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ICOTS-6

DEVELOPING A STATISTICALLY LITERATE SOCIETY

The IASE Sixth International Conference on Teaching Statistics, July 7-12, 2002, Durban, South Africa.

ICOTS is the major international conference in Statistics Education that is held every four years. Planning for ICOTS-6 is well under way. The proposed topics are listed below along with the convenors. Each of these topics will have a number of sub-sessions with session organisers who are currently being appointed. The ICOTS-6 IPC is now calling for expressions of interest to present papers at the conference. Please contact the relevant topic convenor or the IPC Chair Dr Maria-Gabriella Ottaviani, Dip. di Statistica, Probabilità e Statistiche Applicate, Università di Roma "La Sapienza" P.le A. Moro, 5, 00185 Roma, Italy, Fax (+39)-06-4959241 E-mail: ottavian@pow2.sta.uniroma1.it

General information can be found at the ICOTS-6 web site at:

<http://icots.itikzn.co.za/>

and information about the program will be seen at

<http://www.beeri.org.il/icots6/>

PROPOSED SESSIONS AND CONVENORS FOR ICOTS-6

Statistical Literacy Sessions

Brian Phillips (Australia) bphillips@swin.edu.au & Iddo Gal (Israel) iddo@research.haifa.ac.il

Statistical Education at the School Level

Lionel Pereira Mendoza (Singapore) lpereira@nie.edu.sg

Statistical Education at the Post Secondary Level

Gilberte Schuyten (Belgium) Gilberte.Schuyten@rug.ac.be

& Allan Rossman (USA) rossman@dickinson.edu

Statistical Education/Training and the Workplace

Carol Joyce Blumberg (USA) wncarolj@vax2.winona.msus.edu

& Rene Smulders (The Netherlands) RSLs@cbs.nl

Statistical Education and the Wider Society

Helen MacGillivray (Australia) h.macgillivray@fsc.qut.edu.au

Research in Statistical Education

Carmen Batanero (Spain) batanero@ugr.es & Joan Garfield (USA) jbg@tc.umn.edu

Technology in Statistics Education

Laurence Weldon (Canada) Weldon@sfu.ca

Other Determinants and Developments in Statistics Education

Philip J. Boland (Ireland) Philip.J.Boland@ucd.ie

An International Perspective on Statistical Education

Vitalis Muba (Tanzania) eastc@ud.co.tz

Contributed Papers

Susan Starkings (UK) starkisa@sbu.ac.uk

International Association for Statistical Education

A section of the International Statistical Institute, 428 Prinses Beatrixlaan, PO Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands [Tel: +31 70-3375737, Fax: +31 70-3860025, E-mail: isi@cs.vu.nl]

IASE web page: <http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iase.html>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/meetings.html>

Association of Statistics Lecturers in Universities Annual Conference in conjunction with the Royal Statistical Society Education Section, September 20, 2000, London. Theme: Statistical Education at the Beginning of the Millennium. See:

<http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/aslu.html>

ICCS-VII 7th Islamic Countries Conference on Statistical Sciences, January 2-5, 2001, Lahore, Pakistan. Conference theme: Challenges of the 21st Century. Organized by the Islamic Society of Statistical Sciences (ISOSS) and the University of Lahore.

Information: drmunir@brain.net.pk

SRTL-2 The Second International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking and Literacy, University of New England, Armidale, Australia, August 15 - 20, 2001. See: <http://www.beeri.org.il/srtl/>

ISI-53 The 53rd Session of the International Statistical Institute, August 22-29, 2001, Seoul, Korea.

See: <http://www.nso.go.kr/isi2001/>

For the IASE Sessions at ISI-53 see:

<http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/isi53.html>.

A pre-conference satellite workshop on statistical literacy is planned.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Royal Statistical Society Education Section

Flavia Jolliffe, Chair RSS Education Section
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The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) in the UK was founded in 1834 as a "learned society". Its education committee was formed in 1981 when a merger between the Society and the Institute of Statisticians (a professional body) was under discussion. The Society and Institute merged in 1993 to form the current Royal Statistical Society, which has about 6400 Fellows. The education committee's function is to stimulate, monitor and offer advice on policy for educational activities of the Society, and to promote best practice in

statistical education, at all levels of the education system and among the general public.

In the early 1990s, under the chairmanship of Neville Davies, it put forward the idea that schools and colleges could apply to become associate members of the Society, and started organizing a series of one-day workshops for schoolteachers. Its proposal to the Society's Council that the Society should have an education section was accepted in February 1996. The education section is the newest of eight special interest sections, and its remit is that it "shall be concerned with statistical education issues at all levels". Like other sections, it organizes meetings where a speaker makes a presentation. To date there have been three such meetings each year, mostly at the Society's premises in London, but some meetings have also been held jointly with a local group of the Society and out of London, for example there have been meetings in Leeds and in Edinburgh. The topics covered in talks have included teaching large classes of business students at university, use of the Web in teaching statistics, graphical calculators for collecting and analyzing data (with audience participation), and misunderstanding by students in the 16-18 year age group of key concepts relating to correlation and regression.

The section has taken over the organization of workshops for teachers and school students from the education committee. Some of these have been for teachers only, others have been more for students, but with teachers in attendance. Many of these meetings have involved practical work and/or information technology. In the 1999-2000 session there was a conference for students aged 16-18 in Liverpool, a conference in London for teachers of GCSE students (a public examination usually taken when aged about 16) and of post GCSE students, and a conference for 16-18 year old students and their teachers in Belfast. One of the difficulties of organizing these meetings is finding a time when teachers and students are free to attend as the school year is very full.

