

# IASE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND MINUTES

**29<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, 11:15am Theatre T2, Level 1 Hong Kong Convention Centre**

**John Harraway in the Chair and 52 members of the Association present**

**Minutes of the General Assembly 24 August, 2011 in Dublin taken as read and approved**

## **A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **1. Cebu City Roundtable Conference July 2-6, 2012 on *Technology and Statistics Education***

A report from the Chair, Rob Gould, is included in Section B of the Agenda. 32 participants from 11 countries attended. The papers have been published in a special copy of e-journal *Technology Innovations in Statistics Education*. Recommendations and suggestions made in the report about the future structure of Roundtables will be discussed later in the meeting.

The local committee controlled the finances well and a surplus has been transferred to IASE. Warm thanks are extended to Enriqueta Reston, Rob Gould and the rest of the Programme and Local Organizing Committees. The future of Round Tables will be discussed later in this Assembly.

### **2. IASE at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Mathematics Education, Seoul, South Korea, July 8-15, 2012**

Study Group 11: *Teaching and Learning of Probability* and Study Group 12: *Teaching and Learning of Statistics* were two statistics education components. A report on the Proceedings is on the IASE web site written by Dani Ben-Zvi and Katie Makar.

### **3. IASE/IAOS Joint Satellite Macao, August 21-24, 2013**

Full details are available on the IASE website where the Proceedings will also be published. Refereeing processes controlled by Brian Phillips for IASE and Sharleen Forbes for IAOS were in place for presenters who wished their papers to be refereed. Tae Rim Lee was part of the initial contacts with the Statistics and Census Service, Macao SAR, China, negotiating the favourable sponsorship. This satellite was unique with excellent cooperation of two Associations affiliated to ISI.

IASE (and IAOS) record their thanks for the incredible sponsorship provided by the Statistics and Census Service of Macao Special Administrative Region China, the support of the University of Macau and the support of SAS. In addition to Ms Kong, Director of DSEC, and the Rector of the University, Professor Wei Zhou, we must thank Dr Simon So, Co- Vice Chair Academic, for his incredible efficiency, enthusiasm and constructive advice on academic matters over the last six months.

It should be noted that the welcome reception, the conference Gala Dinner, the Farewell Dinner, all lunches and teas, the venue with IT support, the conference book, printing of ISLP Posters and a tour of Macao were provided free for all attending.

Any surplus from this conference will be used to support people from Developing Countries attending conferences.

There were 42 papers presented, six keynote speeches and 6 posters. A special workshop for Macao school teachers discussing the International Poster Competition was built into the Conference Programme and was led by the Chair of the judging panel, James Nicholson, with the support of Reija Helenius.

#### **4. WSC Hong Kong**

IASE has been well represented in the programme with 13 Invited Paper Sessions in the area of Statistics Education. Nel Verhoeven was the IASE representative on the ISI Programme Committee and Delia North was appointed by ISI as a coordinator for the *Statistics for Youth* theme day. This also reflects the ISI's encouragement of, and commitment to, young statisticians, education and capacity-building, particularly in developing countries

#### **5. New IASE web site**

The IASE website has moved from the University of Auckland and the care of Chris Wild. We record our appreciation to the University of Auckland for hosting the site free of charge over a period of more than ten years. We also record our thanks to Chris Wild for establishing the site again free of charge and maintaining it over this period of time with the help of his technical staff.

Tenders were called for a new site in 2012 and the contract for three years was awarded by the IASE Executive to Spacific Software, with the new webmaster being John Shanks who has also designed and implemented the attractive ICOTS7, ICOTS8 and ICOTS9 sites as well as the IASE site for the Cebu Round Table. The tender price for the design and implementation of the new IASE web site was US\$5200. The annual management fee is US\$490 for the IASE and ISLP websites and the annual domain name and web hosting fees amount to NZ\$150.

The new IASE website is <http://iase-web.org/>

The new website is easy to navigate and has the potential for further enhancement. Mail can be directed to all IASE members with personalised names. Several lists are available and have been used extensively. Financial members of IASE can access some reserved areas such as the special recent edition of the Journal of IAOS. More use may be made of this facility in future adding an incentive to take out membership of IASE. All conference proceedings are available and all information from the Auckland site has been transferred. Electronic voting has been established for use once new statutes and by-laws have been adopted by IASE.

#### **6. Conference web sites and links**

There are links from the IASE homepage to ICOTS9 and Cebu Round Table. A refereeing process built into the system helps Conference Proceedings Editors. The attractive international website for the Macao Satellite developed by Brad Payne of Conker Statistics can also be accessed directly from the IASE homepage.

There is a link to SERJ from the IASE home page.

