



**INTERNATIONAL
STATISTICAL
INSTITUTE**

***Report of the
ISI Executive Committee
2005-2007
to the
General Assembly***

ISI Executive Committee 2005-2007

President:	Niels Keiding
President-Elect:	Denise A. Lievesley
Vice-Presidents:	Nicholas I. Fisher
	Len W. Cook
	Gilbert Saporta
Director of the ISI Permanent Office:	Daniel Berze

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Report of Activities and Financial Report of the ISI Executive Committee over the period April 2005 to August 2007 to the ISI General Assembly convening for the 56th ISI Session in Lisboa, Portugal (August 22-29, 2007).

Activities

The ISI is an autonomous society that aims to promote the understanding, development, and good practice of Statistics worldwide. Particular strategic objectives of the ISI include:

- To enhance the ISI's support for the statistical community;
- To promote and disseminate research in the statistical sciences;
- To promote and disseminate research and best practice in all forms of statistical education;
- To establish an appropriate role for the ISI promoting public awareness of good statistical practice and its value to the community, and in supporting good practice;
- To enhance the ISI's support of the international statistical community;
- To broaden the range of areas of application in which the ISI is making worthwhile contribution;
- To define and institute a constructive role for the ISI in supporting the development of young statisticians, and in encouraging the ongoing participation of older members;
- To put the ISI and its Sections on a sound financial footing.

In their work, the ISI and its Sections strive to provide an interface for statisticians specialising in different fields and active in the academic, official and private sectors.

The ISI is concerned with facilitating the transfer of knowledge and technology pertinent to statistical theory and practice across national boundaries. The specific tasks of the ISI may be summarised as organising meetings, producing statistical publications, strengthening the ties between the various branches of statistics, and helping to improve the quality of statistics, including statistical education, good practices in statistics and statistical literacy. These tasks are implemented in the first place by about 2,000 individual elected members, next to 205 ISI ex officio/corporate/affiliate members. The organisation is governed by the ISI Executive Committee, the ISI Council and the various Committees of the ISI, as specified below, and executed by the Permanent Office. In specific statistical disciplines, the various ISI Sections with some 1,500 members, as well as the 2,000 individuals who are also elected members of ISI, are equally instrumental in carrying out these tasks. Five of the Sections are supported in their tasks and administration by the ISI Permanent Office.

In the period from April 2005 to August 2007, the process of internal organisational evaluation has continued, such that all products and services were reviewed, taking into consideration their present added value to the membership, and their financial viability. In addition, considerable attention was focussed on assessing the fundamental integrated structure and functioning of the entire ISI family, so as to ensure the organisation's future relevance and financial viability. The Restructuring Committee was established, which has developed a report describing the potential future directions that ISI membership structure may take. This proposal considers fundamental issues such as open membership, governance and fees, amongst others.

Meetings and Conferences, Prizes

ISI Sydney Session

The 55th Session of the ISI, which took place from April 5-12, 2005, in Sydney, Australia, was a successful one with an attendance of 1,794 participants coming from all five continents. The wide-ranging Scientific Programme was prepared by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Stephen Morgenthaler, Vice-Chair Geoff Lee, and members Graham Kalton (General Topics Committee Chair), Leopold Simar (Bernoulli Society Programme Committee Chair), Frederick W.H. Ho (IAOS Programme Committee Chair), Chris Wild (IASE Programme Committee Chair), Pedro-Luis do Nascimento Silva (IASS Programme Committee Chair) and John A. Eccleston (IASC Programme Committee Chair). The Scientific Programme for the Session included 606 oral contributed papers, 69 contributed poster presentations and 279 invited paper presentations. Pre- and post-Session Proceedings were produced on CD ROM.

Marius van Nieuwkerk of The Netherlands Bank presented the Jan Tinbergen Awards to Mr. Romain Gèlè Kakaï (Benin), Mrs. Marina Y. Ogay (Ukraine) and Ms. Kavitha Bhat (India). This Award is named in honour of the world-renowned econometrician and late ISI member Jan Tinbergen. ISI President Stigler thanked the *Stichting Internationaal Statistisch Studiefonds* for providing the winners with a € 2,269 prize in addition to an all expenses paid trip to Sydney.

During the Sydney Session, the ISI General Assembly formally accepted the invitation, as presented by the South African High Commissioner H.E. Mr. A. Mangalo, for the 57th Session of the ISI to be held in Durban, South Africa.

