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### ISI DEVELOPMENT FUND

#### **Communication from the IASE President, Brian Phillips**

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One of the aims of the ISI is to promote the quality of statistics internationally. As developing countries are in the greatest need for such improvement, ISI considers it as its duty to provide assistance to statisticians from developing countries in achieving this improvement.

For this purpose, the Executive Committee of ISI has proposed to establish the ISI Development Fund which may assist IASE members from developing countries to attend conferences. The ISI development fund has the following characteristics:

- From the ISI finances, 50,000 US Dollars will be made available annually for the Fund for the coming two years.
- Candidates from developing nations can apply for financial support from the Fund for coverage of travel, accommodation, registration and out of pocket expenses at an ISI Session, an ISI Conference, or a meeting of any ISI-Section. These are the only meetings for which applications can be made.
- Candidates should be at the beginning of their statistical career, which usually means that they are relatively young. Women re-entering the statistical field are requested to apply as well.
- Developing nations are defined according to UN criteria.
- Candidates should present a paper at the meeting for which they request financial support.
- Candidates from developing nations who did their work in a developed country are excluded from support from the ISI Development Fund.
- Candidates are to submit a budget for their application, and should finance at least 10% of this budget from other means than the ISI Development Fund. They should use the form provided by ISI on paper, or on the ISI Website, and address it with appendices as indicated on paper to the Director of ISI, Prinses Beatrixlaan 428, 2273 XZ Voorburg, the Netherlands.
- If candidates apply for support to present a paper at a section meeting, they will become a member of that section. The yearly dues for that section will be part of the budget they propose.
- Applications submitted to the ISI Permanent Office will be judged on a first come first serve basis until the Fund has been depleted for the year in question (running each year from August 1 to August 1).
- The Permanent Office will decide on each application in a timely manner, assisted as the need arises by experts which will be approached for that purpose. Decisions are final, and there is no procedure for appeal.
- After two years, that is at the Seoul Meeting in Korea in 2001, an evaluation will be made to what extent the Fund has achieved its aim to help statisticians from developing countries. At the same time, it will be assessed whether or not the financial situation of ISI allows for a continuation of the Fund.

Information about this fund are set out in the web page

<http://www.cbs.nl/isi/devfundtxt.htm>

#### *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](mailto:isi@cs.vu.nl)]

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

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### **Statistical Education at CLATSE IV, Mendoza, Argentina, July 26-30, 1999.**

CLATSE is a meeting organised jointly by Sociedad Argentina de Estadística (SAE) and Sociedad Chilena de Estadística (SOCHE) since 1991. During Clatse IV at Mendoza (Argentina) sessions on teaching statistics at all levels have been organised.

The opening address was given by Maria Gabriella Ottaviani (Università La Sapienza, Roma Italia) who talked about "International Perspectives on Teaching Statistics".

In a Round Table Martha Aliaga (The University of Michigan, U.S.A.) explained the experimental method to teach statistics with graphic calculators at University level and Elsa Servi, head of the School of Statistics at the Universidad Nacional de Rosario gave a panorama of actual problems and projects.

As statistics have just been introduced at Chilean schools by the Ministry of Education, Pilar Iglesias (Universidad Católica de Chile and actual President of SOCHE) spoke about methodology of teaching statistics. They are actively involved in changing programs and methodologies to teach statistics at all levels.

During Clatse IV, several courses were organised for teachers of elementary and secondary school: (1) Teaching of Statistics at elementary school First and Second level of EGB (students from 6 to 11 years) presented by Adriana Mallea de Fuentes y Ana María Ruiz (Universidad Nacional de San Juan), (2) Teaching of Statistics at elementary school Third level of EGB (students from 12 to 14 years) presented by Mónica Guitar (Universidad de Mendoza), (3) Informatics and education. Simulation and Randomness presented by Ana Silvia Haedo and Daniel Vazquez Vargas (Universidad de Buenos Aires), (4) Teaching of Statistics at the University (students from 18 to 21 years) presented by Martha Aliaga (The University of Michigan).

Posters and oral communications were presented showing interesting results of experiences in different regions of both countries.