There is a link to the ISLP from the IASE home page. The ISLP web site has been redesigned by Spacific Software. The design and implementation of the new ISLP web site was US\$950. There is potential to further develop the ISLP site allowing approved members access to sections of the site which they can control under the overall coordination of the webmaster.

## **7. Membership**

The membership report supplied by ISI is circulated. There are 306 members including 10 institutional members at 31 December 2012. Currently the membership is 315. In preceding years the numbers were 332 (2011), 329 (2010) and 303 (2009). The ICOTS Conference usually results in an increase in membership. About 48% are ISI members who choose IASE as their Association.

Email address lists for all financial members, and all who have ever been members of IASE are available through the new website and this will be a good vehicle for increasing future membership by helping retain all current members. The membership list is updated regularly using the ISI site. I found that my group emails were sent on to statisticians in other countries and were also placed in journals outside the statistics fold. There is excellent potential for further communication once we update our country representative list.

## **8. World Bank funding through ISI**

Helen MacGillivray managed the allocation of funds from the World Bank using the same principles she used for allocating funds for people from developing countries to attend ICOTS8. Her recommendations to the IASE Executive were approved. US\$8300 supported participants from Developing Countries at the Cebu Round Table, US\$6600 supported ICME TSG-12 and Euro 4646 the IASE/IAOS Satellite.

In future less funding will be available from the World Bank through ISI. There will be more funds required from Association sources to support people from developing countries. It is positive that IASE had a surplus from the Cebu Roundtable and should have a surplus from the joint IASE/IAOS Satellite in Macao.

## **9. Financial report**

The financial report 2012 supplied by ISI has been circulated. The result for the financial year was a surplus of 2636 Euros with a reserve of 76362 Euros. It is noted that the Cebu Round Table with Springer Royalties showed a surplus of 1999 Euros. Website charges for 2012 were 2304 Euros. This included the websites for the Cebu Round Table, the Macao Satellite and a progress on the site for ICOTS9. The cost of the new IASE and ISLP web sites will show in the 2013 financial report.

A membership report and the financial accounts supplied by the ISI Permanent Office have been circulated.

## **10. SERJ Report**

A committee of four has been established to carry out a search for a new Co Editor of SERJ to follow Bob delMas when he retires. Peter Petocz will continue as Co Editor for another two years.

## 11. ISLP report

On behalf of IASE, IAOS and ISI appreciation is recorded for the dedication of ISLP Director, Reija Helenius, and Minna Leinonen from Statistics Finland, the support of Statistics Finland itself, and the contributions of the two Deputy Directors, Sharleen Forbes (New Zealand) and Pedro Campos (Portugal). It is noted that the ISLP Poster Competition and Best Cooperative Projects were the IASE contributions to the Year of Statistics.

Thirty two posters were judged in two sections by an International Jury of James Nicholson, Iddo Gal, John Shanks, Adriana D'Amelio and Alejandra Sorto. Thanks are recorded for their work which was carried out in a tight time frame. The Wakimoto Foundation is thanked for providing the winning poster prizes which will be presented by Mrs Wakimoto in Hong Kong at the WSC. Please attend the presentations this afternoon. The award for the Best Cooperative Project in Statistical Literacy will also be made. It is pleasing to note that the ISI is now fully aware of the positive contribution that the ISLP can make to the international statistics community.

The posters were also on display at the IASE/IAOS Satellite in Macao and a workshop on the posters was led by James Nicholson for teachers from Macao and Hong Kong.

## 12. President-elect

The 2013 nominating committee (consisting of five members selected from among the individual and honorary members of the Association and citizens of different countries) has proposed Andrej Blejec from Slovenia as President of IASE for 2015-2017. It is with pleasure that I announce Andrej as President-elect for 2013-2015.

It is also with pleasure I report the nominating committee has proposed the following four names of Vice Presidents for 2013-2015:

- Joachim Engel (continuing for second term)
- Alison Gibbs (Dept of Statistics, University of Toronto)
- Alejandra Sorto (continuing for second term)
- David Stern (Maseno University, Kenya)

The meeting approved these appointments.

## 13. ICOTS9 Flagstaff, Arizona

The website <http://icots.net/9/> contains up to date information.

