THE TOP TEN STATISTICAL PROGRAMS AWARDED DEMONSTRATE OUTSTANDING INNOVATION

On Thursday April 10, 2008, the World Bank announced the winners of its first *Regional Award for Innovation in Statistics*. More than 150 programs from 20 countries participated in the competition— the first of its kind not only in Latin America and Caribbean, but worldwide — which aims to recognize the importance of statistics in development and promote innovation in this area.

Almost 100 people, including statistical producers representing the 31 finalist statistical programs and representatives of diplomatic delegations, evaluating organizations (IDB, IMF, U.S. Census Bureau, PARIS21, etc.) and press, attended the Award Ceremony. "This competition has accentuated the inventive ways in which Latin American countries are pursuing new ideas to better meet the pressing demands for timely, accurate and accessible information," said Pamela Cox, World Bank Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean during the Ceremony.

We would like to congratulate the winning programs from Mexico, Colombia and Brazil that were recognized for their groundbreaking work:

FIRST PLACE
Mexican Family Life Survey
Universidad Iberoamericana, Center for Economic Research and Teaching (CIDE) and associated institutions, Mexico.

Graciela Teruel from Universidad Iberoamericana receives the Award from Pamela Cox, Vice President of the World Bank.

This survey, conducted at the national, regional and urban-rural levels, compiles information about the well-being of Mexicans. It includes detailed data on income, savings and consumption patterns, nutrition and health. Two of the most innovative aspects of the survey are the inclusion of information on Mexican migrants to the United States, which constitutes an enormous leap forward in the gathering of information on migration and its effect on the rest of the household; and the multi-purpose nature of the survey, which has allowed for longitudinal nationwide research on many social issues, such as mental health, violence and crime.

Download Program Brief here.

SECOND PLACE
Consumer Price Index (CPI)
National Administrative Department for Statistics (DANE), Colombia.
The CPI is a long-standing and highly utilized source of information in the country, incorporating various inventive features that have increased its use and reliability. An innovative and comprehensive management quality certification system has been incorporated into the production of the index based on the review of international norms by independent experts. The consumption basket is calculated using both flexible and fixed variables. The use of mobile devices for the collection of data has further facilitated the compilation and dissemination of information. Download Program Brief here.

THIRD PLACE
Bank of Evaluators of the National System of Higher Education (BASIs)
National Instituteof Studies and Research (INEP), Ministry of Education, Brazil.
This program has made it easier to evaluate the quality of higher education in Brazil by integrating the collection and updating of data on professors, evaluators and courses, and linking it to other relevant agencies. The system has facilitated the dissemination, evaluation

and statistical analysis of higher education, improving the evaluation of institutions and promoting the excellence of higher education in Brazil. Download Program Brief here.

The following programs received honorable mentions for their innovative work:

PROGRAM	INSTITUTION	COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION
Employment and Business Dynamics Observatory Download program brief here.	Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security	Argentina	The Observatory is a statistical information system on labor market dynamics that was created by linking different administrative records and adapting them for this purpose. The initiative seeks to satisfy the emerging demand for dynamic, permanent, and real-time information from interconnected systemic sources.
Integrated Educational Information System (SIEd) Download program brief here.	National Institute of Studies and Research (INEP), Ministry of Education	Brazil	The SIEd is a system for storing and disseminating information about the efficiency of the educational system from primary to higher education levels. It seeks to facilitate analysis at the national, regional, state, and municipal levels; compare its performance to that of other countries; support the design and monitoring of educational policy; and disseminate information on education.
Labor Statistics Download program brief here.	Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS)	Mexico	Due to the continuous demand for labor market information, the IMSS automated the calculation of employment data for greater efficiency, and posts this data publicly on its website. The figures seek to measure the country's labor dynamics, as well as complement data published by other government institutions.
Demographic and Health Survey - Continuous DHS Download program brief here.	National Statistical Office (INEI)	Peru	The objective of Peru's Continuous DHS is to provide annual information on demographics and the health status of women and their children under five years of age to facilitate the formulation, monitoring, and evaluation of Peru's public policies on population and family health.
Children of the Millennium/Young Lives Download program brief here.	Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE)	Perú	Young Lives is a longitudinal study that aims at mapping the living conditions of children by following a group of children over a period of 15 years. It aims to generate capacities and produce information on the links between poverty and children in poor countries, with the objective of providing a solid base on which public policy decisions can be made.