Other initiatives announced to the General Assembly, include:

- the establishment of an ISI Investments Committee;
- plans to establish an ISI Finance Committee;
- the establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee;
- plans to merge *Short Book Reviews* with the *International Statistical Review*;
- plans to discontinue *Statistical Theory and Method Abstracts* (STMA), and re-establish this with *Zentralblatt Math* under the brand STMA-Z;
- the authorisation for the ISI Permanent Office to increase ISI elected member dues to € 68, and to permit future increases within inflationary limits;

- the granting of ISI Section status to The International Environmental Society (TIES) and The International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS).

International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS-4)

Preparations have begun for the 4th 'International Conference on Agricultural Statistics' (ICAS-4), to be held October 22-24, 2007 in Beijing, China. The conference will be hosted by the National Bureau of Statistics of China and sponsored by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, ISI, Eurostat, the UN Statistical Division, the World Bank and the US Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistical Service.

Seminar on Professional Ethics

The ISI Professional Ethics Committee, Chaired by Dr. David Morganstein, held a one-day conference focussing on ethics issues on March 26, 2007, in Paris, kindly hosted by ADETEF (the co-operation agency of the French Ministry of Economy, Finances and Industry). The following day, the Committee met to discuss preparations for the Open Meeting, which is scheduled to be held on August 22 at the ISI Session in Lisboa, and to plan future activities.

ISI Mahalanobis Prize

At the initiative of the Indian Government, the ISI had introduced the Mahalanobis Prize in honour of the late Indian Statistician P.C. Mahalanobis. The funding of the Prize is provided by the Indian Government, in an account administered by the ISI Permanent Office. The third edition of the Prize will be awarded during the Lisboa Session General Assembly Meeting to Dr. Isidoro P. David (The Philippines) according to the recommendations made by the Mahalanobis Committee, chaired by Prof. Lynne Billard.

Publications

Periodicals

International Statistical Review

This publication, now in its 74th year, is one of the oldest statistical journals in existence, and one of the few covering the entire range of statistics. It is particularly intended to give members of the ISI and its Sections information about what is taking place in neighbouring fields of statistics. Next to topics that belong to the realm of the seven ISI Sections, it contains articles discussing statistical issues and applications in contemporary topics of broad interest in science, technology, business, industry, public policy, education, health, medicine, the environment, etc. The Editors are Eugene Seneta, University of Sydney, and Kees Zeelenberg, Statistics Netherlands. In 2005, the ISR totalled 417 pages; and in 2006, it had 421 pages. An online version of the *International Statistical Review* was made available beginning via Project Euclid in these two years.

A contractual arrangement was made with Blackwell (now Wiley-Blackwell), who will take over responsibility for the publishing of the journal beginning in 2007. As publisher, Wiley Blackwell will assume responsibility for tasks such as typesetting, printing, dissemination, marketing, etc. It is expected that this arrangement will serve to broaden the circulation of the journal and will result in moderate financial returns to the ISI. The ISI publication *Short Book Reviews* was formally incorporated as a component of the *International Statistical Review*.

Short Book Reviews

This informative journal continues to provide members with reviews, notes and lists by title of books related to statistics, economics, computing and of general scientific interest and contained 60 pages per year. This publication was edited by Professor Agnes M. Herzberg. Back issues were made available to ISI/Section members via the ISI website.

Beginning in 2007, *Short Book Reviews* was incorporated into the *International Statistical Review*, published by Wiley-Blackwell. Prof. Simo Puntanen has assumed editorial responsibility for the publication.

Statistical Theory and Method Abstracts-Zentralblatt

In observance of the contract with the publication *Zentralblatt Math*, 'STMA' has emerged as a component of *Zentralblatt Math*, referred to as 'STMA-Z'. All ISI and Section members are entitled to subscribe to 'STMA-Z' at a reduced rate, or to the entire *Zentralblatt-Math* database.

Bernoulli Journal

This journal, which was founded by the Bernoulli Society, covers mathematical statistics and probability. The ISI and the Bernoulli Society assumed joint responsibility for the publishing of this journal beginning in 1999. The size of the journal has continued to increase. In 2005, it had 1,134 pages; in 2006, it had 1,132 pages. The Editorship of the *Bernoulli* was the responsibility of Professor Peter McCullagh. The *Bernoulli* journal has appeared as an online version since 2004, via the Internet-publishing company Project Euclid.

In 2007, the International Statistical Institute conferred upon the Bernoulli Society its 50% ownership of the journal. An agreement was formed between the Bernoulli Society and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, who would act as publisher of the journal, assuming responsibility for all publishing aspects, including typesetting, printing, dissemination, marketing, etc. The frequency of the journal was reduced from 6 issues per year to 4 issues per year, with an aim to maintain the same annual page numbers. Prof. Holger Rootzén assumed editorial responsibility for the journal beginning in 2007.

