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UIESP ■ union internationale pour l'étude scientifique de la population

Conference Report

XXV IUSSP International Population Conference

**Tours, France
18-23 July 2005**

February 2006

Conference Report

XXV IUSSP International Population Conference, Tours, France

18-23 July 2005

Over 2,100 scholars, population specialists, and policy makers attended the XXV IUSSP International Population Conference held in Tours, France, 18-23 July 2005 making it the best attended conference in IUSSP history.¹ Participants from 119 countries came to present 1,487 scientific papers and posters and participate in plenary and debate sessions on current population issues. In addition to the regular scientific programme, international organisations and IUSSP scientific groups organised 17 official side-meetings, and 17 publishers and population centres set up booths displaying their work and publications. The Conference provided a wide range of formal and informal occasions for population scholars, policy makers, and students to present new research and meet with colleagues from around the world in both formal and informal venues. For those IUSSP members and the general public who were not able to attend the Conference, papers presented at the Conference as well as a video recording of all plenary sessions and debates are available for viewing on the IUSSP website at: <http://www.iussp.org/France2005/indexeng.php>.

The large number of participants and their wide geographic diversity is a remarkable achievement given that the registration fees were relatively high albeit comparable to those charged by other international associations and that many nationals from Africa and Asia had difficulty getting an entry visa for France. This report provides an overview of the Conference planning and coordination, participants and scientific content of the Conference as well as a focus on those aspects that contributed to its success.

Participants

The XXV IUSSP Conference included more than double the number of participants attending the XXIV IUSSP Conference in Bahia. The increase was largely related to a doubling of the number of scientific sessions at Tours and increase in the number of participants presenting posters. The scientific programme included 161 regular scientific sessions, and five poster sessions—one each day accommodating up to 150 posters, three training sessions, two plenary debate sessions, and one plenary session hosted by UNFPA, and 16 European Population Day sessions. Over 2,450 scholars were listed in the programme as authors and co-authors of over 1,487 papers and posters, and as session chairs and discussants. The call for Conference submissions sent out in Bulletin 1 was widely disseminated to IUSSP members, UNFPA country offices, 800 population centres registered with CICRED, and to the members of national and regional population associations. In response to the call, the IUSSP received 2,379 submissions from scholars residing in 110 countries.

¹ Over 2034 participants officially pre-registered but only 1826 officially registered participants attended the Conference. Twenty did not attend because they were unable to obtain a visa. An additional 300 or more participated in European Population Day or came as special guests of the National Organizing Committee. Unfortunately the exact numbers for those participating in European Population Day events or other information on host country guests is unavailable.

Table 1: Countries represented by more the 10 participants (by nationality)

Algeria (18 participants)	Germany (35)	Poland (20)
Argentina (20)	India (101)	Russia (18)
Australia (36)	Indonesia (13)	Senegal (13)
Bangladesh (15)	Iran (20)	South Africa (14)
Belgium (33)	Italy (49)	Spain (55)
Brazil (62)	Ivory Coast (11)	Sweden (11)
Burkina Faso (11)	Japan (16)	Switzerland (12)
Cameroon (15)	Lebanon (10)	Thailand (10)
Canada (72)	Mexico (59)	Togo (10)
China (32)	Netherlands (33)	Turkey (14)
Congo (10)	Nigeria (16)	United Kingdom (57)
Egypt (15)	Pakistan (10)	United States of
France (265)	Philippines (10)	America (237)

The Conference attracted participants from around the world: IUSSP members, host country nationals, and a surprising number of non-IUSSP members (197) despite the higher registration fees charged of non-members. There was excellent regional representation for most regions and a broad number of countries represented. Thirty-eight countries had more than 10 participants in attendance at the Conference versus 17 countries at the Bahia 2001 Conference. Over 300 participants representing international and national governments and civil society institutions involved in public policy formulation and implementation also participated in the Conference, indicating the relevance of Conference to policy makers and governments.

Examining participants by region of residence, Europe led the list with 40.4% of registered participants, followed by Northern America (23.5%), Asia (14%), Africa (10.2%), and then Latin America and the Caribbean (8.9 %) and Oceania (3 %). Most participants were IUSSP members: 994 IUSSP members and 182 IUSSP student associate members accounted for 64 % of officially registered participants. Most of the non-IUSSP members (25.5%) were French residents who paid reduced registration fees, but 10.5% percent of participants (197 individuals) were not French residents, students or IUSSP members and paid the full non-IUSSP member registration fee.

