality of life	Marleen De Smedt
IPS003	Statistical challenges for the analysis of social networks	Gilbert Saporta
IPS004	New developments in multilevel model inference from complex sample survey data	J.N.K. Rao
IPS005	Issues related to major redesigns in national statistical offices	Xiuhua Tian
IPS006	Statistical methods in the study of palaeoclimate	John Haslett
IPS007	Improving agricultural statistics through methodological validation and research	Calogero Carletto
IPS008	History I: Jacob Bernoulli's "Ars Conjectandi" as the emergence of probability	Adam Jakubowski

IPS	Title	Organiser
IPS009	IAOS forum – a panel discussion on new challenges facing official statistics	Stephen John Penneck
IPS010	Statistics of extremes and re-sampling methodologies	Ivette Gomes
IPS011	Chronological text mining	Anne Marie Morin
IPS012	Statistical methods for identification of biosignatures of treatment response	Ying Wei
IPS013	Applications on modeling time correlated count processes	Nalini Ravishanker
IPS014	Measurement issues in international statistics for developing countries	Diana Maria Stukel
IPS015	Statistics for protein structure prediction and protein interaction	Michael G. Schimek
IPS016	Statistical and stochastic analysis of jumps in insurance	Yasutaka Shimizu

IPS	Title	Organiser
IPS017	Crime and statistics: a dangerous liaison? Issues, challenges and future directions	Mario Palma
IPS018	Discrete choice experiments	Martina Vandebroek
IPS019	Sources of influence in developing statistical literacy	James Nicholson
IPS020	Model-assisted approaches to combining information from different surveys (survey data integration)	Jae-Kwang Kim
IPS021	Statistical reasoning in law	Qing Pan
IPS022	Quantile regression – recent development of theory and applications	Huixia Wang
IPS023	Modernisation of business statistics	Hannele Orjala
IPS024	Survey sampling: advanced approaches in computational statistics	Alessandra Petrucci
IPS025	Cultural differences in statistics education	Dirk Tempelaar
IPS026	Statistical methods for analyzing financial data	Tian Zheng
IPS027	Administrative censuses: approaches when national population registers are not complete, or not available	Christine Bycroft
IPS028	Distributional inferences in statistics	Min-Ge Xie
IPS029	New advances in the design and analysis of experiments	David Woods
IPS030	Inference for high dimensional data with low sample size	Sungkyu Jung
IPS031	Computing in R with large data	George Ostrouchov
IPS032	Building on foundation courses in statistics for client disciplines	Brian Richard Phillips

IPS	Title	Organiser
IPS033	Matrix sampling, split-questionnaire: design and estimation	Takis Merkouris
IPS034	Applied stochastic models in business and industry journal session	Fabrizio Ruggeri
IPS035	Advances in generalized linear and nonlinear mixed model with environmental applications	Renjun Ma
IPS036	History II: Pierre Remond de Montmort, Thomas Bayes, and probability in China	Wai-Keung Li
IPS037	Dependence in extremes	Vicky Fasen
IPS038	Time use surveys – experiences and perspectives for the future	Bernd Stoertzbach
IPS039	Cloud computing – risk concerns and data analytical solutions	Mehmet Sahinoglu
IPS040	Megaclases in statistics education: a 360 degrees view	Irena Ogriajenšek
IPS041	Rankings, use of ranks, and survey sampling	Tommy Wright
IPS042	Recent advances in failure time data analysis	Yanqing Sun
IPS043	Measuring the real size of the world economy: methodological and quality improvements of the International Comparison Program (ICP)	Michel Mouyelo-Katoula
IPS044	Recent advances in nonparametric and functional data analysis	Ping Ma
IPS045	Strategies and structures for student engagement and ownership in statistical learning	Helen Louise MacGillivray
IPS046	ISBIS new researchers session	Eric B. Laber
IPS047	Developing statisticians through building the profession	Ron Wasserstein
IPS048	Statistical methods for climate problems	Mikyoung Jun

IPS	Title	Organiser
IPS049	Data visualization for youth appeal	Will John Milne Probert
IPS050	Statistical methods in new frontiers	Wenxuan Zhong
IPS051	Youthful science: nanotechnology	Jeff Wu
IPS052	High dimensional methods for bioinformatics and genetics	Inchi Hu
IPS053	Novel statistical designs of clinical trials	Benjamin French
IPS054	Statistical methods in genetics studies	Rui Feng
IPS055	Nonlinear financial time series modeling	Philip Leung Ho Yu
IPS056	Youthful science: statistical learning in high dimensions	Ejaz S. Ahmed
IPS057	Statistical challenges in astronomy	Bodhisattva Sen
IPS058	Postgraduate students' session	Byeong U. Park
IPS059	Learning to teach and assess statistics at the tertiary level	Bruno de Sousa
IPS060	Developing undergraduate curricula for statistical workplaces now and future	Chris J. Wild
IPS061	Statistical analysis in educational assessment	Zhiliang Ying
IPS062	Malliavin calculus and applications	Arturo Kohatsu-Higa
IPS063	Network modeling in biological, computer, public health, and social sciences	Herbert Pang
IPS064	The challenge from web panel surveys	Jörgen Svensson
IPS065	Random probability measures and their applications	Ramsés H. Mena

