



Spring 2000

### NEW EDITOR FOR *IASE MATTERS*

*Gilberte Schuyten, who is taking over as editor, will be very pleased to receive short reports and articles on statistical education, research notes, and announcements of interest to an international readership. Please send your contributions to the following editorial address: Gilberte Schuyten, Department Data Analysis, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Gent, B-9000 Gent, Belgium*

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### IASE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HELSINKI, ISI-52, AUGUST 1999

#### **Address to the General Assembly by IASE President, Brian Phillips**

*B. Phillips, School of Mathematical Sciences, Swinburne University of Technology, PO Box 218, Hawthorn 3122, Victoria, Australia, E-mail bphillips@swin.edu.au*

This is a most exciting and, I feel, critical period for statistical education. Statistics is now recognised as a crucial part of the education of students in many disciplines and is used by an ever increasingly number of people in the workplace. In fact I would say that statistics is studied by more students at post-secondary level than any other topic. Hence there are a very large number of people involved in teaching statistics and it is more important than ever that it is taught well and enthusiastically. As one of the main aims of the IASE is the improvement of statistical education worldwide, we have an important role to play. Modern methods, including advances in technology, can greatly help us get statistical concepts and ways of thinking statistically to an audience with a wide range of professional interests and abilities. By working together as part of an international community of statistical educators, we can become better informed and better prepared for the challenges which confront us.

There are many tasks in which the IASE is involved and we are fortunate to have the valuable assistance of a number of our members to help the small executive carry them out. I encourage all members to become more involved in the activities of your organisation which can be done in many ways. These include helping organise sessions at ICOTS-6, writing reports or articles for one of our publications, presenting papers at meetings organised by the IASE, suggesting improvements to our web site, getting involved in discussion groups, attending at least one IASE organised conference over the next two years, encouraging others to join the IASE and organising statistical education events in your local area. I look forward to helping make the next two years most productive years for the IASE and statistical education. Finally I wish to thank Gabriella for all the work she has done over the past two years as president and I welcome our continuing relationship, which includes her important role in planning ICOTS-6.

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## **Address to the General Assembly by outgoing IASE President, Maria-Gabriella Ottaviani**

*M. Gabriella Ottaviani, Dipartimento di Statistica, Probabilità e Statistiche applicate, Università "La Sapienza", P. le A. Moro 5, 00185 Rome, Italy, E-mail ottavian@pow2.sta.uniroma1.it*

In presenting to the International Association for Statistical Education Assembly my guidelines as IASE President, in August 1997 in Istanbul, I emphasised the need for energy, enthusiasm and ideas to foster and encourage the scientific growth of the IASE and to help circulate abroad the efforts of our members in their own countries. I also maintained that each IASE member may, in some way, serve as a connection between IASE and his/her country, and vice-versa and I emphasised the importance of National Societies of Statistics in the development of teaching. I observed that we need to recognise that local cultural characteristics and different languages can constitute some peculiar difficulties of our section compared with other ISI sections and since this is one more challenge for the Association, we should not underestimate it. Since 1997 the work of the IASE has tried to keep in mind such initial considerations, not only in terms of institutional activities, but above all in terms of the activities performed by myself and the Executive Committee to extend the IASE "geographical boundaries", thanks above all to contacts with national Statistical Societies and/or Institutions. The action co-ordinated and agreed on by the Executive Committee has made it possible to carry out activities already begun, and others to begin.

Thanks to the intelligent and intensive work of Brian Phillips and Lionel Pereira Mendoza, ICOTS, the most important conference organised by the association, took place in Singapore in 1998. The conference was a success from a scientific and organisational point of view. The three volumes of proceedings were immediately made available to participants at the meeting. About 400 delegates from 40 countries participated at the Conference. Here in Helsinki, the six invited paper sessions proposed by IASE, are in progress, with papers of extreme interest. Added to these are four contributed paper sessions with 31 reports. The next IASE Round Table will be held in Tokyo in August 2000, on the theme "Training Researchers in the use of Statistics". The choice of Carmen Batanero, who proposed the theme, was received favourably by the Executive Committee, who delegated the organisation of the meeting to her. In Japan IASE will also be officially present at ICME-9, where Prof. Hiroshi Fujita, Chairperson of the International Programme Committee, has

invited Susan Starkings, as IASE representative, to co-ordinate the Topic Group 4 "Teaching and Learning Statistics". Additionally, again as indicated by our Association, Mike Shaughnessy has been invited to present a plenary paper entitled "From research to teaching: What Research Suggests about Teaching Data and Chance". A title which is both extremely captivating and topical. For the year 2001 the coordination of the IASE sessions in the ISI-53 meeting has been delegated to Lionel Pereira Mendoza. The IASE Executive Committee has decided to hold the next ICOTS in South Africa, in Durban in 2002. The choice of South Africa is proving to be particularly appropriate, since South Africa is introducing new school curricula for children aged 6-15, and this curricula also includes the teaching of statistics, within the programme of mathematics. The proposed theme of the conference is "Developing a statistically literate society". The International Programme Committee (IPC) has now been established. It is chaired by myself, with Brian Phillips as International Organiser and Dani Ben Zvi as IPC Secretary.

