

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ICOTS 3 - SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

The final report on ICOTS 3, prepared by Bryan Manly, contains a lot of interesting facts and figures, handsomely displayed, and of the kind that only a well-organized Local Organising Committee would be able to produce. Here are a few tidbits that, in this editor's opinion, would nicely supplement the news items that we previously carried about this conference:

- Of the 564 officially registered participants, 44% came from New Zealand;
- The second largest national group, 13%, came from the USA. Australia ranked third;
- Nationals of 47 different countries attended the conference;
- A total of 268 papers were presented. In addition, there were 19 workshops;
- A handbook containing advice and information on the organization of such conferences has been compiled by the organizers.

PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATISTICAL EDUCATION

An ad hoc committee of the ISI is currently preparing a proposal for the creation of a new Section of the Institute with the broad objectives of serving the needs of statistical education worldwide. If the proposal is approved, the new Section would come to be known as the International Association for Statistical Education. The proposed Section is meant to provide a suitable forum for international cooperation in the development of statistical education, with as wide a participation as possible on the part of individuals or groups concerned with effective instruction in statistics - be it at the school, college or university level, as well as outside the classroom. The members of the ad hoc committee are:

M.H. Regier (Lebanon), Chair
J. Gani (Australia)
M.-J. Laurent-Duhamel (France)
B. Penkov (Bulgaria)
L. Råde (Sweden)
D. Vere-Jones (New Zealand)
D. Lievesley, Director, ISI Permanent Office

THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The proposal for a new international association devoted to meeting the challenges of statistical education grew naturally out of the ambitious and continually expanding program of the ISI Committee on Statistical Education. Over the past decade or so, in addition to the regular work of the committee, a number of task forces were set up for the purpose of dealing with specific projects. This newsletter has carried news about such projects from time to time, the latest being a report on the activities of the current Task Force on Conferences, chaired by K. Vännman, which appeared in the November 1990 issue. The members of the Education Committee are:

D. Vere-Jones (New Zealand), Chair
J.N. Adichie (Nigeria)
A. Hawkins (UK)
M.-J. Laurent-Duhamel (France)
P.A. Morettin (Brazil)
G. Noether (USA)
R. Scheaffer (USA)
K. Vännman (Sweden).

The Committee also has a number of ex-officio members. These are representatives of UNESCO, the UN Statistical Office, the International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), as well as the editor of this newsletter.

STATISTICAL EDUCATION AT THE CAIRO SESSION

According to the program for the ISI 48th Session, to be held in Cairo on 9-17 September, there will be a number of meetings that should be particularly interesting to participants involved in statistical education. Especially noteworthy in this regard are the following:

1. Tuesday, 10 September, morning
Contributed Papers Meeting, Topic No. C17:
The Use of Graphical Methods in Teaching Statistics
Organized by Kerstin Vännman (Sweden).
2. Tuesday, 10 September, afternoon
Open Meeting on Statistical Education
Organized by the Education Committee, which will report on its ongoing activities and conduct a discussion of the proposal for a new International Association for Statistical Education.
3. Saturday, 14 September, morning
Invited Papers Meeting, Topic No. 7:
From Statistical Methods to Statistical Science - New Directions in the Training of Statisticians. Organized by Lennart Råde (Sweden) and includes the following papers:
 - The Education/Practice Divide in Statistics, by S. Conrad (UK)
 - Teach What? Teach Whom?, by Y. Escoufier (France)
 - Some Thoughts on Statistical Training at the Universities, by J. Sreevivas Rao
 - Scheduled discussants are M. Benyaklef (Morocco) and B. Rosen (Sweden).
4. Sunday, 15 September, afternoon
Contributed Papers Meeting, Topic No. C9:
Training of Statisticians in Developing Countries
Organized by Enoch Ching'anda (Malawi) of IAOS.

THE QUANTITATIVE LITERACY PROJECT (QLP)

The editor has received a few inquiries in connection with the story on the QLP in US schools which appeared in the March issue of this newsletter, and which lists the series of four books used in the project. For the benefit of other readers who may also be interested in this series and wish to contact the publishers, here is their address:

Dale Seymour Publications, P.O. Box 10889, Palo Alto, CA 94303, USA

Each book is available in both a Teacher Edition and a Student Edition.

STARTING A NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR STATISTICAL EDUCATION - THE SWEDISH EXAMPLE

Introduction

A national committee for statistical education was established in Sweden by the Swedish Statistical Association in the Autumn of 1982, inspired by the first conference on teaching statistics (ICOTS 1) which was held in Sheffield in August of 1982. The aim of the committee is to be involved in different activities to improve statistical education both at the school level and at the university level in Sweden. The committee consists of 5 members from different universities and Statistics Sweden. When the committee was established it was given a free hand to formulate its activities, and it has come up with many suggestions. Some of them will be mentioned here.

The Committee has started a newsletter called *Medianen* in Swedish, which means the Median. It is distributed to all members, now more than 600, of the Swedish Statistical Association. The newsletter appears twice a year. It contains articles on statistical education, information about and from conferences on statistical education, reports on national and international activities in the field of statistical education, reports on teaching aids, book reviews, and so on. Authors of articles in *Medianen* have been, among others, Peter Holmes, Joe Gani, Sture Holm, Brigitta Hedman, Svante Wold, Heleen van Lohuizen, Romano Scozzafava, Robert Hogg, and David Vere-Jones.

