

EDITOR'S NOTE: BUILDING AN ASSOCIATION

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In the final talk of the conference, David Stern summarized progress on the African Data Initiative, a partially crowd-funded campaign to develop tools to turn data into information. The official launch of their large software package R-Instat occurred at the World Statistics Congress in Marrakesh. Despite this major accomplishment, he was not ecstatic. Instead, he worried about the continuation of the project. Would it survive after the initial grant expired? Or would it fall apart, like initiatives at the University of Nairobi and Maseno University and many other places? On the maintenance of sustainable, scalable initiatives, he called himself a failure.

If we judge ourselves on individual capacity to sustain and scale initiatives, Stern is right; all of us will fail. Physical pressures of life will eventually prevail over any human, no matter how talented. To maintain an initiative across generations, structured institutions are necessary. My current employer has existed for 127 years, longer than a human life but a short time compared to the 1150 years of the oldest school, the University of al-Qarawiyyin in Fez, Morocco. The IASE has existed for just under 30 years. How has the association been sustained? How will it continue?

An institute of learning like the IASE lives through its publications. Fortunately, modern technology has made record-keeping easier than it was when al-Qarawiyyin was founded. The IASE website iase-web.org has at least partial proceedings from all nine prior IASE satellite conferences and all nine International Conferences on Teaching Statistics [ICOTS]. Looking through papers from the first IASE scientific meeting in 1993, I see many similar issues in the papers of this conference, such as biostatistics, primary school students' reasoning, and computer tools. Although fewer than five people participated in both 1993 and 2017, the transmission of information continues through proceedings like these.

The IASE has an additional goal in the first word of its name, being an International association. These proceedings include authors from 22 countries across all six inhabited continents. In addition to the written words, conference participants make personal connections. I witnessed Ukrainians and Russians laughing over a cellphone video; a female Moroccan student mentioning how a senior Pakistani woman provided her a role model; and my conversation with plenary speaker Ali Rejali of Iran about the influence of first female Fields medalist Maryam Mirzakhani. Inter-country conversations bring me back to IASE events, and I look forward to my 10th consecutive year of an IASE-sponsored event at ICOTS 10 in Kyoto.

I have been honored by the opportunity to help sustain the association as editor of these proceedings from the IASE's 10th satellite conference. All conference presentations had to be accepted by the program committee, based on their quality and potential importance to statistical education. As an additional step, some authors chose to submit their written papers to peer-review. The proceedings contain 15 refereed papers (of the 25 submitted to referees, a 60% acceptance rate), 25 non-refereed abstracts and papers, and 9 poster abstracts. The writings have a variety of thoughts and styles about worldwide statistics education.

The list of 42 referees appears on the next page; the association is sustained through their contributions, and all deserve great thanks. Special gratitude should be offered to Associate Editor Devon Gunter, who handled much of the formatting around the end of 2017 while I tended to some personal health concerns. Through our joint work, we continue to build a community – and hopefully make the world a better place. Saleha Habibullah's paper has an amazing quote, that the civil service students felt "our instructor did an act of magnanimity to the future of Pakistan." May there be many more generous acts, in many more places, for many more years.

REFEREES

Adam Estrup
Alex King
Ali Alzahrani
Christopher Mbotwa
Claudia Silvestre
Clifton Emery
Courtney Simmons
Daniel Frischeimer
Danny Parsons
Devon Gunter
DS Hooda
Fabian Ofurum
Gabriel Simbila
Gabriel Yanez
Giovanna De Giusti
James Nicholson
Jason Nkyabonaki
Jeffrey Dawson
Ji Hong
John Behitsa
John Lunalo
Jorge Augusto Navarro-Alberto
Marina Sotiropoulou
Maxwell Fundi
Nafiseh Jahanbakht
Nicholas Kaukis
Patrick Murphy
Pedro Campos
Rodrigo Fioravanti Pereira
Roger Stern
Rossi Hassad
Saleha Naghmi Habibullah
Salyungu Mabula
Santiago Inzunza
Sonia Teixeira
Suehyeon Paek
Susanne Podworny
Teresita Teran
Theodore Chadjipantelis
Timothy Kyng
Tina Shi
Ziad Taib