

PREFACE

In August 1986 approximately 500 statisticians, teachers and guests gathered at the University of Victoria, B.C., Canada, for ICOTS II, the Second International Conference on Teaching Statistics. That this was possible was due to the efforts of those who contributed to the great success of ICOTS I at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, in 1982. The community of teachers of statistics owes the organizers of ICOTS I a profound vote of thanks.

Hopefully these published proceedings will transmit some part of the spirit of ICOTS II. For five days we met, listened and discussed our experiences as teachers of statistics. The proceedings also reflect the long hours of thoughtful preparation of papers that were presented. Although the contributed papers, the casual discussions, the new ideas we brought home with us are not part of the formal proceedings, they remain valuable contributions to the success of ICOTS II. We all look forward to seeing the fruits of these contributions at ICOTS III to be held in Dunedin, New Zealand, in August 1990.

We owe much to the members of the programme committee who combined to prepare a diversified but balanced programme. The organizers of the invited paper sessions put in many hours coordinating the contributions of the presenters. The members of the local organizing committee contributed their time and efforts in attending to the many details involved in hosting an international conference.

Tom Lietaer and the capable staff of the University of Victoria Conference Office made the physical arrangements for the conference and responded pleasantly and efficiently to the needs of the participants. For the organizers of ICOTS II, this team was invaluable, always available and prepared to address any unexpected problem.

We express our deep appreciation to the people to whom we have referred, to the participants and to all others who contributed to the success of ICOTS II.

In February 1987, it became apparent that the publication of these proceedings would require the retyping and editing of the manuscripts originally submitted. This could not have been achieved without the cooperation and able service that Jordan Bacon of University Extension provided to the neophyte editors of these proceedings.

Finally, we express appreciation to the International Statistical Institute, and its Education Committee chaired by Professor J. Gani, for selecting the University of Victoria as the site for ICOTS II and for continuing assistance in making the conference a success.

Programme Committee

Bob Hogg, Iowa City, U.S.A., Chairman

Mustafa Benyaklef, Rabat, Morocco

Peter Holmes, Sheffield, U.K.

Lennart Råde, Gothenberg, Sweden

Jim Swift, Nanaimo, Canada

Local Organizing Committee

Jim Swift, Chairman

Roger Davidson, University of Victoria – proceedings

Bruce Johnson, University of Victoria – contributed papers

Tom Lietaer, University of Victoria – principal organizer

Bill Reed, University of Victoria – timetable and room facilities

Walter Muir, University of Victoria – equipment

Kirstine Potentier, Victoria – hardware and software

The organizers gratefully acknowledge the support of the International Statistical Institute and the University of Victoria as the sponsors of ICOTS II, and of UNESCO who has made a major contribution to the publication costs of the proceedings.

Roger Davidson and Jim Swift
Victoria, B.C., Canada
December 1987