Geographic Data Management System (GDMS) Download program brief here.	Central Statistical Office	Trinidad and Tobago	The GDMS was created for the dissemination of census and survey data among government ministries as a coordinated approach to support government and private sector use of a geospatial data management system for planning purposes in such sectors as demography, social development, transportation, agriculture, emergency management, etc.
Primary Education Monitor Download program brief here.	National Administration of Public Education (ANEP)	Uruguay	It is an integrated database that contains information on administrative records and surveys. It is an instrument that supports monitoring of trends within the educational system at the national, provincial, and public school levels. The Monitor allows an overall, contextualized idea of the educational system.

31 SEMI-FINALIST STATISTICAL PROGRAMS

The first stage of evaluations for the Award has been completed, and we would like to congratulate the 31 semi-finalist programs. In this round a total of 12 countries are represented: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Santa Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay.

All applications received have been evaluated by a group of experts from the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Based on a points system established, the 20-30 percent top ranked programs per category have moved on to the second round, and the institutions responsible for these activities have been requested to prepare a more extensive technical brief. Furthermore, some of the programs that will not continue to the next round, but have proven high levels of quality and innovation, have been requested to send additional information to be disseminated through materials on best statistical practices in the region.

In the Census category, eight statistical programs have been identified as semi-finalists, representing South America, Central America and the Caribbean.

Statistical Program	*Responsable Institution*	*Country*
Censo de Edificaciones	DANE	Colombia
Statistical Mapping	Oficina Nacional de Estadística	Santa Lucia
Censo General 2005	DANE	Colombia
Integrated System for Education Information (SIEd)	INEP	Brazil
Census and Surveys Data Usage	Oficina Nacional de Estadística	Trinidad and Tobago
Geo referenced data base on dengue risk factors	DGEEC	Paraguay
Urban tree planning census Bogota, and its management system (SIGA)	DANE	Colombia
An example of maximization of the technical capacity of human capital in a statistics office	DEC	Panama

The category that received the highest number of applications is the Surveys category, where 13 semi-finalist programs represent national statistical offices, ministries, NGOs and universities.

Programa estadístico	Institución responsable	País
Confianza del Consumidor / Expectativas de Inflación	Universidad Torcuato DiTella	Argentina
Pesquisa de Assistência Médico - Sanitária	IBGE	Brasil
Sistema Nacional de Informações sobre Saneamento-SNIS	PMSS	Brasil
Indice de Precios al Consumidor	DANE	Colombia
Encuesta Nacional de ingresos y Gastos (2004)	INEC	Costa Rica
Encuesta Nacional de Epidemiología y Salud Familiar 2001	ASHONPLAFA	Honduras
Encuesta Nacional sobre Niveles de Vida de los Hogares	Universidad Interamericana	México
Estimación del producto interno bruto provincial, según categoría de actividad económica, a precios de 1996: años 1996-2004	DEC	Panamá
Niños del Milenio (PERU) / Young Lives: An International Study of Childhood Poverty	GRADE	Perú
Encuesta Nacional de Hogares ENAHO	INEI	Perú
Encuesta Demográfica y de Salud Familiar - ENDES CONTINUA	INEI	Perú
Encuesta Nacional de Variación Mensual del Empleo	Ministerio de Trabajo	Perú
Observatorio Socio Económico Laboral	Ministerio de Trabajo	Perú

Finally, in the category for Administrative Records, 10 statistical activities have been selected as semi-finalists.

Programa estadístico	Institución responsable	País
Observatorio de Empleo y Dinámica Empresarial en Argentina	Ministerio de Trabajo	Argentina
BASis - Banco de evaluadores del sistema nacional de evaluación de educación superior	INEP	Brasil
Encuesta de Información Básica Municipal	IBGE	Brasil
Transporte Aéreo	Aeronáutica Civil	Colombia
Sistema de Información de la Población Objetivo (SIPO)	IMAS	Costa Rica
Estadísticas Laborales del IMSS	IMSS	México
Sistema Institucional de Estructura Programática y Rendición de Cuentas (SIEP)	Tamaulipas	México
ParInfo	DGEEC	Paraguay
Índice de Inversión en Maquinaria y Equipos - IMEQ	Cámara de Industrias	Uruguay
Monitor Educativo de Enseñanza Primaria	ANEP	Uruguay

Background

The World Bank, in collaboration with the Department for International Development (UK), will award statistical programs and activities of use for the design, implementation, and evaluation of priority public policies in three categories: Censuses, Surveys, and Administrative Records.

To be considered for one of these awards, a statistical program must be of high overall quality and be clearly innovative in at least one particular process
related to institutional aspects, data production and/or its usage.

In this contest, any statistical program or activity implemented between January 1996 and December 2006 by any statistics-producing entity from a World Bank member country in the Latin America and the Caribbean region can submit application(s).