### **The First International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning Thinking and Literacy Kibbutz Be'eri, Israel, July 18-23, 1999**

This gathering took place under the umbrellas of the International Study Group for Research on Learning Probability and Statistics and the IASE. It was sponsored by the University of Minnesota, the Maurice and Gabriela Goldschleger Conference Foundation at the Weizmann Institute of Science, and Kibbutz Be'eri. The Forum was co-chaired by Joan Garfield (University of Minnesota, USA) and Dani Ben-Zvi (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel), who are currently Vice-Presidents of the IASE. The SRTL Forum offered an opportunity for a small, interdisciplinary group of researchers from six different countries (Australia, Belgium, Northern Ireland, Israel, UK, and US) to meet for five days, to share their work, discuss important issues, and initiate collaborative projects.

Sessions were held in an informal style (110 minutes for each presentation), with a high level of interaction - given the group size. The sessions' themes and presenters were: (1) Variation in Sampling, Chris Reading (Australia), (2) Understanding the Role of Variation in Correlation and Regression, James Nicholson (Northern Ireland), (3) Developing Statistical Reasoning about Sampling Distributions, Joan Garfield, Beth Chance & Bob Delmas (USA), (4) Statistical Reasoning in Visualization: Constructing Meanings for Trend in Time Plots with Spreadsheets, Dani Ben-Zvi (Israel), (5) The Longitudinal Development of Reasoning to Make Inferences from Data Presented in Graphical Form, Jane Watson (Australia), (6) Students' Use of Diagrams in Statistics, Pamela Shaw (Australia), (7) Averages (In Comparing Two Groups), Cliff Konold (USA), (8) Conceptualizing Statistical Literacy: An Assessment Perspective, Iddo Gal (Israel).

Following discussions reflected on the presentations: Janet Ainley (UK), Maya Bar-Hillel (Israel), Herman Callaert (Belgium), Brian Greer (Northern Ireland), Brian Phillips (Australia), and Laurie Snell (USA).

Videos of classroom work and students' interviews were used as a research tool and as

a way to present, discuss and argue parts of the research work.

The unique Kibbutz setting offered modern and excellent facilities, warm hospitality, and opportunities to tour the surrounding area. During the week there was a visit to the Weizmann Institute of Science, where some of our colleagues gave a presentation to the mathematics and science education department. A tribute was paid to Efraim Fishbein's memory, by taking part in a commemoration ceremony, which took place in Tel-Aviv University. Joan Garfield, representing IASE, emphasized in her talk Fishbein's direct contribution to those of us working in the field of stochastic teaching and learning.

The forum was very successful and is planned to lead to an edited book on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking and Literacy. This was only the beginning of a very exciting and promising line of research. We hope to offer new or expanded networks, an e-mail discussion list, and a second Research Forum (SRTL-2) in the year 2001.

For more information, please visit the SRTL website ([www.beeri.org.il/srtl](http://www.beeri.org.il/srtl)) or contact Joan Garfield ([jbg@tc.umn.edu](mailto:jbg@tc.umn.edu)) or Dani Ben-Zvi ([dani.ben-zvi@weizmann.ac.il](mailto:dani.ben-zvi@weizmann.ac.il)).

### **Statistical Education at ICCS-VI, Lahore, Pakistan, August 27-31, 1999**

*Munir Ahmad, President IOSOSS, Lahore,*

The IOSOSS organized ICCS-VI in collaboration with PSA, UNFPA, ISESCO and the University of the Punjab.

The theme of the conference was "3RD MILLENIUM CHALLENGES". About 146 papers were presented in the sessions with two sessions on Statistics Education where 3 invited papers and 6 contributed papers were presented dealing with various aspects of Statistical Education. The titles of the invited papers were: (1) The Role of IASE in Developing Statistical Education, Maria-Gabreilla Ottaviani & Carmen Batanero, presented by Saleha Naghmi of Kinnaird College on demand of the authors, (2) Kinnaird Inter-Collegiate Statistical Competition "Guided Level": An Innovative Endeavour to Train Pakistani Teachers of Statistics Regarding the Conduct of Sample

