EDITORIAL

Another issue of ISEN is ready, containing two reports and an advertisement. Future issues will no doubt be quite easy to fill with items similar to those that have appeared in the past (reports and news, articles, notices of publications, etc.), but is that what readers want? Or is there some other service that can realistically be provided that would be of more value? Your letters, whether or not for publication will be welcome.

The editor regrets that the articles and advertisement appearing in this issue have been delayed, just as the previous issue was delayed, so that in effect one complete issue has been lost (that due in January 1984); unfortunately he was unable to meet publication date due to illness.

REPORTS FROM ROUND THE WORLD

The ISI have been connected with, and partially responsible for, the International Statistical Education Centre at Calcutta since its foundation; the Chairman of the ISI Education Committee, Professor J. Gani, has made two visits there in recent years, and the article below is based on these as well as on general experience.

East, Africa, and the West Indies have sent their civil servants to be trained at ISEC for a period of 10 months (June to March). In 1982-83, for example, there were 25 ISEC trainees from 12 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Swaziland, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Since its inception, ISEC has educated nearly 1000 trainees in statistics; some have been supported by their governments and a few by their employers. The UN and its agencies have awarded fellowships to a few others, but the majority of trainees have received modest fellowships awarded by the Government of India, under a variety of Technical Co-operation and Commonwealth plans.

What do ISEC trainees learn? The ISEC course is divided into 2 parts; the first eight months are spent on general statistical methods. This period includes 6 weeks of training in official statistics conducted in Delhi by the Central Statistical Organisation of the Government of India. The remaining two months are spent on some specialized areas of applied statistics such as sample surveys, vital statistics, demography or econometrics. The general syllabus of the course includes a core of mathematics, probability, descriptive statistics, economic statistics, data processing, sample surveys and statistical methods; this is supplemented by additional optional courses in the same topics, as well as in demography, statistical quality control, operations research, economic development and planning and other selected subjects.

The medium of instruction at ISEC is English, and the majority of the 4 dozen lecturers in the ISEC courses are members of the Indian Statistical Institute; currently Dr. N. Bhattacharya of the
The Centre for Statistical Education - Sheffield, England

The Centre was established in September 1983 and formally opened on 24 October 1983. It is a co-operative venture between the University of Sheffield and Sheffield City Polytechnic and follows much successful work in statistical education carried out in Sheffield over the previous eight years. The six year Schools Council Project on Statistical Education for pupils aged 11-16 was followed by the Statistical Education Project for 16-19 year old students funded by the Leverhulme Trust. During this time also, with the active support of the ISI, the journal Teaching Statistics was founded and the first International Conference on Teaching Statistics was held. Alongside this activity, based at the University, Sheffield City Polytechnic was running an active programme of in-service courses for teachers, with workshops and associated publications.

The Centre seeks to play a national and international role in all aspects of statistical education. The main aim of the Centre is to support the development of statistical education at all levels by working with schools, colleges, industry, commerce, and national and international organisations. Within the general aim there will be specific work on developing appropriate teaching materials, strengthening links between education and industry, advising on syllabus development, and introducing probability and statistics into the early secondary school curriculum. It has representation on several of the national examination bodies and has advised on syllabus development in this area. On contract from the British Broadcasting Corporation it has developed a suite of computer programs for teaching statistics using the BBC Microcomputer entitled Advanced Studies - Statistics. These programs are marketed by the BBC.

The Centre welcomes visitors, whether they just want to browse and discuss problems in teaching statistics or to come to work on a short or long-term basis. Thanks to a small grant from the ISI we are able to give a very limited amount of support to visitors from outside the UK. There is also a programme whereby teachers work in the Centre for a term at a time. This is funded by the Department of Education and Science.

Currently the Centre is seeking funds to build up its permanent staff and other resources. Several proposals have been made to different bodies for funds for specific projects. It is continuing to run initial and in-service courses for teachers to develop and build up a resource of teaching material that can be used for other purposes.

Publications available from the Centre include Statistical Education and Training for 16-19 year olds, Proceedings of the First International Conference on Teaching Statistics, and Projects in Introducing Level Statistics. Other reports and resource booklets are always in preparation. Orders for the journal Teaching Statistics (see ISEM No. 2 and also Vol 3 No 1) may be sent through the Centre, which also keeps recent information on the Schools Council and Leverhulme Projects.

For further information on any aspect of the Centre's work, including prices of its publications, and for a free newsletter describing current activities write to P. Holburt, Director, Centre for Statistical Education, 25 Broomgrove Road, Sheffield S10 2NA, UK.

VACANCIES

Notices are free of charge for (non-commercial) teaching positions in statistics in less-developed countries.

ETHIOPIA, Addis Ababa University (Department of Statistics, Faculty of Science).

Associate or Full Professor. Specialising in multivariate analysis and/or time series analysis, with wide experience of using statistical packages (RAIN, SPSS, etc.); Teaching in English. M.Sc. level. Expatriate terms available: 1 year contracts, renewable. Contact Dr. Alemaryo Melaku, Chairman, Department of Statistics, Faculty of Science, Addis Ababa University, P.O. Box 1176, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.