IPS	Title	Organiser
IPS066	Careers in analytics	David R. Hardoon
IPS068	Promoting statistics to youth through the International Statistical Literacy Project	Reija Kristiina Helenius
IPS069	Improving statistics teaching: bringing statisticians and educators together	Maxine Pfannkuch
IPS070	Recent developments in nonparametric statistics on manifolds with applications to biology, medical imaging and machine vision	Rabi Bhattacharya
IPS071	Quality in official statistics	Iva Ritschelová
IPS072	International contrasts in educational frameworks for teaching statistics to non-specialists	John Andrew Harraway
IPS073	Response to natural disasters	Gary Roger Dunnet
IPS074	Experimental design in industry and business	Roshan Joseph Vengazhiyil
IPS075	The business of weather and agriculture	David Banks
IPS076	Recent developments in asymptotic statistics of stochastic processes	Hiroki Masuda
IPS077	Credit risk	Nicolas Privault
IPS078	Towards an integrated statistical system of social accounts	Li-Chun Zhang
IPS079	Analysis of distributional data	Paula Brito
IPS080	New developments in small area estimation and applications	Mike A. Hidioglou
IPS081	Statistical methods in educational evaluation	Maria Eugénia Ferrão
IPS082	GIS and census	Stephen K.C. Leung
IPS083	Busan action plan for statistics – a global strategy to improve the quality and accessibility of official statistics	Grant James Cameron

IPS	Title	Organiser
IPS084	Statistical modeling of limit order markets	Rama Cont
IPS085	Transforming national statistics offices through information management	Siu-Ming Tam
IPS086	Benchmarking in classification research	Iven Van Mechelen
IPS087	Analytic inference for data from complex surveys	Jean Opsomer
IPS088	Implementation of Core Skills Framework (CSF) for training official statisticians	Davaasuren Chultemjants
IPS089	Recent advances in statistical machine learning and its biomedical applications	Yufeng Liu
IPS090	Recent developments in imputation	Yves Tillé

IPS	Title	Organiser
IPS091	Statistics in finance and the service sector	Yves-Laurent Grize
IPS092	Some perspectives on comparative statistical inference	Francisco J. Samaniego
IPS101	Special invited panel on career development	Byeong U. Park
IPS102	How can the statistics community help its younger members in the early stages of their careers?	Penelope Lois Bidgood
IPS103	IARIW-session on the measurement of well-being	Peter van de Ven
IPS104	Research, collaborations, and opportunities at the international level: a panel discussion	Vijay Nair

Special Topic Session (STS)

STSs are an important component of the Scientific Programme of the WSC. Proposals for STS can be submitted by individual members of the ISI and Associations, Committees, or outside institutions and organisations. They usually consist of 4-5 papers and a discussant invited by the organiser of the Session.

Proposals for STSs are being reviewed by the LPC. The list of STSs will be announced on the 59th WSC website (www.isi2013.hk) later this year.

Contributed Paper / Poster Session (CPS)

Any person attending the ISI WSC may propose to present one contributed paper. For the paper to be published in the WSC proceedings, in no more than 6 pages in the final version, it must not have been published in any other conference proceedings or publications before the 59th WSC. The copyright for the abstracts and papers in the proceedings reside jointly with the authors and the ISI. Authors are free to publish expanded versions of the material elsewhere.

Once accepted, a contributed paper will be listed in the programme and presented in one of the following three modes:

- (a) Oral presentation of 15 minutes – The speaker will present the paper in one of the 19 simultaneous meeting sessions during the same time-slot. A maximum of 7 papers on related topics will be presented with computer projection in a 135-minute session, 15 minutes for each paper. [Projection mode]
- (b) Poster-display of one day or longer, with possible on-spot discussion – In a well-appointed hall, the author will display a summary with graphs, formulae or other visual aids on a poster-board, and may provide on-spot discussion at the poster with interested audience in some indicated periods of time if available. [Poster mode]
- (c) The same as (b) plus verbal spotlight of 5 minutes – In addition to (b), the presenter will briefly highlight the poster on a platform in the same hall of poster-display for up to 5 minutes. [Poster-plus mode]

Contributed papers should be proposed by submitting an abstract through the online submission system by 1 December 2012. The submissions will be reviewed by the LPC to ensure quality. Around the first quarter of 2013, the author who has submitted the abstract will be notified whether the paper is accepted and, if accepted, the allocated mode of presentation after taking into account both the proposer's preference and programme optimisation.

Youth theme

Youth, the leaders of the future generations, have never been as vital to statistics development as are in today's information and knowledge-driven society. Subsequently, "YOUTH" is chosen as the theme of the 59th WSC. A number of sessions are being organised to address, from various statistical perspectives, topics "of interest to the youth", topics "about the youth", topics "for the youth", etc., which will be a specific driving force at the WSC in Hong Kong in 2013. As such, participation of young statisticians in the 59th WSC is highly encouraged. A selection of IPSs on the Youth Theme is given below for your interest. In addition, a special panel on career development for young statisticians will be presented on the Theme Day (28 August 2013), which features prominent statisticians from academia and industry. We hope to attract a large number of young statisticians as well as those interested in statistics promotion amongst the youth to this special gathering of statisticians, so hope to see you there!



IPS	Title	Organiser
IPS050	Statistical methods in new frontiers	Wenxuan Zhong
IPS051	Youthful science: nanotechnology	Jeff Wu
IPS056	Youthful science: statistical learning in high dimensions	Ejaz S. Ahmed
IPS058	Postgraduate students' session	Byeong U. Park
IPS061	Statistical analysis in educational assessment	Zhiliang Ying
IPS066	Careers in analytics	David R. Hardoon
IPS068	Promoting statistics to youth through the International Statistical Literacy Project	Reija Kristiina Helenius
IPS069	Improving statistics teaching: bringing statisticians and educators together	Maxine Pfannkuch
IPS070	Recent developments in nonparametric statistics on manifolds with applications to biology, medical imaging and machine vision	Rabi Bhattacharya
IPS071	Quality in official statistics	Iva Ritschelová
IPS081	Statistical methods in educational evaluation	Maria Eugénia Ferrão

Moreover, a Young Statisticians' Satellite Meeting is being planned at The University of Hong Kong just prior to the 59th WSC. Please see the information on satellite meetings at www.isi-web.org/isi-wscs/satellite-meetings and www.isi2013.hk for more details.