Table 2: Regional breakdown of Conference participants and IUSSP membership

Region	Conference Participants		IUSSP Members* attending IPC <i>n=994</i>	IUSSP Membership* by region of residence <i>n=2204</i>
	by region of residence <i>n = 1826</i>	by region of nationality <i>n=1826</i>		
Africa	10.2%	12.0%	12.2%	13.9%
Asia	14.0%	16.1%	17.3%	21.0%
Europe	40.4%	36.4%	29.5%	26.3%
Latin America	8.9%	10.2%	10.4%	9.7%
Northern America **	23.5%	16.9%	26.9%	26.3%
Oceania	3.0%	2.2%	3.8%	2.8%
Unknown		6.0%		

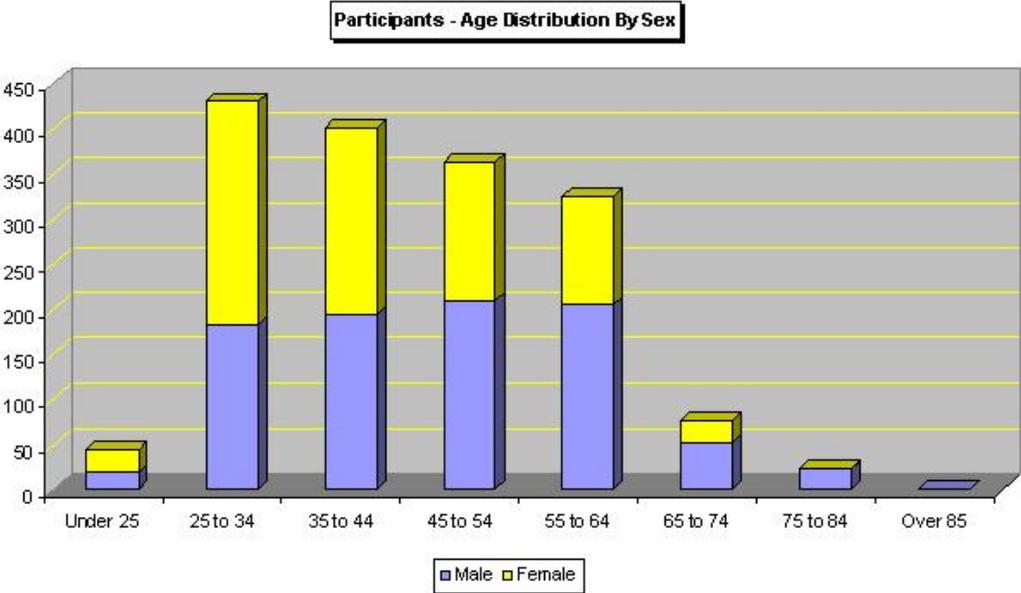
* Does not include 182 student associates who attended the Conference. The IUSSP currently has 2204 members; this figure does not include student associates. ** Northern America refers to Canada and USA; Mexico is included in Latin America.

Table 2 indicates that the provenance of attendees was fairly representative of the distribution of IUSSP members globally. As would be expected, given the location of the Conference, participants residing in Europe were over-represented in comparison with the number of European nationals and IUSSP members living in Europe. On the other hand, Asian and African residents were slightly under-represented in proportion to the numbers who are IUSSP members, but Latin Americans were well represented given that they only constitute 9.7% of IUSSP members.

Age and sex of participants

The Conference attracted a large number of younger scholars. Conference participants were younger than the IUSSP membership with 47% of Conference participants less than 45 years of age versus 28% of IUSSP members less than 45 years of age. Twenty-three percent (424) of registered participants were students. Low student registration fees, the acceptance of a large number of papers into both regular and poster sessions, and the location of the Conference in France permitted a large number of students and younger scholars, both European and non-European, to attend the Conference.

Women represented 48% of all Conference participants and men 52%, though women constitute only 37% the current IUSSP membership. At Bahia, women accounted for 46% of participants. Women accounted for 54.8% of participants under 45 years of age indicating a growing number of young women scholars attending the Conference.