The IASE publications have been published regularly, IASE pages in the *ISI Newsletter* have been organised by Joan Garfield, *IASE Matters* by Carmen Batanero with the help of Michael Glencross, and the *IASE Review* by myself, with the assistance of Brian Phillips.

In this term other activities have been identified and organised with the aim of extending IASE's field of operations in Latin America. As IASE President I have presented an invited paper concerning the Association's role and activities in Aguascalientes, Mexico, on the occasion of the joint IASS/IAOS Conference, in 1998. I come, by the way, from my recent presentation of IASE's activities at the Fourth Latin American Congress of Statistics, held in Argentina from 26 to 30 July, where I was invited by the Sociedad Argentina de Estadística. The Scientific Committee made evident the importance of teaching statistics including a session devoted to the subject and comprising a plenary lecture, a Round Table, many seminars and numerous contributed paper sessions. Next month, in September, the IASE, thanks to and in collaboration with the Presta Project, is organising in Brazil a Conference on Experiences and Perspectives on Teaching Statistics. IASE has also made contact with some Islamic countries in this period, in particular, last year with Iran and this year with Pakistan. In 1998 Carmen Batanero represented IASE at the Fourth International Iranian Statistics Conference where a number of sessions on statistical education were organised. This year together with Carmen we have sent a

paper concerning IASE's activities to the sixth Islamic Countries Conference on Statistical Sciences, to be held in a few days from now in Lahore, organised by the Islamic Society of Statistical Sciences.

It has been an honour for me to serve IASE in these two years, during which I have always been encouraged by IASE members and the Executive Committee, and supported in a kind and effective way by the ISI Staff. On a personal note, I must say that the dearest memory remains the moment in which, at ICOTS V in Singapore, I heard IASE Members, demanding recognition in the academic world of *research in statistics education* as a research discipline in its own right. This is also my personal view and I will adopt it from now on as often as possible in order that it be recognised and realised. My decision to publish in the *IASE Review* short reports on the scientific activities performed by the Association has been done with this aim in mind.

I would like to thank Brian Phillips, President Elect, and C. Batanero, Joan Garfield, Michael Glencross and Lionel Pereira Mendoza, Vice Presidents for their important role in this term, and I would like to wish the IASE and my dear colleagues and friends - Brian Phillips, now President, Carmen Batanero, now President Elect, Joan Garfield, Lionel Pereira Mendoza, Dani Ben Zvi, Gilberte Schuyten, now Vice Presidents, who form the new Exec - a favourable and prosperous term.

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### Statistical Education at ISI-52, Helsinki, Finland, August 1999

Helsinki was the place for statistical educators to be last August where the importance of our discipline was demonstrated at the ISI-52 meeting. A total of 21 invited speakers and 14 discussants gave some wonderful presentations in the six sessions organised by the IASE and the joint session with the IAOS. IASE members were also involved in a panel discussion on statistical literacy. Apart from these there were another five contributed paper sessions for which over 30 papers were presented on statistical education. This was a most successful time for the IASE. The titles and authors of these papers can be found on

<http://www.swin.edu.au/math/icots5/>

while the complete texts of all papers being available on the ISI-52 site

<http://www.stat.fi/isi99/proceedings.html>

*Further conference reports will appear in future issues of IASE Matters.*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### PME-24 Psychology of Mathematics Education, Hiroshima, Japan, July 2000

The next meeting of PME (the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education) will finish just before the gathering of ICME-9 in Tokyo. Details on PME-24 can be obtained from the website:

<http://www.ipc.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/~pme24/>

The topic to be used as a basis for two meetings of the *Discussion Group Stochastic Thinking, Learning, and Teaching* will be "The Relationship between Stochastic and Mathematical Thinking, Learning, and Teaching". This theme will be approached from multiple perspectives, including:

1. philosophical, in terms of the perceived boundaries of the disciplines,
2. historical, in terms of the developments of the disciplines,
3. educational, in terms of the positioning and implementation of the teaching and learning of stochastics within school and tertiary curricula, including such fundamental issues as teacher development, assessment, and technology,
4. psychological, in terms of the specific cognitive and sociocultural processes involved in the teaching and learning of stochastics,
5. research, in terms of cross-fertilization of theoretical frameworks and methodologies.