Paper and abstract submission

Papers and abstracts can be submitted through the abstract submission page on the 59th WSC website (www.isi2013.hk).

Virtual participation

The 59th WSC will be the first WSC which offers the option of virtual participation. Virtual participants will have access to real-time viewing of the speakers' presentations and PowerPoint slides for about ten selected sessions via the Internet and may raise textual questions through the instant messaging panels. The Opening Ceremony of the 59th WSC will also be webcast.



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Short Courses and Satellite Meetings

Short courses

Short courses will be arranged before the 59th WSC by the ISI and its Associations in Hong Kong. All the Congress delegates are welcome to participate in the courses which will be subject to a cost-based charge. Please visit the ISI website (www.isi-web.org/isi-wscs/short-courses) and the 59th WSC website (www.isi2013.hk) for the list of courses and more information as it becomes available.

Satellite meetings

There will be several satellite meetings organised before and after the 59th WSC in cities close to Hong Kong. A few satellite meetings are already announced. For up-to-date information of the satellite meetings, please see www.isi-web.org/isi-wscs/satellite-meetings and www.isi2013.hk.





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The Venue – Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre



for pre-function gathering and supporting amenities. With hundreds of world congresses, local conferences, meetings and seminars held each year, the HKCEC offers cutting-edge conference facilities, state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, reliable and advanced telecommunications services and the highest level of professionalism and expertise. The HKCEC is easily accessible by public transport. Subway transport is only minutes away. The airport can readily be reached by road or express rail link in 30 minutes. Abundant retail and banking facilities and over 3 700 hotel rooms are within easy reach, and the site itself incorporates two deluxe hotels offering a total of over 1 400 rooms.

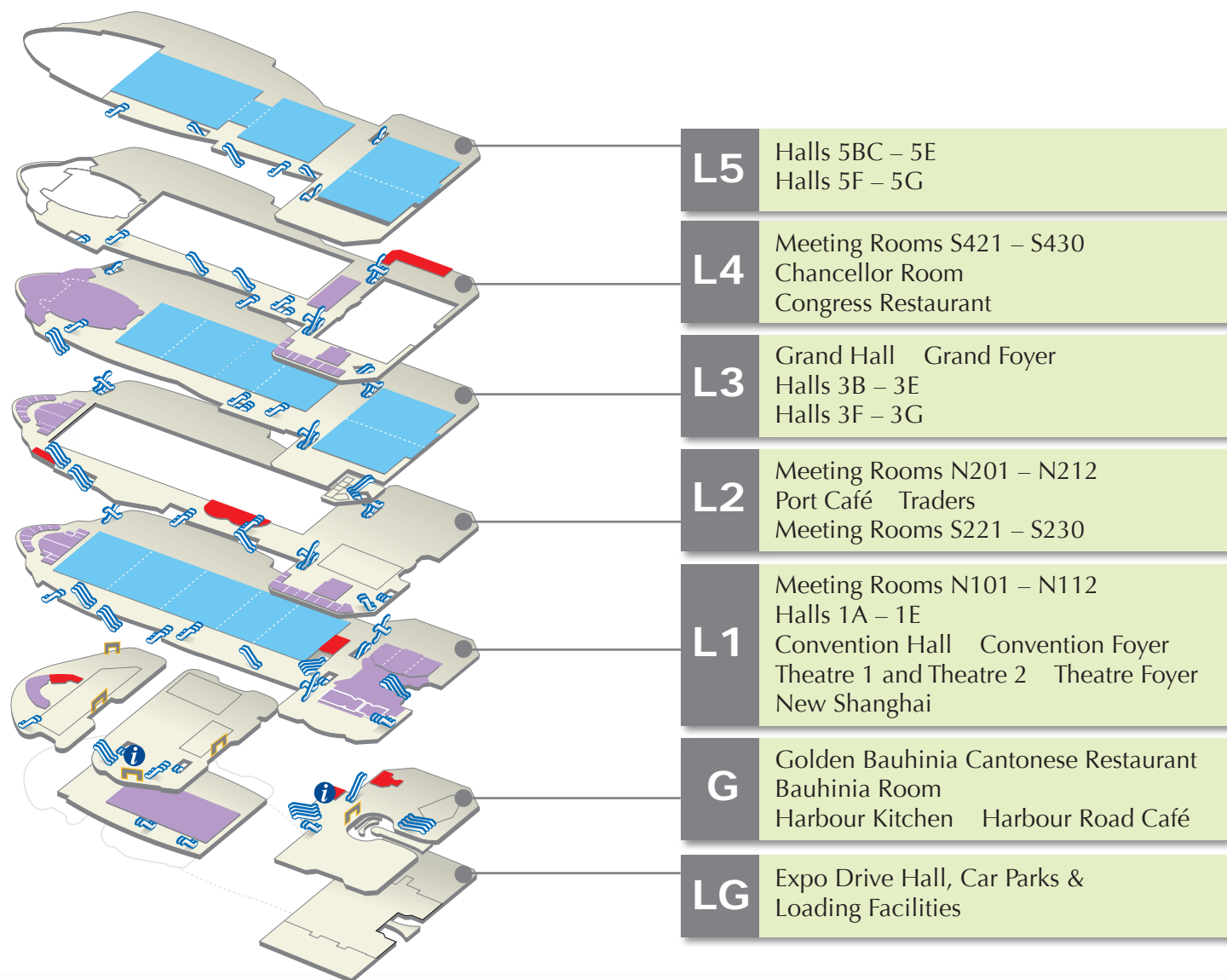
Introduction

The meeting venue will be the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), which is a magnificent, multi-purpose venue located right in the heart of Hong Kong on the Victoria Harbour.