The International Programme Committee is

- [Tim Dunne](#) (South Africa) *IPC Chair*
- [Gillian Lancaster](#) (United Kingdom) *Scientific Coordinator*
- [Katie Makar](#) (Australia) *Editor of Proceedings*
- [Roxy Peck](#) (United States) *Local representative at the IPC*
- [Helen MacGillivray](#) (Australia) *Programme Scheduler*
- [John Shanks](#) (New Zealand) *Information Manager*

The Local Organizing Committee is

- [Roxy Peck](#) (California Polytechnic State University) *Chair*
- [Allan Rossman](#) (California Polytechnic State University) *Committee*
- [Roy St. Laurent](#) (North Arizona University) *Committee*
- [Brent Burch](#) (North Arizona University) *Committee*
- [Ronald Wasserstein](#) (American Statistical Association) *Committee*

There is an IASE/ICOTS9 Committee meeting on Friday at 11:15 in S241

#### **14. The IASE Executive Committee (2011-2013)**

President: John Harraway (New Zealand)

President-Elect: Iddo Gal (Israel)

Past-President: Helen MacGillivray (Australia)

Vice-Presidents:

Joachim Engel (Germany)

Tae Rim Lee (South Korea)

Irena Ograjenšek (Slovenia)

Alejandra Sorto (United States)

Jessica Utts (United States)

Ex-officio: Ada van Krimpen ISI Executive Director

Appreciation and gratitude to retiring Vice Presidents, Tae Rim Lee, Irena Ograjensek and Jessica Utts for their work and contributions to IASE were recorded and the meeting hoped that their interest in Statistics Education would continue. Thanks to Helen MacGillivray were recorded for her enormous contribution to IASE. The meeting wished Helen every success with her work on the ISI Council and noted that her work on behalf of statistics education would be continuing.

The President moved the adoption of his report which was carried.

### **B. Upcoming Activities**

#### **1. ICOTS9 Flagstaff, Arizona 13-18 July 2014 *Sustainability in Statistics Education***

A report on the Programme will be presented by Tim Dunne at the ICOTS9 meeting on Friday. Tim presented a brief report to the General Assembly.

A report on the Local Organisation will be presented by Roxy Peck at the ICOTS9 meeting on Friday. Again a report would be presented at the ICOTS9 meeting on Friday.

#### **2. IASE at WSC Rio de Janeiro 2015**

A member of IASE is being approached to serve on the Rio Programme Committee. An announcement will be made soon by the new IASE Executive.

#### **3. Satellite Conference to WSC Rio**

Ideas are sought for theme, location and committee. A member of the Association is being approached to serve as the Committee Chair. The meeting expressed the view

that the Satellite should be held within a two hour drive of Rio. An announcement will be made soon by the new IASE Executive.

#### **4. Round Table 2016**

Ideas are sought for theme, location and committee. Note should be made of the points raised by Rob Gould in his following report on the Cebu Roundtable. This could impact on the style of future Roundtables. The IASE Executive will discuss related matters.

#### **Report on Roundtable 2012 to IASE from Rob Gould**

The 2012 IASE Roundtable revisited the theme of Technology and Statistics Education. Given that technology changes frequently and rapidly, this theme is worth revisiting once a decade or so.

We had 32 participants from 11 different countries, including (in order of number of participants): the Philippines, the U.S., Australia, Kenya, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Korea, and India. Presentations were organized around central themes: Technology's role in aiding teachers, technology's role in the classroom, technology and teaching statistical practice, educating educators about technology, and assessing the effects of technology on education. Presentations included reports on empirical and theoretical studies, curriculum development and implementation, and the development of new educational technologies.

Presenters were asked to limit their presentations so as to allow for as much discussion as possible. Because this was a Roundtable, we made it clear to participants that participation was expected, either through asking questions, making suggestions, taking notes, moderating a session, or participating in small-group "white papers". In later discussions, some participants said they felt uncomfortable with this, suggesting that in some cultures, active participation, particularly from junior members, is discouraged. However, over all, participants appreciated the chance for constructive feedback for their research.

The "white papers" were small-group discussions, organized around personal interests. Each group was charged with drafting a one- or two-page paper addressing a thematic area in which they would like to see more work investigated or which they would like to see developed further. One problem was that we did not do a very good job in 'catching' these papers for future dissemination. We hoped, naively, that groups would become inspired to work together and develop these white papers to outline future areas of research, but this did not happen.

Papers were published on an electronic Proceedings. Also, reviewed and extensively edited versions of the papers will appear in a special edition of the e-journal *Technology Innovations in Statistics Education* by the end of July 2013.

We tried, this time, to increase participation by allowing people to attend even if they were not participating. Still, we had lower than anticipated attendance. One reason is, I believe, something the IASE should address in the future, which is that the mission of Roundtables is not clearly understood by all. For example, it is advertised as a research conference, and yet I felt that in addition to empirical research, we should also include software and curriculum developers. These people had a difficult time

getting through the review process, and we failed to invite some people who would have made valuable contributions simply because the reviewers held them to standards that were appropriate for research but not for curriculum development. Those that did get through were given, I felt, a rough treatment during the discussions, mostly because researchers were puzzled by the lack of methodology. This was mostly my own fault: I should have specified very clearly about what constituted an acceptable presentation. However, I fear that quite a bit of friction would still remain, since there seemed to be a real disconnect between, say, software developers and methodology-driven researchers. (This was not, by any means, a source of discomfort or tension. Also, it was not true of all researchers or all developers. But I felt that it did prevent discussions from moving forward productively.)