A mechanism already exists for electronic communication between potential participants through the *PME Stochastics Teaching and Learning Newsletter*, which has been circulating for four years, and through the group's website: [www.beeri.org.il/stochastics](http://www.beeri.org.il/stochastics). A number of short contributions will be prepared in advance to provide a focus for discussion.

The co-ordinators for this proposed Discussion Group are: Dani Ben-Zvi (Israel, [dani.ben-zvi@weizmann.ac.il](mailto:dani.ben-zvi@weizmann.ac.il)), Brian Greer (Ireland, [b.greer@qub.ac.uk](mailto:b.greer@qub.ac.uk)), Kath Truran (Australia, [kath.truran@unisa.edu.au](mailto:kath.truran@unisa.edu.au)) and John Truran (Australia, [jtruran@arts.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jtruran@arts.adelaide.edu.au)).

### ICME-9 Topic Group 4 "Teaching and Learning Statistics", Japan, July 31 to August 6, 2000

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The speakers for ICME-9 in Japan are now in place and come from a wide range of backgrounds and offer a wealth of experience in statistics education. For Topic Group 4 (TG4) entitled 'Teaching and Learning Statistics' speakers come from the following countries Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Korea, New Zealand/Australia, Singapore, United Kingdom, Ukraine and the USA.

The two sessions for TG4 include talks on multimedia, comparisons between different countries on introductory statistics courses, problems with statistics in transitional countries as well as those based on empirical research. For anyone interested in the teaching and learning of statistics and is attending ICME-9 then sign up for TG4.

### **IASE Round Table, Meiji University, Tokyo, Japan, August 2000**

Since 1968 a number of Round Table Conferences have been organised on topics in statistics education. These conferences were initially organised by the Education Committee of the International Statistical Institute and since 1988 by IASE. 2000 will be the year of the IASE Round Table: "Training Researchers in the Use of Statistics".

More information can be obtained from the web page: <http://www.ugr.es/~batanero/iasert.htm>

### **IASE Sessions at ISI-53, Seoul, Korea, August 2001**

The IASE is very pleased to see that the increasing interest in our discipline has led to an even larger number of statistical education sessions at the ISI-53 session to be held in Seoul, Korea in August 2001. There are seven sessions to be organized by the IASE alone, with another four being jointly organized with other sections. Lionel Pereira-Mendoza is coordinating our section of the program. Planning has started and anyone interested in more information should contact Lionel at [lpereira@nie.edu.sg](mailto:lpereira@nie.edu.sg)

Sole IASE Sessions planned are:

1. forum "IASE and statistics education in developing countries",
2. undergraduate level statistics programs,
3. the future of statistics education research,
4. research on teaching statistics at school and university levels,

5. undergraduate statistics education in non-statistics degree programs,
6. continuing statistics education in the workplace,
7. postgraduate training of statisticians.

Proposed Joint Sessions are:

1. with CWS: Women's contributions to leadership in statistical education,
2. with IASC: Technology in statistical education,
3. with IAOS: The role of official statistics in the university curriculum,
4. with IAOS: Education and the Internet: effective structures.

### **ICOTS-6 "Developing a Statistically Literate Society", Durban, South Africa, July 7 to 12, 2002**

The sixth International Conference on Teaching Statistics will be held in Durban, South Africa, during mid July 2002. The IASE will make a special effort to attract African participation, and in particular will offer some financial assistance to delegates from African developing nations. It is also planned that there will be strong participation from local school teachers. For more information, please consult the ICOTS-6 web-site:

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

### **IASE WEB PAGE**

**Do visit our new web site.** The aim is to make it the first place where people think to look if they have any questions about Statistical Education.

It consists of many links starting from

**<http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iase.htm>**

After an introduction to the IASE and ISI, the people of the IASE and activities of the IASE are presented. New is the topic "Some Statistical Education Sites" with links to Statistical Education Discussion Lists, Research in Statistical Education, Statistical Education Resources and International Statistical Societies and data Archives.

Particularly of interest to teachers may be the sites

<http://curriculum.qed.qld.gov.au/kla/eda/>,

<http://it.stlawu.edu/%7Erlock/>

<http://www.execpc.com/~helberg/statistics.html>