The HKCEC is one of the largest purpose-built complexes in Asia. It has rental space totaling 64 000 m², comprising 5 exhibition halls, 2 ballroom-style convention halls, 2 adjacent convention foyers, 2 theatres and 52 meeting rooms. The spacious atrium and ancillary area can be used



Floor plan



Activities of the 59th WSC will be held mainly on L1 - L4 of the HKCEC

Location map





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Hong Kong 2013

Conference Details

Provisional timetable

Sunday 25 August	Monday 26 August	Tuesday 27 August	Wednesday 28 August**	Thursday 29 August	Friday 30 August
	Administrative Meetings (07:30 - 09:00)				
Registration (09:00 - 16:00)	Scientific Sessions (09:00 - 11:15*)				
	Lunch / Administrative Meetings (11:15 - 13:00)				
	Scientific Sessions (13:00 - 15:15*)				
	Scientific Sessions (15:30 - 17:45)		Youth Plenary & Scientific Sessions (15:30 - 17:45)	ISI & Associations' Awards Ceremony (15:30 - 16:30)	ISI President's Invited Paper Session (15:30 - 16:15)
Opening Ceremony & Welcome Reception (16:00 - 19:00)				ISI General Assembly (16:30 - 19:00)	Closing Ceremony (16:15 - 17:30)
		Hong Kong Night (19:00 - 22:00)			Gala Dinner (19:00 - 23:00)

* Coffee breaks: 11:15 – 11:30; 15:15 – 15:30

** Youth Theme Day

Key dates (provisional)

Date	Events
1 December 2012	Deadline for submission of abstracts for proposed CPS
15 December 2012	Deadline for submission of final abstracts (IPS)
15 February 2013	Deadline for submission of final abstracts (STS and CPS)
15 April 2013	Deadline for submission of papers (IPS, STS and CPS)
31 May 2013	Early bird rate registration ends
1 June 2013	Normal rate registration starts
5 August 2013	On-line registration ends
24 August 2013	Registration counter opens at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
26 August 2013	Scientific Programme opens

Registration

Registration fee

Type of Participants	Early Bird Rate (on or before 31 May 2013)	Normal Rate (on or after 1 June 2013)
i. Members of ISI, members of ISI Associations ¹ , organisers of IPS, authors and discussants of invited papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for developed countries: HK\$3,550 (approximately €350) for developing countries²: HK\$3,350 (approximately €330) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for developed countries: HK\$4,050 (approximately €400) for developing countries²: HK\$3,850 (approximately €380)
ii. Non-members of ISI and ISI Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for developed countries: HK\$4,250 (approximately €420) for developing countries²: HK\$4,050 (approximately €400) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for developed countries: HK\$4,750 (approximately €470) for developing countries²: HK\$4,550 (approximately €450)
iii. Students	HK\$1,000 (approximately €100)	HK\$1,250 (approximately €125)
iv. Accompanying persons	HK\$1,500 (approximately €150)	HK\$1,750 (approximately €175)
v. Theme Day participants	HK\$500 (approximately €50)	HK\$750 (approximately €75)
vi. Virtual participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for Members of ISI / ISI Associations¹: free for other participants: HK\$200 (approximately €20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for Members of ISI / ISI Associations¹: free for other participants: HK\$350 (approximately €35)

Notes:

¹ ISI Ex-Officio, Corporate and Affiliate Members are entitled to the rates of ISI Members. For questions with regard to your membership status, please contact the ISI Permanent Office at isi@cbs.nl.

² Please visit www.isi-web.org/developing for a list of developing countries.

All payments will be charged in Hong Kong Dollar. The amounts expressed in Euro are based on the currency exchange rate as at 1 February 2012.

Accommodation

Hong Kong offers a great variety of choices in accommodation to suit every budget, from international luxury chains to local hotels and modest hostels. You can stay among the big city lights, or in more rural settings or even beside a beach. The excellent public transport system ensures all of Hong Kong's attractions are close at hand.

Block bookings have been made by the Professional Conference Organiser (PCO), Swire Travel, with a variety of hotels that are available for participants of the 59th WSC. Accommodation on offer ranges from 5-star luxury hotels to budget hotels. Most of them are within walking distance from the conference venue or easily accessible by public transport.

Participants can make hotel reservations during the online registration process for the 59th WSC at www.isi2013.hk/en/registration.php. Alternatively, you can contact the PCO by:

Tel : (852) 3151 8900 / 3151 8822

Fax : (852) 2590 0099

E-mail : WSC-Reg@swiretravel.com



Contact information

Registration matters (including hotel reservation)

Tel : (852) 3151 8900 / 3151 8822

Fax : (852) 2590 0099

E-mail : WSC-Reg@swiretravel.com

Scientific Programme

Tel : (852) 2582 4971

Fax : (852) 2157 9296

E-mail : WSC2013-SPC@censtatd.gov.hk (for IPS)
WSC2013-LPC@censtatd.gov.hk (for STS and CPS)

Sponsorship and exhibition

Tel : (852) 3151 8815 / 3151 8900

Fax : (852) 2590 0099

E-mail : WSC2013-Sponsorship@swiretravel.com

Other matters

Tel : (852) 2582 5073

Fax : (852) 2827 1708

E-mail : WSC2013-Enquiry@censtatd.gov.hk



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Social Programme and Tours

Social Programme

Welcome Reception

All participants of the 59th WSC will be invited to the Welcome Reception to be held in the evening of 25 August 2013, immediately after the Opening Ceremony of the 59th WSC.

Hong Kong Night (Optional activity: a fee of HK\$500 (approximately €50) will be charged)

The Hong Kong Night will be an evening of great excitement and entertainment for all. This will offer a unique opportunity for all participants to experience gourmet Chinese cuisine and great cultural performances. The event will be held at City Hall Maxim's Palace, which is located in an iconic tourist landmark of Hong Kong.