ISI Newsletter

The *ISI Newsletter*, which appears three times a year, provides news items of interest to ISI and Section members. It includes news of the ISI and Section activities, but is not restricted to them. Every issue contains a calendar of statistical events and meetings. The editors are S. Mehta and D. Berze. The contents of the most recent *ISI Newsletter*, as well as older issues, can also be viewed on the ISI website <http://isi.cbs.nl/newsltr.htm>.

Proceedings

The Proceedings of the 55th ISI Session in Sydney, Australia were published in the form of a CD ROM. The ISI is very grateful to the Australian Local Organising Committee for the work that went into the production of these Proceedings, which have also been placed on the ISI website.

Books

Statisticians of the Centuries: This book of 500 pages, which first appeared in 2001, brings together information about 103 of the most outstanding statisticians, born before 1900, of various countries over the last centuries. Biographical information, reference to their statistical achievements and the international significance of their contributions, and similar features are covered for those statisticians selected. The Editors are C. Heyde and E. Seneta. This book has been published by Springer-Verlag on behalf of the ISI. This publication is available to ISI and Section members at a discounted price.

The ISI publication *Dictionary of Statistical Terms*, edited by Professor Yadolah Dodge, and published by Oxford University Press (on behalf of the ISI) has continued to flourish, serving as a standard reference work for statisticians worldwide. A new softcover version of the publication was launched in 2007 by Oxford University Press.

ISI Website

The ISI website (<http://isi.cbs.nl>) has been reorganised and redesigned, with the kind assistance of ISI Vice Presidents Len Cook and Gilbert Saporta and additional features of interest to both statisticians and the general public will be introduced in the near future. The ISI website continues to contain information about the ISI and its Sections, the *1985 ISI Declaration on Professional Ethics*, and a Calendar of upcoming Events. A listing of all official statistical agencies and all national statistical societies is included on the site, as well as back issues (2006 and previous) of *Short Book Reviews* and all issues of the *ISI Newsletter*. A membership list of the ISI and of four of its Sections, managed by the ISI, has also been incorporated on the ISI website in PDF-format at (<http://isi.cbs.nl/ISImembers/ISImembers.htm>). This membership list is updated on a monthly basis. Via this page, users can now search for ISI elected members according to their name and nationality. A list of honorary members is also available via a link on this page.

The *ISI Multilingual Glossary of Statistical Terms* is also present on the site at (<http://isi.cbs.nl/glossary.htm>). The *Glossary* contains about 3,000 terms plus synonyms, for 28 different languages. Expansion of the number of languages, assessment and improvement of its contents by users make this effort an ongoing project.

The ISI has also provided an opportunity for statisticians to forward proposals for the Scientific Programme for the ISI Lisboa Session (2007) via the ISI website (<http://isi.cbs.nl/07session/56thsessionInvitedPapers.htm>), enabling various Scientific Programme Committee representatives to share information in a quicker and more efficient manner. This facility will also be available for the forthcoming ISI Durban Session.

The ISI has introduced an electronic payment facility on its website, allowing members to pay their dues or publication subscriptions in a secure electronic environment (see <http://isi.cbs.nl/intro-payment.htm>). After the introduction of the initial prototype, the ISI has worked with the software designers to improve the design and functionality of this service. Donations may be transferred to the ISI using the following website: <http://isi.cbs.nl/donations-form.asp>. The total number of visitors to the ISI website continues to increase, with 27,112 hits recorded in May 2007. The ISI is grateful to Statistics Netherlands for hosting its website.

Various

The ISI produces a variety of information leaflets on the ISI and its Sections, which are available free of charge upon request. The ISI also sells various books, proceedings and periodicals of interest to statisticians. Additional details can be found at <http://isi.cbs.nl/publ.htm>.

The ISI continues its successful arrangement with JSTOR, which disseminates a wide range of publications electronically. All copies of the publications the *International Statistical Review* and the *Bernoulli* journal are now available online via JSTOR, with a five-year embargo period.

