

# INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

## Newsletter



Announcing  
an  
International Association for Statistical Education.

**Important News about this new Section of the ISI  
is to be found overleaf,  
plus other news of the International Statistical Institute's work.**

A proposal to establish an International Association for Statistical Education (IASE) as a new Section of the ISI was approved by a unanimous vote of the ISI General Assembly during its 48th Session in Cairo. This latest addition to the ISI family will carry forward and extend the diverse program of activities that the ISI Education Committee has developed over the years. With the establishment of IASE and the transfer of statistical education activities to it, the Education Committee has ceased to function as such. However, several of its members are now part of a transitional Executive Committee, headed by David Vere-Jones, which will prepare for the first election of IASE officers and for its first General Assembly, while ensuring continuity for the ISI Statistical Education program.

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## OBJECTIVES

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In very general terms, the new Association aims to promote the advancement of statistical education. It will provide a unique channel for international contacts among individuals and organisations concerned with the teaching of statistics and statistical training. IASE will thus foster the development of better and more effective means of instruction in statistical theory and methods – be it at the school and university levels, in service training or in the community at large.

To fulfil these objectives, the IASE expects to develop a publications program that will go well beyond the current newsletter and occasional conference proceedings, as well as continue with the program of ICOTS and Round Table conferences and statistical education sessions at more general meetings. Further, with the anticipated growth in membership participation, it is envisaged that a number of committees and working groups will be formed to address specific areas of common interest.

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## MEMBERSHIP

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Membership in the Association will be of two types, individual and institutional, and is open to anyone interested in statistical education. A fair

number of individuals have already expressed an interest in joining such an association once it became a reality, and these individuals will shortly be receiving information about membership from the transitional executive committee. Others can obtain this information by writing to the ISI Permanent Office. Those who respond with payment of the prescribed Association dues, will be considered founding members and will have the opportunity to nominate candidates for officers of the Association and participate in the elections. It is expected that election of the First Executive Committee of IASE will be conducted by mail sometime during 1992. The first General Assembly of the new Association will probably be held in conjunction with the 49th Session of the ISI in Florence, Italy, in August 1993. These dates are only tentative, as the transitional Executive Committee has not yet had the chance to work out the detailed schedule. More information will be contained in the first mailing to prospective members and in a future issue of this newsletter.

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## PARTICIPATION

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At the Open Meeting organised by the Education Committee and on other occasions during the ISI Cairo Session, there were lively discussions about needs in statistical education that underlined the timeliness of founding this new Section of the ISI. Statistical education which at one time was the concern of a few individuals on university campuses, has long since spread outside the campus to reach secondary and even elementary schools in many countries. It has also spread outside the classroom into some areas where an ever-increasing number of non-students use statistical methods and techniques in their workplace. The in-service training of statistical workers in government and industry is also gaining some of the attention it deserves. At the Cairo meeting, discussions regarding these various aspects of statistical education emphasised the wide spectrum of interests that are likely to engage the membership of IASE and the importance of participation by all those interested.

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## INFORMATION ON FUTURE ISI STATISTICAL EDUCATION MEETINGS

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### **The 1992 ASA Winter Conference (January 3-5 1992)**

The theme of the American Statistical Association (ASA) Winter Conference, which will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, USA, is "Statistics and Education". The Program Committee is chaired by Robert V. Hogg of the University of Iowa.

Two sessions in the conference are jointly sponsored by the ASA and the ISI. The organiser of these sessions, Richard L. Scheaffer of the University of Florida, has provided the following details about the program:

- I. Speaker: Peter G. Moore, London Business School.  
Title: Can statisticians sustain the skills challenge?  
Speaker: Kenneth Bryson, U.S. Census Bureau.  
Title: Training to promote the role of statisticians: Learning to overcome our feelings of inferiority.  
Discussant: Katherine K. Wallman, President ASA.
  
- II. Speaker: Giitiro Suzuki, Institute of Statistical Mathematics. Title: The present picture of statistical education in Japan.  
Speaker: Judith D. Singer, Harvard University.  
Title: Providing a statistical 'model': Teaching applied statistics using real-world data.  
Discussant: Frederick Mosteller, President, ISI.