Gala Dinner

The Gala Dinner is a joyous and unforgettable occasion for all. The dinner will be held at the Grand Hall of the HKCEC with one of the most spectacular views of the famed Victoria Harbour. All delegates are invited to join the Gala Dinner, which will take place in the evening of 30 August 2013. Chinese and modern fusion cuisines will be served with fine wine while delightful cultural performances will be staged. This event is surely a highlight of the 59th WSC, offering great opportunities for all delegates to network and bid farewell to each other before meeting again at the next WSC.

Date	Event	Venue	Programme	Cost
25 August 2013 (Sunday)	Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception	Grand Hall, HKCEC	Drinks reception, finger food and live entertainment	Included in registration fee for full delegates, accompanying persons and students
27 August 2013 (Tuesday)	Hong Kong Night	City Hall Maxim's Palace	Dinner and live entertainment	HK\$500 per person (approximately €50)
30 August 2013 (Friday)	Gala Dinner	Grand Hall, HKCEC	Dinner and live entertainment	Included in registration fee for full delegates and accompanying persons



Tours

Sightseeing tours, operated on a minimum of 15 persons, are available for participants of the 59th WSC.



Repulse Bay, Peak and Stanley tour (HK\$300 per person)

Duration: 5 hours

The tour begins with a visit to Stanley Market – the perfect place to buy something special for friends and relatives. The historic lanes in this old fishing village are overflowing with vendors selling classic Chinese artwork, silk collectibles, curios and clothing.

Take a scenic ride along the relaxing southern shore to Repulse Bay – the Mecca for swimmers in summer. Continue to Aberdeen Fishing Village where we offer you a sampan ride in the typhoon shelter to glimpse the life of traditional fisher folk living in floating home. The last stop is one of the most popular attractions in Hong Kong, the Peak. Stroll around Victoria Peak on this leisurely 3.5-kilometre circuit to enjoy stunning views of the surrounding city skyline, the world-famous Victoria Harbour and Kowloon, towering skyscrapers, and gain a sense of Hong Kong's rich colonial heritage.





Lamma Island tour with seafood dinner (HK\$650 per person)

Duration: 5 hours

Take a tour to one of Hong Kong's outlying islands by chartered boat. Starting with a beautiful late afternoon cruise out of Victoria Harbour, the tour brings you across the Western Anchorage then through the South China Sea to Lamma. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along Yung Shue Wan with its hodgepodge of shops in narrow alleys and a lively street market. The tour concludes with a boat ride to Sok Kwu Wan where the only preserved fisher folk village in Hong Kong resides. Learn about the culture and history surrounding the fisher folk and the fishing industry. Savour the gastronomic delights of a fresh seafood dinner before heading back to the city.





Ngong Ping 360 and Lantau highlights (HK\$700 per person)

Duration: 4 hours

A journey of enlightenment to soothe your soul and broaden your mind can be found on Lantau Island. The tour begins with a cable-car ride climbing 5.7 kilometres from Tung Chung, up the mountains to the delightful Ngong Ping. Here you can see the world's tallest outdoor-seated bronze statue of the Buddha. The tour concludes with a visit to the themed Ngong Ping Village where you can shop for souvenirs (with a drink included) before returning to Tung Chung by cable-car and then downtown.



Guided market visit and dim sum cooking class (HK\$700 per person)

Duration: 5 hours

No trip to Hong Kong would be complete without trying dim sum. Since the days of the Silk Road, dim sum has been an integral part of Chinese culture. For Hong Kong people, dim sum goes hand in hand with yum cha (drinking tea). Today, it is popular for Chinese families to gather on weekend mornings to indulge in dim sum, yum cha and chat with each other.

Dim sum is a collection of delightful, mouth-watering Chinese dishes served in steaming bamboo baskets and eaten with multiple pots of Chinese tea. Dishes range from steamed pork buns, shrimp dumplings, beef balls and spring rolls, to the local favorite of pan-fried squid with spicy salt.

This special tour offers you a visit to a wet market where you learn about some of the many ingredients that make Chinese cooking so delicious. Then attend the cooking class conducted by a dim sum master chef. It is a golden opportunity for you to learn some of the secrets and recipes.



One-day Macao tour with lunch (HK\$900 per person)

Duration: 10 hours

Just a 45-minute jetfoil ride apart, the two cities of Macao and Hong Kong offer visitors a fascinating contrast in styles. Macao, which used to be the oldest Portuguese settlement in the Far East, is now a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. Like Hong Kong, it benefits from the principle of "One Country, Two Systems". It is filled with its own unique character and style. Tour highlights include visits to the 600 year-old Goddess of Mercy Temple, the historical Barrier Gate between Macao and Mainland China, the Ruins of Sao Paulo, San Ma Lo and Penha Hill. Lunch will be provided at one of the many exquisite Macanese cuisine restaurants. Try your luck in the casinos before returning to Hong Kong.



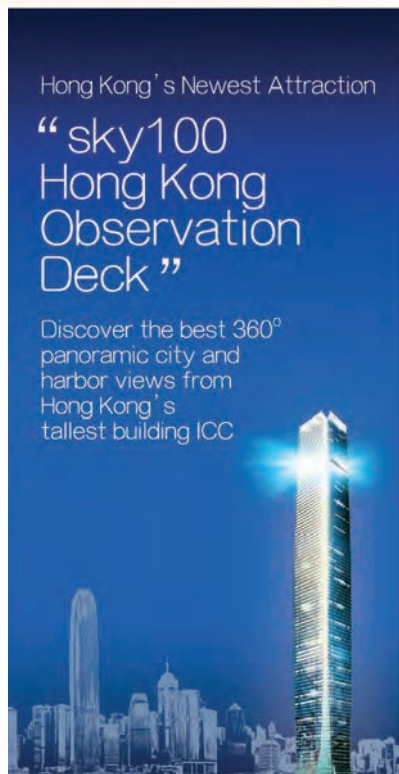
Go-by-yourself for theme park visits using our special discounted passes

Discounted offer by PCO:

Any one theme park or sky100: less HK\$25

Two theme parks: less HK\$60

Any one theme park + sky100: less HK\$60



The “**sky100 Hong Kong Observation Deck**” is the highest indoor observation deck in Hong Kong! Soaring high above the city on the 100th floor of the International Commerce Centre, the tallest building in town, “sky100 Hong Kong Observation Deck” offers visitors a magical bird’s-eye sweep of this world-famous sight with an unbeatable 360-degree panoramic view.