Strengthening the ties between statistical disciplines

A number of the conferences and publications previously mentioned aim at integrating statistical knowledge and removing barriers between the various statistical disciplines. Specifically, the biennial Sessions of the ISI and the publication of the *International Statistical Review* are unique in addressing themselves internationally to statisticians working in an academic context, as well as to official statisticians and statisticians working in a corporate environment. These meetings and publications aim at strengthening the ties between the various statistical disciplines for their mutual benefit. The ISI has also worked to strengthen the ties with the largest national statistical society, the American Statistical Association (ASA) by being present at the 2005 and 2006 Joint Statistical Meetings (and also welcoming ISI President Niels Keiding's participation at the 2007 JSM in addition to the previously mentioned ASA events), which were held in Minneapolis (2005) Seattle (2006) and Salt Lake City (2007) respectively and in exchange the ASA was represented at the Sydney (2005) ISI Session exhibition and will also be present at the Lisboa (2007) ISI Session exhibition.

Improving the quality of statistics

Ethics and Good Practices

The involvement of the ISI in professional ethics in statistics goes back to the nineteen-seventies and resulted in the drawing up of its *Declaration on Professional Ethics*, which was formally adopted at the 1985 ISI Session in Amsterdam, and subsequently published in the *International Statistical Review* (Volume 54, p. 227-242, 1986). This was the first document addressing ethical issues in the various statistical disciplines. It discusses obligations to society, to funding agencies, employers and colleagues, to subjects, and confidentiality of records and identities. This document formed the starting point of a discussion among statisticians on a variety of ethical issues of the

profession, particularly in the context of official statistics, which is still developing and evolving. Salient points in this development are that the discussion is most visible in contexts where there seems to be the fewest of problems, and the conviction that prescriptions do not seem to work because of their mandatory nature and therefore to be complemented by 'good practices', and that illustrative case histories of good, but also bad practices, seem to also be a very efficient approach to improve statistical ethics worldwide. The discussion on professional ethics takes place at the national level as well as internationally: in a governmental context (United Nations Statistical Commission) and in a non-governmental context (ISI), which may be regarded as complementary. The ISI has re-established a Professional Ethics Committee, chaired by Dr. David Morganstein, in order to determine if the existing *Declaration* is in need of a revision. In addition to the March 26-27, 2007 Seminar referred to earlier in this document, this Committee will host an Open Meeting during the ISI Lisboa Session.

Membership matters

The ISI has (June 2007) 2001 Elected and Honorary members.

Table 1 shows the membership numbers for the period 1990-2007 as of January 1st each year.

After a period of rapid expansion in the 1990's, membership is now nearly constant:

Membership Overview

Members of the ISI as of January 2007					
Year	Elected	Honorary	Ex officio	Total	Corporate
1990	1560	7	165	1732	55
1991	1592	8	158	1758	70
1992	1680	8	157	1845	75
1993	1727	10	154	1891	83
1994	1825	9	160	1994	80
1995	1867	10	167	2044	75
1996	1892	11	166	2069	77
1997	1980	11	167	2158	70
1998	2003	11	170	2184	70
1999	1996	11	169	2176	72
2000	1960	12	152	2124	62
2001	2003	11	149	2163	59
2002	1998	10	160	2168	62
2003	1990	10	165	2165	63
2004	1844	9	166	2019	68
2005	1958	10	169	2137	67
2006	2003	11	144	2158	66
Jan. 2007	1995	10	134	2139	63
June 2007	1991	10	135	2136	64

If we analyse the age distribution of our membership (see table dated 13 March 2007 below) and compare it to the same distribution in previous years, the results indicate that our association is in need of additional younger members:

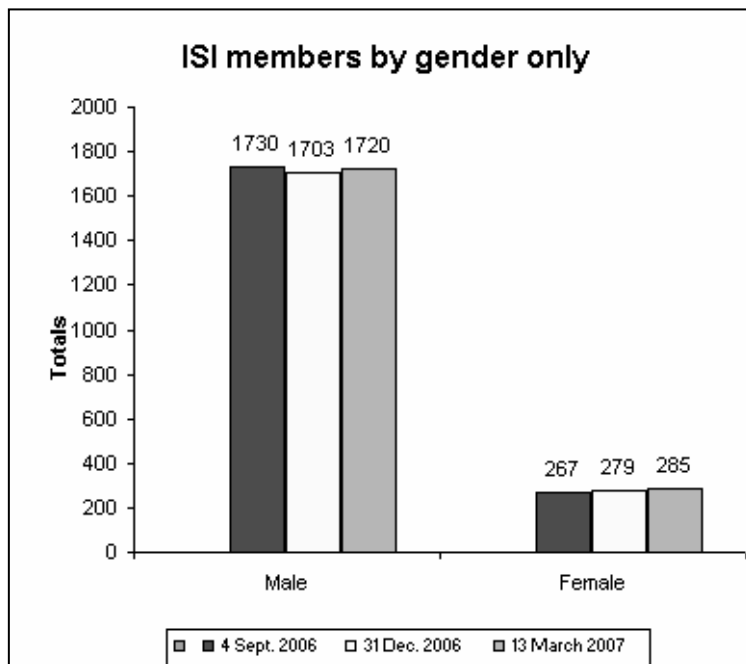
Total			
Male	Female	13 March 2007	
2	4	6	0 - 29
67	18	85	30 - 39
192	52	244	40 - 49
541	105	646	50 - 59
595	74	669	60 - 69
323	31	354	70 or older
1720	284	2004	Totals

