

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATISTICAL EDUCATION

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A NEW SECTION OF THE ISI

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.

OBJECTIVES

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.

MEMBERSHIP

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.

PARTICIPATION

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 in 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.

INFORMATION ON FUTURE MEETINGS

The editor urges readers to send in updates, news and announcements - such as information about other meetings and forthcoming events in statistical education - so that they can appear in subsequent issues of ISEN.

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, Instit. 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 organized by Lionel Pereira-Mendoza of the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. Among 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), will be held at Universite 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 College 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 underway 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, with 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 issue of International Association for Statistical Education.

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 issues of International Association for Statistical Education.

STATISTICAL TRAINING

STATISTICAL TRAINING FOR SURVEY AND CENSUS ACTIVITIES

The International Statistical Programs Center (ISPC) of the U.S. Census Bureau presents certificate and diploma programs to train statisticians from developing nations. The programs run from two to 11 months and are designed to train applicants in the skills necessary to conduct survey and census activities. Training is offered in the areas of Sampling and Statistical Methods, Computer Processing and Information Systems, Survey and Census Methods, and Population Data Analysis, Dissemination and Utilization. ISPC has three new additions this year. These include Population Data Analysis, Dissemination and Utilization, Economic Statistics, and Applications in Information Technology.

The Population Data Analysis, Dissemination and Utilization program is an advanced, intensive training course for professionals responsible for increasing the utilization of government statistical data, and for strengthening the role of national statistical offices in public sector planning. This course emphasises training in state-of-the-art microcomputer software for demographic analysis; covers strategies for fostering increased, and more policy-relevant data utilization; and introduces innovative approaches to population and statistical data presentation and dissemination. The program is offered from January 30 - May 22 1992.

The new Economic Statistics program is based on recommendations from a task force that included outside sponsors and consultants, and users of economic statistics. This revised program draws heavily from United Nations recommendations for the 1993 round of census activities. This program runs from September 4 1991 to August 1 1992.

The new Applications and Information Technology program is designed as an advanced, intensive training course for a broad audience of professionals responsible on a day-to-day basis for management and implementation of microcomputer resources. It provides training in the planning, implementation, and administration of a local area microcomputer communications network; introduces the considerations for selection and utilization of desktop publishing hardware and software; presents the techniques and strategies for the security and protection of microcomputer resources; and covers statistical analysis software (Lotus 1-2-3 and SPSS/PC+). The program is offered from March 16 - May 22 1992.

ISPC training is available in a number of options. Participants can enrol for a diploma program, certificate program or various short-term study

tours. The diploma program runs from September through July. Certificate programs run from 2 to 9 months in duration and begin in January, March and May.

For application materials or additional information, contact Chief, Training Branch, International Statistical Programs Center, Bureau of the Census, Washington D.C. 20233 USA. Telephone: (301) 763-2860; FAX: (301) 763-7589.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Each year, the International Labor Statistics Program Center of the Bureau of Labor Statistics conducts a number of seminars of 3 to 8 weeks duration at its training facilities in Washington, DC. These seminars bring together statisticians, economists, analysts, and other data users from countries all over the world. Each seminar is designed to strengthen capabilities in collecting and analyzing economic, labor, and social statistics as well as in applying the results to policy formulation, especially for human resources development. Each seminar includes at least one field trip, as well as lectures, discussions, and practical workshops.

In addition to its Washington-based seminars, the Bureau of Labor Statistics may conduct seminars overseas on request. Such seminars may be held either for an individual nation or for the countries of a region.

Specialized training programs and consultations are arranged and conducted for individual participants, based upon their particular needs and interests. Such special programs range from half a day to a full year or longer in duration.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics also makes available technical experts to serve as consultants overseas, at the request of individual governments or international organizations.

For additional information about any of the seminars or training programs, please write to:

John T. McCracken, Director, International Labor Statistics Program Center, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-1310, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington DC 20210, USA. Telephone Numbers: (1) (202) 523-9231 (Office) (1) (703) 538-5685 (Home); FAX: (1) (202) 523-7342; or contact AID/W, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C., USA.