Beyond the best Hong Kong city panoramic view and magical sceneries, “sky100 Hong Kong Observation Deck” is also home to a large-scale interactive multi-media exhibit and a fully-fledged guest centre. Offering fascinating insights into local history and culture, the state-of-the-art exhibit enriches visitors with a thorough understanding of Hong Kong. If you intend to drop by the best of Hong Kong landmarks, make “sky100 Hong Kong Observation Deck” your first!

Rack rate at HK\$150 (price subject to change for year 2013)



Ocean Park welcomes the golden monkeys of Sichuan Province at the newly refurbished Hong Kong Jockey Club Sichuan Treasures. Spot more treasures on the National Treasure Trail and catch the Monkey King in Monkey King's Cave of Mystery, a new show filled with learning using digital puppetry and animation!

Make Hong Kong's premier sea life and animal theme park your destination this holiday season! Visit the Amazing Asian Animals, home to some of Asia's most treasured creatures. Discover Aqua City, an ocean-themed area filled with immersive underwater experiences. Check out the Rainforest, where an exciting expedition on the Rapids meets an exotic discovery trail of the Amazon. Feel your adrenalin pumping at the Thrill Mountain with five exciting rides; and come visit the brand new zone Old Hong Kong where you can experience the culture of Hong Kong in the 50's to 70's.

Rack rate at HK\$280 (price subject to change for year 2013)





Step into the **Hong Kong Disneyland** based on stories of fantasy, adventure, space, Americana, “Toy Story” movie as well as Grizzly Gulch - the immersive Wild West setting of Grizzly Gulch transports Guests to a quintessential, bustling western Gold Rush township. The unique and innovative Big Grizzly Mountain Runaway Mine Cars takes Guests on a runaway adventure which features unexpected forward launches, backward dashes and rapid turns and crisscrosses the entire themed area. Guests also will not want to miss the water jets at Geyser Gulch, warm greetings of the Grizzly Gulch Welcome Wagon Show and Disney Friends in new Gold Rush-era outfits, numerous Wild West Photo Opportunities, auspicious Big Lucky Gold Nugget, Grizzly Gulch-inspired gifts from Bear Necessities or the hearty fare at the Lucky Nugget Saloon. Please visit www.hongkongdisneyland.com for more details.

Rack rate at HK\$399 (price subject to change for year 2013)

Post-conference tours

Our PCO also organises a number of post-conference tours of various durations to the mainland of China for participants of the 59th WSC. These tours are operated on a minimum of 15 persons. For further details, including the cost and day-to-day itinerary of the post-conference tours, please contact the PCO by:

Tel : (852) 3151 8900 / 3151 8822

Fax : (852) 2590 0099

E-mail : WSC-Reg@swiretravel.com



World Statistics Congress

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Sponsorship and Exhibition

Sponsorship

This is the first time the WSC will be held in Hong Kong. There are a number of sponsorship opportunities in the 59th WSC that offer your company an exposure to statistical practitioners all over the world for achieving brand exposure and networking.

Premier Sponsor

Sponsorship amount of HK\$500,000

Your benefits as a Premier Sponsor will include:

- Acknowledgement at Opening Ceremony and Closing Ceremony
- Acknowledgement / logo exposure on:
 - 59th WSC website
 - registration desks / conference banners
 - Information Bulletin
 - computer screens in Cyber Centre
 - signage stands in major event halls and some event rooms
- One full-page advertisement in the 59th WSC Information Bulletin
- Two modules (3m x 3m each) of complimentary exhibition booths
- Inserts in delegates' conference bags
- Invitation to Opening Ceremony, Welcome Reception, Hong Kong Night, Closing Ceremony and Gala Dinner
- Invitation to Dinner hosted by the LOC

Major Sponsor

Sponsorship amount of HK\$250,000

Your benefits as a Major Sponsor will include:

- Acknowledgement at Opening Ceremony and Closing Ceremony
- Acknowledgement / logo exposure on:
 - 59th WSC website
 - registration desks / conference banners
 - Information Bulletin
 - computer screens in Cyber Centre
 - signage stands in six coffee break sessions
- One half-page advertisement in the 59th WSC Information Bulletin
- One module (3m x 3m each) of complimentary exhibition booth
- Inserts in delegates' conference bags
- Invitation to Opening Ceremony, Welcome Reception, Hong Kong Night, Closing Ceremony and Gala Dinner
- Invitation to Dinner hosted by the LOC

Other Sponsors

Apart from the Premier and Major Sponsors, there are other packages for sponsorship of different amounts:

- HK\$150,000
- HK\$100,000
- HK\$30,000

Depending on the amount of sponsorship, your benefits will include acknowledgement at Opening Ceremony and Closing Ceremony, logo exposure on the 59th WSC website and registration desks / conference banners / on-site signage, advertisement / logo exposure in Information Bulletin, inserts in delegates' conference bags, invitation to selected programme / activities, etc.