Travel Support

Thanks to generous funding from donors, the IUSSP and the National Organising Committee (NOC) were able to provide travel support to 448 participants (24.5% of all registered participants) from mostly middle and low-income countries. The IUSSP supported 165 participants and the NOC supported 283 participants. UNFPA, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Wellcome Trust provided direct funding to the IUSSP for participant travel support. The NOC received generous support from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union, and French Consulates and Cultural Centres around the world. In addition, 28 Conference participants contributed €1,660 to a travel support fund for developing country scholars when they paid their registration fees.

In comparison with the 2001 Bahia Conference, more participants received travel support to attend the 2005 Tours Conference. However, as a share of all participants, a lower percentage of participants received funding to attend the 2005 Conference in Tours. One quarter (448) of participants coming to Tours received some form of financial support from IUSSP or the NOC; in many cases, this was partial support to cover the registration fee or travel. In Bahia, 34.7% (345) of participants received support from the IUSSP or NOC. Despite a lower percentage of participants receiving funding, attendance and regional representation increased at Tours, indicating that many participants were able to find their own funding, confirming the success of efforts to encourage participants to seek funding from their own institutions. Participants residing in regions the furthest from France – Asia and Latin America – were more likely to receive travel support from the IUSSP or NOC (see Table 3). Thus 64.5% of Asians and 60.5% of participants from Latin American and the Caribbean received some form of support to attend the Conference.

Table 3: Regional breakdown (by residence¹) of Conference participants receiving financial support from IUSSP and NOC

Region	IUSSP-funded participants	NOC-funded participants	Total	As % of all participants from the region
Africa	19	73	92	49.2%
Asia	42	123	165	64.5%
Europe	1	44	45	6.1%
Latin America	61	37	98	60.5%
Northern America	30	5	35	8.2%
Oceania	12	1	13	23.6%
All regions	165	283	448	24.5%

¹ Many funded participants residing in Northern America and Europe were students from developing countries.

Travel support was reserved for participants from mostly low-income countries listed on the programme as a paper or poster author, chair, or discussant and who were IUSSP members in good standing. Non-IUSSP members were encouraged to become members so that they could qualify for funding. Participants seeking travel support submitted an application to the IUSSP that was then reviewed by the IUSSP Secretary General and Treasurer. Of the 506 participants submitting applications, 448 received funding. All applicants whose name appeared on the programme as an author of a poster or paper were offered some form of funding. Rejected applicants did not have a role on the programme.

Travel Support Management

An agreement was reached early on that the IUSSP and NOC would take responsibility for different countries. IUSSP took all countries in Latin America, Northern America, Oceania and India and the NOC took responsibility for the remaining countries. First round decisions were made separately by IUSSP and NOC for applicants from those regions. During round 1, IUSSP gave priority to (in order of priority):

- 1) Session chairs regardless of origin
- 2) Sole authors of papers
- 3) 1st authors of papers or discussants
- 4) Co-author of 1 paper and 1 poster
- 5) Sole author of poster
- 6) Co-author of 2 posters
- 7) No formal programme role

In addition, IUSSP took into consideration whether an applicant was from an “under-represented” country and/or had received matching support. Applicants who had a large amount of matching support and only needed partial IUSSP support were given priority.

IUSSP requested that participants be reimbursed for their travel and per diem expenses after the Conference, though participants could request that the IUSSP pre-pay their travel and provide per diem at Tours. Most participants agreed to be reimbursed after the Conference; however, IUSSP distributed € 50,450 in per diem at Tours, which required making special arrangements with a local bank to avoid keeping large sums of cash at the Conference site. Most participants received reimbursement after the Conference from IUSSP-Paris or Cornell University. Because the IUSSP transferred € 73,416 to Cornell University in late 2004 in order to take advantage of 2004 UNFPA funds that had to be fully expended in 2004 by IUSSP, Cornell University handled reimbursement arrangements for 66 IUSSP funded applicants following the Conference. An additional 99 received full or partial reimbursements from the IUSSP Secretariat in Paris.

Scientific Programme

The scientific programme included 742 papers that were presented in 161 regular scientific sessions and 650 posters presented in five poster sessions. In addition, there were 16 European Population Day sessions (with 83 papers), 3 training sessions, and 6 plenary for a total of 191 sessions. Nine regular sessions were held simultaneously during each session time slot. Each session was facilitated by a chair and included five 12-minute presentations (5 papers or 4 papers and a discussant). Approximately 25 minutes were left for discussion from the floor with simultaneous interpretation. All regular scientific and plenary sessions included simultaneous translation in three languages, English, French and Spanish. Five poster sessions with up to 150 posters were scheduled each day of the Conference. Posters were on display from 8:30-17:00 daily in a central location near the entrance and exhibit booths to encourage attendance. A time was scheduled during the midday break for authors to discuss their findings with participants and answer any questions.