A Selection Committee will review all the applications and choose the statistical activities that are the most innovative and have the highest quality data. The selected programs will be asked to prepare an auto-evaluation and submit a technical brief. These documents will be reviewed by a Technical Evaluation Committee that will provide written feedback to the contestants. The proposals selected for the finals will be evaluated and certified by a high-level panel of experts.

The winners and finalists in each category will have the opportunity to disseminate and promote their experiences at the regional and international level.

The Concept of Innovation

Innovation implies the application of new ideas to improve a service, product or process. Innovation involves change, but not all changes involve new ideas or significant improvements.

In the framework of the Regional Award for Innovation in Statistics, innovation is linked to new or improved processes of design, data collection, analysis and dissemination of data; the introduction of new technology; modified or new management structures and systems; and the strategic direction of the statistical program: in other words, all the elements that lead to improvements in the quality of statistical information and its use for the design and implementation of better public policies.

Basis for the Contest

Any innovative statistical program, activity or product can participate in one or more of the three categories defined for the Award: Censuses, Surveys, and Administrative Records.

Any statistics-producing entity, public or private, from a World Bank member country in the Latin America and the Caribbean region can submit application(s).

The participating programs should be proposed by the institution responsible for them. One institution may submit one or more applications, in one or more categories of the Award.

Statistical programs, activities and products implemented between January 1996 and December 2006 are eligible to participate. Participating institutions must submit their application to participate using this electronic form or by filling out and sending this application form to lac-estadisticas@worldbank.org before September 21, 2007,

Proposals received before August 31, 2007 will receive technical feedback from the World Bank Team for Statistical Development, in order to assure that the application fulfills all of the requirements.

Benefits of the Award

The award carries with it great **prestige and recognition** for the important advances being made in statistical development, which often go unacknowledged. The award offers the opportunity to increase the visibility of the work of the winners to the national, regional and international levels. An **awards ceremony** will be held to publicly announce the winners in each of the three categories, where they will make a short presentation of their program. The winning initiative will be offered an **internship in the World Bank** to expand their knowledge of international best practices in their area of expertise.

Wide dissemination of the programs of the winners and finalists will be publicized to a broad audience of international experts and donors, key government officials, academics as well as other important stakeholders of the statistical community. The experiences of the award-winning programs will be published in a **World Bank publication and on the Internet** for international distribution. Finally, all submissions that comply with the basic requisites of the award will be included in an **on-line inventory of regional best practices** in statistical development.

Selection Process

The selection process were carried out in several phases. ASelection Committee selected the statistical programs that demonstrated innovation and quality in their data. Three main dimensions were evaluated: innovation (type of innovation and its impact), data quality, and use and usefulness of the data.

The selected programs were asked to prepare a technical brief based on the completion of a pre-defined application form, and agroup of evaluators (experts in statistics from the World Bnak, the IMF, the IDB, PAHO, the UN, the National Statistical Office of Spain and the US Census Bureau) analyzed the information provided by the pre-selected programs and selected those programs that received the highest points.

The assessment of the technical brief wasbased on the Data Quality Framework Assessment (DQAF) developed by the International Monetary Fund, with some modifications to cover all aspects of the Award. The dimensions and main elements of the evaluation are explained in the following table:

Dimension	Elements and Some Examples of Detailed Aspects
1. Institutional Capacity	1.1 Legal and Institutional Framework (Legal bases, norms and principles and their application, coordination, etc.)
	1.2 Resources (Human, financial, information technology, etc.)
	1.3 Quality Management (Strategic planning, management processes, design and use of management standards, etc.)
	1.4 Innovations for Cost-effectiveness (Types of innovation, impacts of the innovations, potential for replication, etc.)
2. Statistical Data	2.1 Integrity (Professionalism, transparency, ethical standards, etc.)
	2.2 Methodological Soundness (Concepts and definitions, scope, classification/sectoralization, basis for recording, etc.)
	2.3 Accuracy and Reliability (Data source, assessment of data source, statistical techniques, analysis and review of the data, etc.)
	2.4 Innovative Aspects of Data Production (Impact of the innovative aspect defined, potential for replication, etc.)
3. Use and Usefulness of Data	3.1 Relevance (Oriented towards users' needs, structured consulting process, etc.)
	3.2 Serviceability (Periodicity and timeliness, consistency, revision policy and practice, etc.)
	3.3 Accessibility (Data and metadata accessibility, assistance to users, etc.)
	3.4 Innovative Usage for Policy and Project Design, Monitoring and Evaluation (Data user identification, data use for policy and project information systems, data use impacts, etc.)