We also welcome contributions of any other amounts from companies and individuals. The company will have logo exposure on the website and Information Bulletin of the 59th WSC. Individual sponsorships will be acknowledged in the major Congress publications.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Exhibition and Sponsorship Manager of the 59th WSC:

Ms Vicky CHUNG

Exhibition and Sponsorship Manager

c/o Swire Travel

Tel : (852) 3151 8815 or (852) 3151 8900

Fax : (852) 2590 0099

E-mail : WSC2013-Sponsorship@swiretravel.com

Exhibition

An exhibition, covering a variety of products and services related to the statistics profession, will be held in conjunction with the 59th WSC, providing exhibitors the chance to interact with their target customers. All exhibitors will be listed on the website and Information Bulletin of the 59th WSC.

The exhibition will take place in Hall 3G of the HKCEC. The Cyber Centre, coffee and tea area and networking areas will be located in Hall 3G, making it a popular place of visit throughout the course of the Congress.

To reserve your exhibition booth(s), please contact the Exhibition and Sponsorship Manager of the 59th WSC:

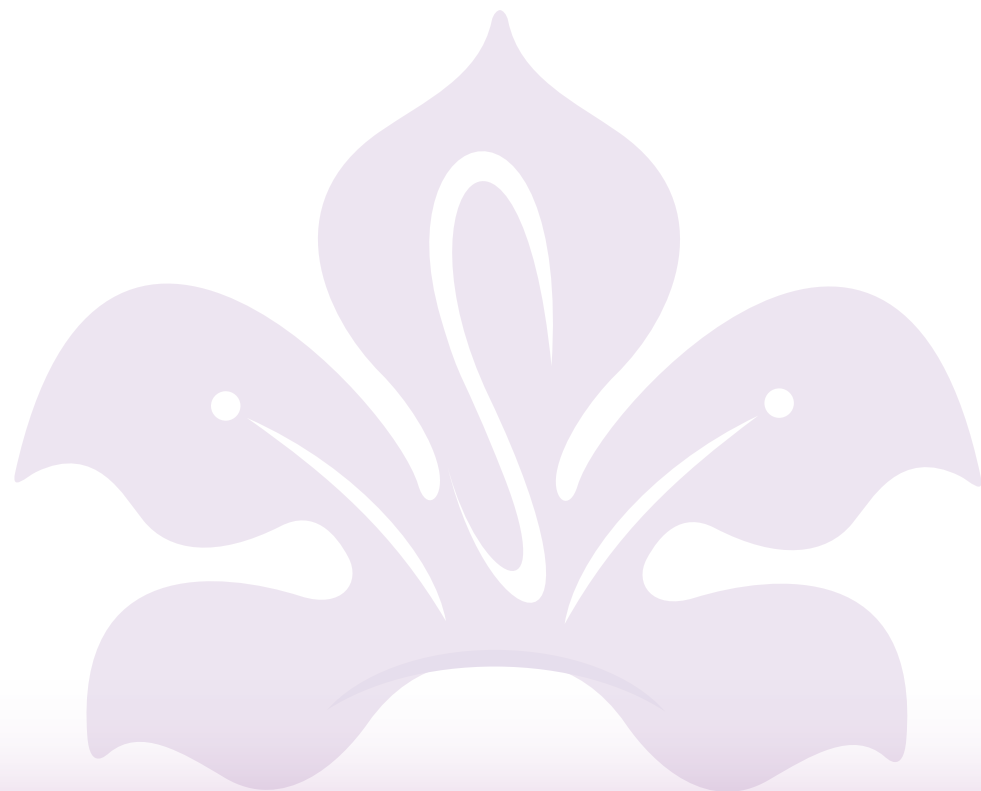
Ms Vicky CHUNG

Exhibition and Sponsorship Manager
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Useful Information

Getting to Hong Kong from abroad

Hong Kong is a transportation hub located in the heart of Asia. A total of some 70 international passenger carriers provide 2 600 incoming scheduled passenger flights per week to Hong Kong (a total seat capacity of around 670 000) from over 130 destinations worldwide. More than 50% of the world's population is within five hours' flying time from Hong Kong.



Visa and customs

Nationals of about 170 countries and territories may visit Hong Kong visa-free for a period ranging from 7 days to 180 days. If unsure of status, please check with any Chinese embassy or consulate (www.immd.gov.hk/ehtml/embassy.htm). Details about the visa requirements are also available on the Immigration Department's website (www.immd.gov.hk).

Hong Kong is a free port and does not levy any Customs tariff on imports and exports. Excise duties are levied only on four types of dutiable commodities, namely: liquor, tobacco, hydrocarbon oil and methyl alcohol. Please visit www.customs.gov.hk/en/passenger_clearance/index.html to find out more about passenger clearance.

Airport to town centre

Airport Express

The Airport Express takes passengers to Central in just 24 minutes. Quick and comfortable, trains depart at 10-minute intervals from 05:50 to 01:15 daily, with the last train leaving the Airport Station at 00:48. For schedule of the Airport Express, please visit www.mtr.com.hk/eng/getting_around/timetable_index.html.

Free shuttle bus service is available, taking passengers from Kowloon or Hong Kong stations to most major hotels and transport interchanges. Passengers can also enjoy free porter service at all Airport Express stations.

Public buses

The Hong Kong International Airport is well served by public bus routes, taking passengers to and from most parts of Hong Kong. Comfortable and relatively inexpensive, they offer a convenient transport option. See the schedule available from www.hongkongairport.com/eng/transport/to-from-airport/bus_from_hkia.html for more details.

Taxis

Taxis offer a fast and flexible way to and from the Hong Kong International Airport. Arriving passengers can pick up a taxi at the Taxi Station, which can be reached via the left-hand ramp outside the Arrivals Hall.



Getting around Hong Kong

Hong Kong is geographically compact and boasts one of the world's most efficient, safe, affordable and frequent public transport systems. Whether by taxi, ferry, rail, bus or tram, you can get around easily and catch wonderful glimpses of the city along the way. Please see www.td.gov.hk/en/transport_in_hong_kong/public_transport/index.html for more transport information.