Scientific themes

The regular and poster sessions and European Population Day sessions were grouped around the following 12 major themes:

- 1) Reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and STDs (24 sessions)
- 2) Health and mortality (21 sessions)
- 3) Fertility, families and households (26 sessions)
- 4) Internal migration, urbanization and settlement (15 sessions)
- 5) International migration (17 sessions)
- 6) Age structure, labour force and ageing (13 sessions)
- 7) Children and young people (9 sessions)
- 8) Ethnicity, gender, identity and culture (12 sessions)
- 9) Environment, biology and genetics (11 sessions)
- 10) Poverty and social issues (10 sessions)
- 11) Regional studies (9 sessions)
- 12) Quantitative methods, applied demography, theories, epistemology and qualitative methods (14 sessions).

All the major population topics were covered during the Conference; many paper and session topics cross-cut the major themes. Reproductive health and family issues was the subject of 54 sessions and 247 papers; twenty-one sessions (97 papers) focused on health and mortality; HIV/AIDS and issues related to HIV/AIDS were the subject of 40 sessions and over 200 papers; and internal and international migration was the subject of 32 sessions and 105 papers. Eighteen sessions explicitly treated gender issues; these sessions went beyond an exclusive focus on women to consider men and male roles in reproductive health, gender differences in the diffusion of HIV/AIDS, the gendered repartition of family roles and family formation, and the preference for male children in some societies. In addition, several sessions were devoted to methodological issues of collecting data on gender.

Themes which received limited treatment at past Conferences, such as the relationship between population and environment, poverty, identity and ethnicity, and human rights were well represented at this Conference. Seven sessions and 48 papers and posters analysed the relationship between environment and population issues such as migration, urbanisation, development, climate, and health and 10 sessions examined the relationship between poverty and population.

A CD-ROM containing the Conference Programme, abstracts and papers was distributed to participants in their Conference bag along with the Conference Programme and Book of Abstracts. The latter only included abstracts of papers (not posters) presented during regular sessions. For those who did not attend the Conference, the Programme, list of participants, and all abstracts and full papers submitted to the Conference website is available on the IUSSP website (<http://www.iussp.org/France2005/indexeng.php>).

Despite the wide range of topics and themes presented at the Conference, 124 participants responding to the Conference evaluation suggested one to three topics that should be more sufficiently addressed at the next Conference. The topics that were cited most often were: international and domestic migration; historical demography, gender issues, urbanisation, ageing in developing countries, HIV/AIDS and child and maternal health; in addition to these topics, issues of theory, methods and data quality were frequently cited, in particular the need for sessions on qualitative and anthropological methods, use of GIS, spatial analyses and remote sensing techniques.

Plenary and debate sessions

Plenary and debate sessions were held at the end of each day treating issues of particular interest to population researchers, the policy community and the public. Debate sessions were introduced at the Bahia Conference and remained very popular and well attended by participants attending the XXV Conference.

UNFPA organised a special plenary devoted to the ICPD Cairo meeting that focused on the “*ICPD Vision: How far has the eleven-year journey taken us?*”. This plenary was chaired by Kunio Waki, UNFPA Deputy Director, and included as speakers: John Cleland (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi (Europe Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership), Ian Pool (University of Waikato), and Gita Sen (Indian Institute of Management).

The IOC organised two debate sessions and the NOC organised a third debate session as part of European Population Day. The following topics were selected for those 3 debates:

- *Will policies to raise fertility in low-fertility countries work?* Chair: James Trussell, Princeton University; Speakers: Gigi Santow (Independent Consultant), Anne

Gauthier (University of Calgary), Peter McDonald (Australian National University), and Massimo Livi-Bacci (University of Florence).

- *Should couples have the right to choose the sex of their children?* Chair: Joseph Chamie; Speakers: Monica Das Gupta (World Bank Group), S. Philip Morgan (Duke University), Mohammad J. Abbasi-Shavazi (University of Teheran), and Hoda Rashad (American University of Cairo).
- *Should we worry about the future of Europe's population?* (European Population Day), Chair: Henri F. Leridon (INSERM-INED); Speakers: Eva Bernhardt (Stockholm University), Jerome Vignon (European Union), and Gabor Roxsa (Central Statistical Office, Hungary).