From private conversations, I know that some participants were hoping the Roundtable would spark more international collaborations, and were disappointed that this did not happen. The reason for this was that there was truly a divide between the research agendas of researchers from developing and developed countries. This was, perhaps, to be expected, since technology is still quite expensive. On the other hand, the discussions that ensued were extremely interesting and thought-provoking, and I think there is great value and potential in future international meetings, particularly if a Roundtable is able to explicitly foster international collaborations, and perhaps search for sources of funding to help solve particular pedagogical challenges that transcend local culture.

## **C. New Initiatives**

### **1. Name of the Association**

The recent electronic vote produced the following:

“International Association for Statistical Education”	52
“International Association for Statistics Education”	112
Do not mind	34
Number of financial members	315

It is recommended that a name change for the Association be presented to the membership of IASE for voting as soon as possible.

### **2. Statutes and By –Laws**

Draft changes to our existing Statutes based on earlier discussion with the Permanent Office can be seen in a circulated document or here:

<http://iase-web.org/About.php?p=StatutesChanges>

It was noted that this is work in progress. It was agreed that suggestions for changes be presented electronically to a committee set up to review the document rather than to try to discuss such a complicated procedure at the General Assembly.

I move that Helen MacGillivray be asked to investigate the By Laws and Statutes and produce recommendations in consultation with the IASE Executive which be put to a mail vote. This motion was carried.

Once Statutes and By Laws are in place voting will in future be electronic which we now are able to carry out easily.

### **3. Regional Chapters**

This matter was referred to the IASE Executive.

### **4. Communication Procedures**

The email procedures on the website are easy to use. We can add organisation addresses such as ISI, journals etc easily. This will get to ISI News for example. The IASE Executive is asked to review where we should release information.

### **5. Support for early career statisticians/educators**

It was agreed that ICOTS awards for young or early career statisticians/educators will continue and be encouraged for conferences like ICOTS

### **6. World Bank funding**

It was noted that fewer funds are likely to be available from the World Bank through the ISI. IASE has however run recent conferences with good surpluses which mean that IASE should have funds available. It is likely that ISI will consider an application from IASE more favourably if the Association makes contributions of its own which we should be able to do. There was a major commitment to establishing our new web site this year but less money will be required in future now that the site is established.

### **7. ISLP**

The ISLP Advisory Committee and the ISLP Open meeting attended by about 30 members of IASE and IAOS was held earlier in the week. Recommendations have been made to support the Director and investigate future developments. Action points are as follows:

- (i) James Nicholson writes notes for improving the instructions on the website for the Poster Competition and investigates the preparation of a YouTube Video.
- (ii) Sharleen Forbes will do the same for the Best Cooperative Award.
- (iii) The Director of Statistics Finland will be approached by John Harraway pointing out how much the work of Reija Helenius is appreciated and asking if Reija can continue in the position of Director with responsibility for policy.
- (iv) Pedro Campos will continue as Deputy Director of ISLP
- (v) Steve MacFeely from the Irish Statistics Office has been appointed as a second Deputy Director in place of Sharleen Forbes
- (vi) The tasks of the Directors have been divided with the following responsibilities:  
Reija Helenius—strategy plans and actions

Pedro Campos—website and newsletter  
Steve MacFeely—oversight of competitions (poster, best cooperative award  
and a new competition re best statistical capability raising innovation practice)

- (vii) John Shanks to be approached re establishing administration infrastructure on the website for competitions
- (viii) John Harraway will approach the new IAOS President, Shigeru Kawasaki, about an IAOS representative on the ISLP Advisory Board. I report that Stephen Penneck, past President of IAOS, will fill this position.

#### **D. Thanks**

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to IASE over the past two years during my Presidency, particularly the Executive members for their support. I have found it a busy two years with all my other work at the University of Otago. For me the highlight events of the last two years have been the Cebu Round Table, the Macao Satellite with IAOS, the development and implementation of the new web site which has enormous communication potential and attending ISI Council Meetings. I wish Iddo Gal all the best for the next two years and apologise that I ran out of time to complete some matters like new statutes and by-laws.

#### **E. Other business**

The meeting recorded their thanks to the outgoing President

#### **F. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held during ICOTS9 in July 2014 in Flagstaff, Arizona with regular communications and consultations by email to occur until then.