For convenience, you may use the Octopus Card, an electronic fare card that is accepted by almost all forms of public transport, and at many fast food chains and stores. It's easy and convenient to use, saves time and eliminates the need for small change. The card can be purchased on arrival at the Hong Kong International Airport, at MTR Airport Express Customer Service Counters in the Buffer Halls (between Customs and the Arrivals Hall), in the Arrivals Hall and on the airport station departure platform. The price of an Octopus Card includes a refundable deposit of HK\$50 and an initial stored value. Add money to it whenever you need to, and any unspent value in the Octopus Card is refundable along with the HK\$50 deposit (minus HK\$9 handling fee for cards returned within three months). For more details, please visit www.octopus.com.hk.



Climate

Hong Kong's climate is sub-tropical. The average range of temperature is from 26 degrees Celsius to 31 degrees Celsius in summer (from June to August), which is the rainy season. More information on Hong Kong's climate is available at www.hko.gov.hk.

Electricity

The standard electrical voltage in Hong Kong is 220 volts AC, 50HZ. Most hotel bathrooms also have outlets for 100 volts, but otherwise you will need a transformer for any appliance or electrical equipment. The majority of electrical outlets in Hong Kong take a three-pronged UK-type plug.

Time zone

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) +8 hours.

Language

Cantonese is the main Chinese dialect spoken by the people in Hong Kong. English is also widely used in the Government and by the legal, professional and business sectors as well as tourist areas. Most taxi drivers and salespersons are able to communicate in English and Putonghua.

Chinese and English are the official languages of Hong Kong. All official signs are bilingual (Chinese using traditional characters). Most shops and restaurants also have English signage.

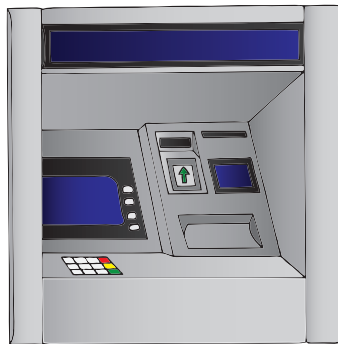


Currency

The legal tender is the Hong Kong Dollar (HK\$), which is linked to the US Dollar (US\$) at a rate of about HK\$7.80 to US\$1, although exchange rates may fluctuate slightly. Hong Kong bank notes are issued by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and three banks (The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited and Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited), and vary in design and colour for each denomination.

Money exchange

You can exchange your currency for Hong Kong Dollars at authorised money exchangers. At the Hong Kong International Airport, currency exchange counters are conveniently open from early morning to late at night. There are 24-hour automated teller machines. The exchange rate fluctuates daily depending on the money market.



ATM

Automated teller machines (ATMs) can be found almost everywhere to provide 24-hour cash withdrawal (HK\$) facilities for credit card holders.

Traveller's cheques and credit cards

Traveller's cheques are accepted by leading banks and hotels.

International credit cards such as American Express, VISA, Diners Club and MasterCard are also widely acceptable at hotels, retail shops and restaurants. Such premises usually display stickers of accepted cards at their entrance.



Business hours

Normal office hours in Hong Kong are from 09:00 to 17:00 or longer (depending on the kind of business) on weekdays, and 09:00 – 13:00 on Saturdays. Major banks are open from 09:00 to 16:30 on weekdays and from 09:00 to 12:30 on Saturdays, and closed on Sundays and public holidays. More information on public holidays can be available from www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/holiday. The Government adopts a five-day workweek for Hong Kong civil servants. Emergency and some selected government services are however provided on Saturdays and / or Sundays.

Some shops are open every day throughout the year, some only closed during the Chinese New Year holiday. Generally, opening hours are from 10:00 to 19:00. However, many stores in busy retail areas like Causeway Bay and Tsim Sha Tsui stay open until 21:30 or even later, particularly on weekends.



Telecommunications

Telecommunications in Hong Kong are efficient and sophisticated. Local private landline calls are free and cost only HK\$1 for five minutes from public telephones. International Direct Dial (IDD) service to most countries and regions of the world is available at most of the hotels in Hong Kong.

International Calling Code: Dial +852 to call a Hong Kong number from overseas. There are no regional codes.

Mobile / cell phone

Using your mobile phone in Hong Kong is convenient as most of the wireless systems used around the world – like GSM 900, PCS 1800, CDMA and WCDMA – operate in Hong Kong. You can also rent local SIM cards or mobile phones when you arrive in Hong Kong, at the airport or in town.



Internet connection

Most hotels have broadband Internet access.

Free WiFi service is available at the Hong Kong International Airport. There is also free GovWiFi service (www.gov.hk/en/theme/wifi/program/index.htm) in some 400 government premises. You can access the Internet for free at many cafés in town. The service is also available in some Mass Transit Railway (MTR) stations, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council's Business InfoCentre and the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (the venue of the 59th WSC).



Smoking ban

Smoking is prohibited in all indoor public places, including restaurants, karaokes, malls and bars. The smoking ban is also implemented on public transport carriers, public transport facilities and in both indoor and outdoor areas of some premises such as public beaches and swimming pools, escalators, the Hong Kong Wetland Park. No person shall smoke or carry a lighted cigarette, cigar or pipe in designated no smoking areas, or else will be liable to a fixed penalty of HK\$1,500.

Service charge and tax

Most restaurants and hotels add a 10% service charge to the bill. Airport tax of HK\$120 is usually included in the airline ticket. No Value Added Tax (VAT) or sales tax is applicable for purchases made in Hong Kong.



Insurance

Participants are advised to arrange for their own travel insurance before visiting Hong Kong.

Hong Kong
welcomes you!





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HONG KONG 2013

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