The NOC arranged to have all plenary and debate sessions filmed with the intent that these could be used in the classroom and shared with colleagues who were not able to attend the Conference. These sessions are now available for viewing on the Internet at <http://www.canalc2.tv/video.asp?idEvenement=185>. They can also be accessed from the IUSSP-France 2005 website (<http://www.iussp.org/France2005>). In early 2006, the NOC plans to distribute a DVD-ROM of the plenary and debate sessions, and European Population Day sessions to all Conference participants.

Skill-building sessions

Three skill-building sessions were held that were intended to help students and junior scholars but were open to all participants:

- *Getting published in peer reviewed journals: What editors look for.* Chair: Frances Althaus, International Family Planning Perspective.
- *Best practices in communicating research to effect change.* Chair: Jennifer Nadeau, Alan Guttmacher Institute.
- *Learning to use EPP and SPECTRUM: The UNAIDS approach to estimating the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS.* Chairs: Karen A. Stanecki, UNAIDS, and John Stover, Futures Group International; sponsored by UNAIDS.

These sessions proved to be very popular. The session “Getting published in a peer-reviewed journal” had over 350 people in the audience with some members standing. Given the large number of junior scholars in attendance at this Conference, more such sessions might be offered in the future.

European Population Day

The French National Organising Committee, with the support of the European Commission, organised 16 sessions on European population issues that were held on European Population Day. In contrast with previous IUSSP Conferences where the host country day was held before or after the IUSSP Conference, resulting in an audience made up of mostly host country nationals, it was decided that the host country day be held in the middle of the Conference. The 16 Europe Day sessions were held simultaneously with 20 regular Conference sessions. Instead of a focus on French population issues, the organisers broadened the focus to include population trends for all member states of the European Union. Four topics were examined in parallel sessions: fertility and family structure, ageing, international migration, and population and urbanisation.

Placing European Population Day in the middle of the Conference increased attendance by Conference participants, especially those from outside Europe. Of those who responded to the

Conference Evaluation (n=422), more than half indicated that they attended at least one session of European Population Day and there was high attendance from participants from regions outside of Europe.

Side-meetings

In addition to the scientific sessions, a number of international and national organisations hosted side-meetings on a number of subjects at the Vinci Centre or nearby hotels. Many of these meetings were open to all participants at the Conference. Seventeen side-meetings were listed in the Conference Programme:

- International seminar of young demographers. Organiser: Centre de recherche Populations et sociétés de l'Université de Paris X-Nanterre, in collaboration with the Centro de estudios demográficos de la Universidad autónoma de Barcelona.
- Induced abortion: international comparisons, the case of the Latin America (Working group). Organiser: Centre Français sur la Population et le Développement (CEPED).
- Censuses in the 21st Century: Improving Data Utilization and Dissemination. Organiser: Mary M. Kritz and Hania Zlotnik, (IUSSP).
- Results of the European Population Policy Acceptance Surveys. Organiser: Prof. Charlotte Hoehn, Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB), Wiesbaden, Germany.
- Presentation of the proposals of research on "International migration, territorial recomposition and development in developing countries". Organiser: CEPED.
- IUSSP Working Group on Demography of Conflict and Violence. Organiser: Helge Brunborg, Statistics Norway.
- Intergenerational relations: international comparisons (Working group): CEPED.
- Assemblée générale du Comité national français des membres de l'UIESP. Organiser: Bureau du CNF.
- IUSSP Population and Environment Research Network (PERN). Organiser: Alexander de Sherbinin, Columbia University, and Landis MacKellar, IIASA.
- IUSSP Panel on Biology, Culture, Partnership and Reproduction. Organiser: Debra Judge, University of Western Australia, and Monique Borgerhoff Mulder, University of California, Davis.
- Study of sexual representations in school textbooks (Working group). Organiser: CEPED.
- Comité International de Coopération dans les Recherches Nationales en Démographie (CICRED) General Assembly. Organiser: CICRED.
- Présentation des activités de l'Association Internationale des Démographes de Langue Française. Organiser: AIDELF.
- IUSSP Panel on Ageing in Developing Countries. Organiser: Alberto Palloni, University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Mohammed Nizamuddin, Columbia University.
- IUSSP Exploratory Mission on Demography and Human Rights. Organiser: William Seltzer, Fordham University.
- Editorial Board of the Series "A General Demography of Africa". Organiser: ACAP.
- Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) meeting. Organiser: UAPS.