### **ISI Round Table Conference (August 10-14 1992)**

As part of the statistical education program of the ISI a Roundtable Conference on the subject: "Introducing data analysis in the schools: Who should teach it and how?" will be held at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec, Canada from August 10 to 14, 1992. The conference is organised by Lionel Pereira-Mendoza of the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. Amongst the topics to be discussed are the following:

- Goals of data analysis – what is appropriate for schools?
- The current situation – implications for the future.
- Who should teach data analysis?
- Are there unique approaches to teaching data analysis?
- Primary to secondary – content and methodology.
- Focus on research. Research needs in the next 5-10 years.
- What advice can we give the profession?

### **Statistics at ICME-7 (17-23 August 1992)**

At the 7th International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME-7), which will be held at Université Laval in Quebec, Canada, there will be two sessions dealing specifically with statistical education. Richard Scheaffer of the University of Florida, organiser of the sessions describes them as follows:

#### **1) Introductory Statistics at the School and Colleges Levels.**

This session will include discussion of current trends in teaching statistics from around the world, the interrelation between statistics and mathematics at this level, uses of technology, and statistics as a laboratory science.

#### **2) The Industrial/University Interface on Statistical Education.**

This session will explore the uses of statistics in industry especially in the area of quality improvement, in-house training methods, curricular changes suggested by industrial applications and related topics on cooperative educational efforts between industries and universities.

### **An Asian Conference on Teaching Statistics (1993)**

Plans are under way for holding the first Asian Conference on Teaching Statistics (ACOTS) in 1993. The ISI is cooperating with the working committee that is preparing for this conference, David Vere-Jones of the Victoria University of Wellington acting as the ISI representative in the ACOTS group. We hope to carry more information about ACOTS, including venue and exact date for the conference, in a future newsletter.

### **Fourth International Conference on Teaching Statistics (August 1994)**

Upon the invitation of the Moroccan government, the Fourth International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS-4) will be held in the town of Marrakesh, Morocco, in early August 1994. A program committee is being set up and will be chaired by Yves Escoufier of Montpellier University, France. Further information about plans for ICOTS-4 will be given in future newsletters.

*Dr Mary Regier*

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## CALL FOR FOUNDATION MEMBER APPLICATIONS

### INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATISTICAL EDUCATION

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An important decision was taken at the 48th Session of the International Statistical Institute in Cairo in 1991, namely to establish a new ISI section for Statistical Education. The section is to be called the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE). More details about its aims etc. are to found in the ISI newsletter prepared by Mary Regier which precedes this. Clearly this is an exciting innovation which could have far-reaching consequences for the future of statistical education. Who might wish to join IASE?

- Teachers of statistics in primary and secondary schools.
- Teachers of statistics in universities and colleges.
- Staff of statistical training centres (national, regional and international).
- Teachers and trainers in academic, governmental and industrial quality improvement programmes.
- Teachers and trainers in statistical computing, demography and other fields.
- Producers of statistical training aids and educational materials.
- Others who have an interest in the education and training of statisticians.

To obtain an application form to become a Foundation Member of the IASE write to the ISI Permanent Office, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, P.O. Box 950, 2270 AZ, Voorburg, The Netherlands.

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### ISI PUBLICATIONS IN STATISTICAL EDUCATION

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Barnett V (ed) (1982) **Teaching Statistics in Schools Throughout the World**. A Report from the Task Force on Teaching Statistics at School Level. US\$10.00 or £5.60.

Loynes, R M (ed) (1987) **The Training of Statisticians Round the World**. A Report from the Task Force on Technical and Tertiary Education in Statistics. US\$17.50 or £9.75.

Hawkins, A (ed) (1990) **The Training of Teachers to Teach Statistics**. Proceedings of the Round Table Conference, Budapest, August, 1988. US\$30.00 or £16.70.

Vere-Jones, D (1991) **Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS 3)**, Dunedin, August, 1990. Volume I: School and General Issues. Volume II: Teaching Statistics Beyond School Level. US\$38.00 or £21.15.

**All these are obtainable from: ISI Permanent Office, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, P.O. Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands.**

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