All sections are asked their opinion on matters under discussion in the Society, for

example in the current session there has been an information technology review and discussion of continuing professional development. Part of the Society's 1999-2000 business plan includes a review of its educational policy, including the roles of the education committee, the education section, and the RSS Center for Statistical Education.

The Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre - Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

Zakayo Msokwa, Msokwa@ucc.udsm.ac.tz

Background

The Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) was established in July 1965 following the agreement between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the then East Africa Common Services Organisation (EACSO). EASTC continued to operate under the then East Africa Community (EAC) after the UNDP/EACSO agreement ended in 1972, until the collapse of the EAC in 1977. During the same year (1977), the 10th Conference of African Statisticians adopted a Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA). The EASTC was among Statistical Training Institutions in Africa selected to participate in the execution of this programme. It was selected to serve, mainly, National Statistical Offices of the English-African speaking countries: Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Seychelles, Mauritius, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Namibia (User Countries). Following the demise of the EAC, Tanzania Government decided to run the EASTC until such a time a new arrangement to management was to be worked out by the user countries. So as to reflect the anticipated new set up to the EASTC, in April 1978, the EASTC (East African Statistical Training Centre) was renamed to Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre. (holding the same short form of abbreviation - EASTC).

EASTC Teaching Programme

The EASTC currently offers two regular courses in Statistics at sub-professional levels. Each course lasts 10 months from October to July. Applied Statistics and practical exercises are emphasized to make the

courses as practical as possible. Statistical Theory and Methods, and Mathematics are considered to be core subjects to the courses. The Centre also teaches Economics at both levels.

While the bulk of trainees are Nominees of National Statistical Offices, candidates from other institutions, public and private are welcome. The courses offer career development for the graduates to advance within the statistical profession. The certificate level graduates may get exemption for higher Certificate in Statistics of the Royal Statistical Society (UK). The Diploma level graduates may get exemption from two statistical theory and methods papers of the Graduate diploma from the same Society.

EASTC Diploma graduates with good examination performance can be admitted in the second year at Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics - Makerere University, Kampala - Uganda for a B.Stat or BSc (Stat). At the University of Dar-es-Salaam - Tanzania, they are admitted for the BA (Stat) stream. Also, a number of UK universities do admit the EASTC Diploma graduates into their Post Graduate Certificate in Statistics and then to Masters if they perform well in the Post Graduate Certificate.

Short Courses and Consultancies

The staff of the EASTC is also from time to time engaged in the designing and running short courses to some specialized areas when contacted by some clients. In addition, the Central Bureau of Statistics and other organizations calls them to give a helping hand in some technical aspects of the field. This has been mainly in the areas of execution of large sample surveys. They also take part individually in many consultancies.

Link with other Institutions

As one of the executing Institutions of the STPA, EASTC under the co-ordination of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has links with all Statistical Institutions falling under the STPA. Currently it has links with Applied Statistics Research Unit (ASRU) of the University of Kent - UK. There are special links with In-Service Training Programmes in User Countries such as Zambia and Zimbabwe. Graduates of

these in-service courses may be exempted from the EASTC certificate level course. The other links are with various universities, where EASTC graduates are admitted at various degree levels, like the Dar-es-Salaam University, Makerere University and University of Southampton - UK.

IASE NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS

To help communications, the IASE is reviewing its system of national correspondents, who help provide communication between statistical educators within each country and the IASE. National Correspondents will act as a liaison between the local membership and the IASE. This will include passing on information about the IASE activities concerning teaching/learning statistics and letting IASE know about national ones. Please inform your national correspondent about any activities that you feel should be reported to the worldwide network of statistical educators. In case your country isn't represented up to now and if you are interested please contact the editor of IASE Matters. The National Correspondents list can be found on the web page: <http://www.swin.edu.au/maths/iase/correspondents.html>

WEB SITES

<http://www.swin.edu.au/maths/iase/resources.html>

IASE Statistical Education Research Group:
<http://www.ugr.es/~batanero/sergroup.htm>

Internet Projects For Elementary Statistics:
http://hepg.awl.com/weiss/e_iprojects/

Introductory Statistics: Concepts, Models and Applications David W. Stockburger
<http://www.psychstat.smsu.edu/introbook/sbk00.htm>

Java applets for power and sample size
<http://www.stat.uiowa.edu/~rlenth/Power/index.html>

PME Stochastics Teaching and Learning Discussion Group.
<http://www.beeri.org.il/stochastics>

Statistical Power:

<http://trochim.human.cornell.edu/kb/power.htm>

Surfstat

<http://www.anu.edu.au/nceph/surfstat/surfstat-home/surfstat.html>

VassarStats: Web Site for Statistical Computation Richard Lowry

<http://faculty.vassar.edu/~lowry/VassarStats.htm>

IN MEMORY OF LENNART RÅDE 1925 - 1999

David Vere-Jones, president of the IASE interim committee 1991-1993



I first met Lennart relatively late in his career, when he was already one of the establishment figures in statistical education. The occasion was the

ICME 5 conference in Australia, for which he was organising the statistics teaching stream. I remember being most impressed by how efficiently and effectively he organised the somewhat straggling bunch of statisticians seeking to establish their identity among the hordes of mathematics teachers.

I found that we also shared a research interest in point processes and their applications. He had a professional role as a research statistician in addition to his role as an educator.

Lennart had been involved in some of the very early round table meetings sponsored by the ISI, and when Joe Gani became chairman of the ISI education committee in 1979, he persuaded Lennart to take on the role of leader of the task force on international conferences. It was during this period that the foundation was laid for the ICOTS conferences.

Through his writings, through his energy and organisational skills, and through his dedication over many years to the cause of statistical education, Lennart earned himself a respected and well-justified place as one of its true pioneers.