Exhibitors

The IUSSP International Conferences provide an opportunity for editors and publishers, national and international population centres and institutes to present their work, publications and software programmes to the international community of population specialists attending the Conference. The Vinci Centre provided a large area for the exhibition stands near the entrance and in close proximity to where refreshments were served to assure high visibility. There were 17 exhibits stands:

- Asian Meta Centre (Thailand)
- CEPED – Centre Population et Développement (France)
- CERED – Centre d'études et de recherches démographiques (Maroc)
- CICRED – Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography / Comité international de coopération dans les recherches nationales en démographie (France)
- EAPS – European Association for Population Studies (Netherlands)
- El Colegio de México (México)
- IIASA – International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis – and Vienna Institute of Demography (VID) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Austria)
- INED – Institut national d'études démographiques (France)
- IRD – Institut de recherche pour le développement (France)
- IUSSP/UIESP – International Union for the Scientific Study of Population/ Union internationale pour l'étude scientifique de la population (France)
- MEASURE DHS – Demographic and Health Surveys (United States)
- MEASURE Evaluation (United States)
- Minnesota Population Center (United States)
- NIDI – Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute
- Routledge (United Kingdom)
- Springer – VERLAG GMBH (Germany)
- UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund (United States)

IUSSP activities

During the XXV Conference, the IUSSP organised and held two General Assembly meetings, a Council meeting prior to the Conference, and a luncheon for the chairs of IUSSP Scientific Groups. In addition, IUSSP organised a reception for UNFPA following the UNFPA plenary session and set up an exhibit booth where participants could purchase past IUSSP publications at a discount (over 1,500 IUSSP publications were sold or distributed free during the Conference). IUSSP scientific groups also displayed posters highlighting their work and five IUSSP Scientific groups held side-meetings to present their work to Conference participants and encourage their participation in future activities. Finally, IUSSP organised with the financial support of UNFPA a side-meeting on censuses entitled “Censuses in the 21st Century: Improving Data Utilization and Dissemination”. That meeting was well attended by up to 200 participants. Paper presenters submitted their papers to IUSSP and they can be viewed on the IUSSP website at <http://www.iussp.org/France2005/Censusmeet.php> .

The IUSSP held two 2005 General Assembly meetings. Members voted on proposed revisions to the IUSSP Constitution, a change in membership dues payments, and elected the members of the 2006-2009 Nominations Committee. Jacques Vallin, President of the IUSSP, and Mary M. Kritz, Secretary General and Treasurer of IUSSP, reported on Union activities and finances for the 2002-2005 period as well as future challenges facing the IUSSP and population research in general. Their reports and the minutes of the General Assembly are available on the IUSSP website at http://www.iussp.org/About_IUSSP/ga2005report.pdf.

Awards and prizes

During the Conference Closing Ceremony, a number of prizes were awarded to participants. The IUSSP bestowed the first IUSSP Mattei Dogan Foundation Award for Comparative Research in Demography. The award honours a scientist of high international renown for the contribution of his or her work to the development of studies of population that draw on perspectives of different disciplines and for the importance that this work has accorded to international comparisons. The winner of the 2005 Award for Comparative Research in Demography is Vladimir Shkolnikov (Russia) based at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, Germany. He gave a speech entitled *Towards the understanding of mortality divergences and reversals*. The speech and description of the award are available on the IUSSP website at <http://www.iussp.org/Awards/mdaward.php>.

The National Organising Committee distributed several prizes to participants at the Closing Ceremony. These included a prize offered by Novartis for the best research examining the position and role of family and friends of sick and dependent persons; an award sponsored by Pfizer for the best research on generational health; and poster prizes offered by the Association française pour l'étude des populations (AFEP) to the best French language poster displayed each day of the Conference (five posters).

In addition, IUSSP President, Jacques Vallin, extended appreciation at this ceremony to IUSSP staff members and the NOC for their hard work on the Conference. The city of Tours presented Hania Zlotnik, Director of the United Nations Population Division, with the Tours city medal. The NOC also offered an award to the demographer who had travelled the longest to get to the Conference, Vladimir Melnikov, a Russian demographer who travelled 10 days by bus from Siberia.