A Variety of Conferences

The committee has organized a number of national one-day conferences for teachers of statistics at the university level. At these conferences we have had talks reflecting different aspects of statistics education by inspiring speakers and posters describing the statistical education programs at the different statistics departments all over Sweden. These posters were then put together in a report distributed to all departments. This was a good way to learn how other departments plan their courses and to give ideas and support to developing new courses. These conferences have been appreciated by teachers of statistics since they made it possible to meet teachers from other universities and discuss educational matters.

The committee has also established a series of one-day conferences for teachers of statistics at universities and people from industry. The aim of these conferences is to establish contact between people from industry and the academic statisticians. At these conferences speakers from both industry and the universities have contributed. The conferences have been held in close connection to some industry which has made it possible to include a factory visit in the program. These conferences have been well attended, and the factory visits have been appreciated.

A year ago the committee organized a conference on statistical software in education, research, and practice. The participants could listen to Simon Puntanen, of Finland, talking about Dynamic Graphics for Regression Analysis; Christian Schleiffer, of Switzerland, talking about Designing Educational Programs in Statistics; Gunther Sawitski, of Germany, talking about Tools and Concepts in Data Analysis; and Lothar Afflerbach, also of Germany, talking about a Statistical Course of training on IBM PC. Furthermore, Swedish teachers and researchers gave reports on experiences of using different software, like Statgraphics, Gauss, S, and Mathematica. We also had exhibitions of different software so that the participants could get hands-on experiences during the breaks. This seems to be a type of conference that has been eagerly awaited and will be continued.

The committee has also organized conferences dealing with the teaching of statistics at the school level. This has been done in collaboration with the Swedish Mathematical Association. These conferences are aimed at school teachers of mathematics. In Swedish upper secondary schools, statistics is a compulsory part of the mathematics curriculum. These conferences can be considered as in-service meetings for the school teachers, and we think this is one way to stimulate the teachers to include more statistics in their teaching.

In January 1992, the Swedish Statistical Association and Statistics Sweden are jointly organizing a three-day in-service meeting for statisticians. The meeting will present news and developments in statistics during the past 20 years and is aimed at statisticians outside universities who do not have many opportunities to update their statistical knowledge.

A Report on Audio-Visual Aids in Statistics Education

The committee has published a report on audio-visual aids in statistics teaching. It contains a survey of the use of audio-visual aids at the different departments of statistics. It describes the contents of a video course from the Open University in the UK, as well as some other materials. This report was prepared before the excellent video tapes, *Against All Odds*, were produced in the USA. The use of video tapes in statistical education is discussed in the report. The report also includes the Revised Listing of Audio-Visual Material for Statistical Education by Boiling, Bibby, Buckley, Carlson, and Shvyrkov of the Committee on Audio-Visual Instructional Material of ASA. As a result of this activity, several Swedish departments of statistics have started to use video tapes in their teaching.

Other Activities

Some years ago, after learning about career days for university students in statistics in California, USA, we organized a similar day for Swedish students. Industries, companies, and firms employing statisticians were invited to come and market themselves. There were also discussions and talks about education programs. Students from all over Sweden attended and got the opportunity to meet prospective employers. This kind of career day will be arranged this Autumn too.

The Committee has also been instrumental in establishing a national competition for pupils at the school level. This competition is now run by Statistics Sweden.

Epilogue

The activities of the committee have been met with enthusiasm by teachers of statistics both at the university and school levels and have hopefully had a positive effect on the quality of statistics education in Sweden.

This paper was presented at the third conference on teaching statistics (ICOTS 3) in Dunedin, in August 1990, and was followed by an interesting discussion. By presenting our activities, we hope to stimulate other countries to follow our example and start national committees for statistical education. As members of this committee, we can report that it is great fun to work on such a committee and with educational matters in statistics.

We know that several other countries already have national committees for statistical education. We would like to encourage them to write about their activities and experiences in the International Statistical Education Newsletter. We believe that exchanging ideas like this will improve the teaching of statistics both at the school level and at the university level.

Lennart Råde	Kerstin Vännman
Chalmers University of Technology	Lulea University
Gothenberg, Sweden	Lulea, Sweden

NEW DEMING CENTER CREATED AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Columbia Business School has established the W. Edwards Deming Center for Quality Management, Dean Meyer Feldberg has announced.

Initial funding for the Center is a \$185,000 gift to the School from the personal charitable trust of David Sainsbury. A 1971 graduate of Columbia Business School, Sainsbury is deputy chairman of J. Sainsbury PLC, a leading British supermarket chain.

"The goal of this ambitious new program is to perpetuate Dr. Deming's philosophy of effective management of quality, virtually transforming the style of management prevalent today," Feldberg said in the Columbia University Record (Nov. 16, 1990).

The internationally recognized champion of quality management for the past four decades, 90-year-old Deming has been teaching a two-hour

class in quality management at Columbia Business School this semester. He said that Feldberg "obviously believes that a school of business has an obligation to prepare students to lead the transformation of management in industry, education and government."

The Deming Center will be directed by Professor John Whitney, a former president of Pathmark Supermarkets and a specialist in business turnarounds. Research director will be Professor Peter Kolesar, whose field is quality management and statistical quality control. Faculty members from the Columbia business and engineering schools with extensive experience in quality consultation with business and industry will be associated with the new Center.

When fully funded, the Deming Center will encompass a chair in quality management, a visiting professorship by an internationally respected scholar, doctoral and MBA fellowships and faculty field studies.