Surveys within Colleges, Saleha Naghmi Habibullah, (3) On 50 years of statistical education in Pakistan, Munir Ahmad (4) Blunders in the Merit List of NWFP Medical and Dental Colleges in Session 1996-97 and 1997-98, Sulaiman Khattak, (5) Role of ISESCO in the Development of Statistics, Mathematics and Computer Science in the Islamic World, Munir Ahmad, (6) Development of Computer Educational Material to Promote Literacy in Pakistan, Muhammad Jamil Butt, (7) Teachers' Ethical Attitudes: A case study based on Postgraduate Education, Khalid Pervez and A.Z. Memon, (8) Educational Ideology of Pakistan and its Related Aspects, M.A. Sabzwari, (9) IPNG/IPV6 A Break Through In It, Syed Faizan Haider and Syed Intikhab Alam Zaidi

IOSOSS arranged an official meeting of the country representatives from following Government authorities: Pakistan, Iran, Egypt, Turkey and Suriname. All delegates expressed their views on the occasion and extended their whole hearted cooperation in organizing projects of mutual interest and render the possible assistance in coordinating the government activities.

IOSOSS decided to make Statistical Education and Official Statistics regular features of the IOSOSS and Pakistan Statistical Association's Conferences.

### **Encontro sobre Ensino e Aprendizagem da Estatística, Lisbon, Portugal, February 3-4, 2000**

*Joao Pedro da Ponte, Departamento de Educacao da Faculdade de Ciencias, Universidade de Lisboa, Campo Grande, 1749-016 Lisbon, Portugal. E-mail [jponte@correio.cc.fc.ul.pt](mailto:jponte@correio.cc.fc.ul.pt)*

More than 600 participants, primary and secondary school teachers, and University lecturers from Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, Cuba and Mexico attended this meeting, which was the consequence of a joint initiative from the Portuguese Statistical Society, Association of Teachers of Mathematics, and the Departments of Education and Statistics & Operational Research of the Faculty of Education, University of Lisbon. Carmen Batanero (University of Granada, Spain) and Peter

Holmes (Nottingham Trent University, England) were invited to present main international developments. Teachers and researchers presented teaching experiences and research reports on students' learning, and there was a debate on the curricular content and the training of teachers to teach statistics. The Head of the Departments of Primary and Secondary Education from the Ministry of Education attended the closing session.

The conference discussions showed that statistics has a limited role, in particular in primary school curricula. Moreover, there is a strong computational tendency, that does not allow students to appreciate the role of statistics in the processes of designing and carrying out research projects and in making inferences. For many students statistics is only a chapter of mathematics that serves to "compute averages and produce graphs".

A final point discussed in the meeting was the training of teachers. Since learning fundamental notions of statistics and its role in the research process is very important for the training of citizens, it is of utmost importance to promote a positive attitude among teachers. Statistics has been recognised as a matter of extreme importance in the education of citizens, although in Portugal it has not still received the deserved attention in primary and secondary school curricula.

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

### **Curricula in Nepal**

*Banjade Ishwari Prasad, Tribhuvan University of Nepal.*

The present curricula at Tribhuvan University are basically developed to fulfil the strictly technical requirements of statistical knowledge. Both theoretical and practical aspects are covered in order to educate statisticians.

In both science and humanity faculties at Bachelor's and Master's levels statistics is taught as a separate discipline.

At M. A. and M. Sc. level the statistics courses cover mathematical statistics, probability, inference, survey, demography, statistical

processing, sampling & design, multivariate analysis, and demography. A practical paper has to be delivered.

## **MEMBERSHIP IN IASE**

IASE offers its membership the opportunity to become part of an international community interested in the improvement of statistical education at all levels. They can both contribute to innovations and progress in statistical education and learn from colleagues from round the world. The current Executive Committee has recognised, as one of its most pressing priorities, the need to improve channels of communication between statistical educators who often find themselves relatively isolated in professional terms. Along with this goes the need to strengthen support networks, especially in emerging countries. Members receive various publications free and discount rates on others and IASE meetings. The IASE is the only global organization whose main focus is Statistics Education. If you are not already a member of IASE, you are strongly urged to consider joining. Dues are only US \$24.00 and members have found the publications, meetings and contacts formed through IASE membership have been most helpful in their teaching of statistics courses. Institutions are also encouraged to become institutional members.

For further information and for a copy of the IASE Membership forms go to the IASE web site at

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

This site also has many links useful to anyone involved in statistical education.