Conference-related activities organised by the French hosts

In addition to the official scientific agenda, the National Organising Committee organised an evening reception on 26 July for all participants and the city of Tours hosted three scientific exhibitions devoted to population issues. The exhibits included *Six billion humans*, organised by the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie de la Villette, and the Institut national d'études démographiques (INED); *Population and sustainable development*, organised by the l'Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD); and *Remue-ménage ?*, an exhibition on the evolution of the family in countries of the South was organised by the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD).

These exhibits, directed at the general public, stimulated public interest in the Conference proceedings. The Conference received widespread media coverage within France as well as outside of France. Numerous reporters from within and outside of France were present at the Conference and interviewed participants. Several major French newspapers featured articles on population issues under discussion during the Conference.

The large number of compliments and responses to the Conference Evaluation indicate that the XXV IUSSP Conference was an overwhelming success. Participants were highly satisfied with the Conference venue. The Vinci Centre provided state-of-the-art projection and electronic and computer services, including a cyber café with over 50 computers, free Wi-Fi service, and a pre-projection room where participants could finish their power-point presentations with the aid of Vinci Centre technicians.

Keys to Success

The success of the Conference was due in large part to the efforts of the International Organising Committee (IOC) and the National Organising Committee (NOC) to double the number of sessions, widely disseminate the call for Conference papers beyond the IUSSP membership, and search for funding to provide travel assistance to 24.5% of participants, from mostly developing countries and to accommodate the larger number of sessions including simultaneous translation. The IUSSP Secretariat, in collaboration with the IUSSP Steering Committee members, managed participant submissions, financial support applications, Conference registration, communications with participants, and prepared drafts of all written Conference materials.

The Office of Population Research at Princeton University facilitated the task of vetting the 2,379 papers submitted in response to the call for papers by allowing the IUSSP to use a software programme developed by German Rodriguez and housed on the Princeton server, which enabled participants to submit their abstracts via the Internet. German Rodriguez adapted the software called PAMPA to accommodate the three languages of the Conference (English, French, and Spanish) and the IUSSP Secretariat managed the on-line submission database from Paris. This software facilitated the selection of papers, IUSSP Secretariat's communication with participants, scheduling of the sessions, and the production of the Conference Programme and Book of Abstracts. James Trussell, IUSSP Council member and IOC member served as Conference manager of IUSSP Scientific programme efforts at Princeton.

The IUSSP Secretariat developed a Conference website (France2005) in collaboration with the National Organising Committee that provided up-to-date information on the Conference venue and access to reservation forms and information so that Conference participants could organise their trip. Regular communication with programme participants and careful allocation of participant travel support resulted in high turnout; no session was cancelled because of absent participants.

Of course, the venue must not be underestimated in accounting for the high turnout. A well-connected international airport and excellent local transportation, agreeable weather and the tourist appeal of France, the Loire Valley, and Tours undoubtedly attracted a large number of participants (especially North Americans, who made up a larger proportion of participants in comparison to the previous Bahia Conference).

The IUSSP surveyed Conference participants after the Conference; 422 participants responded. The results of that survey indicated that participants were overall highly satisfied with both the scientific quality and the organisation of the Conference (see Conference Evaluation).

Tours at a glance

1. Participants: 1,826 registered participants (2,100 if we count NOC and European Day Participants):

- a. By membership: 1,176 (64%) IUSSP members –994 regular members and 182 student associates; 650 (36%) non-IUSSP members
- b. By gender: 871 (48%) female participants, 955 (52%) male participants.
- c. By country income level: 642 (35%) participants from low and middle income countries; 1,184 (65%) participants from high income countries.
- d. Over 300 representatives of national and international governments and civil society institutions involved in the formulation and implementation of public policy.

2. Regional distribution of participants (by region of residence)

- a. Northern America ...23.5%
- b. Europe...40.4%
- c. Latin America and the Caribbean ...8.9%
- d. Africa...10.2, %
- e. Asia...14%
- f. Oceania...3%

3. Major countries represented

Algeria (18 participants)	Germany (35)	Poland (20)
Argentina (20)	India (101)	Russia (18)
Australia (36)	Indonesia (13)	Senegal (13)
Bangladesh (15)	Iran (20)	South Africa (14)
Belgium (33)	Italy (49)	Spain (55)
Brazil (62)	Ivory Coast (11)	Sweden (11)
Burkina Faso (11)	Japan (16)	Switzerland (12)
Cameroon (15)	Lebanon (10)	Thailand (10)
Canada (72)	Mexico (59)	Togo (10)
China (32)	Netherlands (33)	Turkey (14)
Congo (10)	Nigeria (16)	United Kingdom (57)
Egypt (15)	Pakistan (10)	United States of
France (265)	Philippines (10)	America (237)

4. Travel Support

- a. IUSSP supported 165 participants, 10 of whom were chairs or discussants, 124 paper authors and 31 poster authors. Most IUSSP grantees were from Latin America, India, North America, and Oceania.
- b. NOC supported 283 participants, mostly developing country participants from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

5. Scientific Programme

- a. 161 regular scientific sessions, 4-5 papers per session; 732 papers presented out of 2,379 abstracts submitted.
- b. 5 poster sessions with 150 posters per session – 646 were presented, most submitted first as papers.
- c. 3 training sessions
- d. 16 European Population Day sessions
- e. 3 plenary debate sessions
- f. 3 plenary sessions – UNFPA special session and the Official Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- g. 17 side-meetings,
- h. 17 exhibits.

6. Conference Governance

International Organising Committee (IOC)

Honorary President: François Héran* (France)

President: Catherine Rollet* (France)

Vice-President: Jacques Vallin* (France)

Members: Alaka Basu (India), Graziella Caselli (Italy), John B. Casterline (USA), David A. Coleman (United Kingdom), France Guérin-Pace* (France), Maria Coleta de Oliveira (Brazil), Véronique Hertrich* (France), Borbor Kandeh (Sierra Leone), Mary M. Kritz* (USA), Peter F. McDonald (Australia), Zeba Sathar (Pakistan), Alan B. Simmons (Canada), James T. Trussell* (USA), Zeng Yi (China), Hania Zlotnik* (Mexico). Ex-Officio members: Hedi Jemai (UNFPA); Conference Secretary: Mary Ellen Zuppan (USA).

National Organising Committee (NOC)

President: Catherine Rollet* (Université de Versailles St-Quentin-en-Yvelines)

Vice-President: Laurent Nowik (Université de Tours)

Coordinator: Véronique Hertrich* (INED)

Treasurer: France Guérin-Pace* (INED)

Fundraising Coordinator: Sophie Pennec (INED)

Members: Nathalie Bajos (INSERM), Christophe Bergouignan (Univ. de Bordeaux), Alain Bideau (Société de démographie historique), Didier Breton (Univ. de Strasbourg), Yves Charbit (Univ. de Paris V), Maria Cosio Zavala (Univ. de Paris X), Annabel Desgrées du Loû (IRD), Guy Desplanques (INSEE), Christophe Guilmoto (IRD), François Héran (INED), Marie Ladier-Fouladi (CNRS), Marlène Lamy (Univ. de Paris 1), Thérèse Locoh (INED), Véronique Petit (Univ. de Paris VIII), Gilles Pison (INED), Jean-Marie Robine (INSERM), Olivia Samuel (Univ. de Versailles St-Quentin-en-Yvelines), Jacques Véron (INED).

NOC Staff: Christine Théot-Gonzalez, Alexandra Duda, Maud Gorza.

IUSSP Secretariat: Mary Ellen Zuppan (Executive Director), Céline Mias (Programme Officer, Philippe Migrenne (Membership Officer and Webmaster), Fabienne Paquet (Administrative Assistant), Corinne Durand (Conference Assistant).

Preparation meetings of the IOC and Steering Committee: 3 IOC meetings: March 2002, January 2004, and at Tours in July 2005. 1 IOC Steering Committee met officially in December 2004. In addition there were several informal meetings between the Secretary General and Treasurer and the NOC in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Preparation of the Scientific Programme: At the first IOC meeting, the IOC prepared a list of session topics based on responses to a call for session topics that had been sent to the membership in mid-2002. Peter McDonald at Australian National University managed the work of contacting IUSSP members identified by the IOC as session organizers in the January–March 2004 period and a preliminary scientific programme developed. The scientific programme was then taken over by the Secretariat, working in collaboration with Gérman Rodriguez and James Trussell at Princeton University.

* Members of the Steering Committee