In an effort to stimulate additional ISI membership nominations, the ISI Permanent Office continued its campaign to identify qualified ISI Elected members. Several ISI members were also very active in stimulating ISI nominations. In spite of existing efforts to identify new members, it has been observed that the ISI has some serious demographic imbalances in its membership;

i) As indicated in the chart above, more than 50% of our membership is 60 years of age or older. In spite of our intensive membership campaign efforts, we are not attracting enough young members. If we cannot address this problem successfully in the near future, our membership base will disappear as a result of natural attrition.

ii) With 86% of our members being male and 14% female, there are a disproportionate number of female members to male. It is necessary to identify more female members.

iii) The majority (89%) of ISI members come from developed countries. We must therefore attract and cater to the special needs of members from developing countries, and be sensitive to their economic limitations.



Member recognition – the ISI Service Awards

The ISI Service Certificates Committee, chaired by Sir David Cox, has announced the recipients of the ISI Service Certificates, a token of the ISI's appreciation of the many years of service 'above and beyond the call of duty' that these select individuals have made to the association:

- Bovas Abraham (Canada)
- Jae C. Lee (Korea)
- Ank Lepping (The Netherlands)
- Bart Meganck (Belgium)
- Eugene Seneta (Australia)
- William Smith (USA)

ISI Strategic Planning and Restructuring Committees

The ISI's "Strategic Planning Committee" worked hard to identify and prioritise the ISI's organisational objectives, and to develop strategies to achieve them. This required a considerable amount of dialogue, with an open exchange of ideas in close consultation with the ISI Executive Committee and Council, with valuable input from the Section Presidents, and the final result (see issue #86 of the ISI Newsletter or refer to the ISI website at <http://isi.cbs.nl/Niet/NLet052.htm#05StrategicPlan>) will serve as the fundament for all future strategic planning. The ISI is very grateful to the Strategic Planning Committee members, Don Dawson, Nick Fisher, Niels Keiding, David Moore and Dennis Trewin for their considerable efforts.

Taking its lead from the initiatives of the Strategic Planning Committee, the ISI Restructuring Committee took the next important steps of developing a list of proposals for the restructuring of our association, which would better enable us to realise our strategic objectives in the coming decades. This was very difficult work, and required months of deliberation and discussion and an unprejudiced exchange of ideas with many persons in the ISI and its Sections. The Restructuring Committee arrived at the unanimous recommendation that ISI should have open membership and that Section members should automatically be members of ISI. The Committee feels that "the role that ISI can play in uniting the profession and increasing its influence is of prime importance, and that a closer collaboration between ISI and its Sections is necessary for its success". The report elaborates upon a various number of practical issues which arise when one considers the implementation of these ideas. The Committee's report was presented to the ISI Council, which expressed general support for the proposal for open membership, but expressed concern regarding various related issues, most notably as regards membership dues. Looking forward to the Lisboa Session and beyond, efforts will be taken to address important issues such as membership dues, governance, finances, etc., as they pertain to the proposed new membership structure. Special appreciation is due to the members of the Restructuring Committee for their Herculean efforts. The Committee is composed of the following dedicated individuals; Paula Brito, Nicholas Fisher (Chair), Peter Jagers, Aziz Lazraq, Jung Jin Lee, Rolando Rebolledo, Eric Schulte Nordholt, Hallgrímur Snorrason, Dennis Trewin and Willem van Zwet.

In Memoriam

The Executive Committee announces with regret the deaths of members or former members during the period 2005-2007, whose names are listed below:

Prof.	Arne	Amundsen	Prof. Em.	Frederick	Mosteller
Prof. Dr.	Oskar	Anderson	Mr.	Vito	Natrella
Ms.	Heidi	Arboleda	Drs.	Joris R.	Nobel
Prof.	Camilo	Dagum	Mr.	E.N.	Omaboe
Prof. Dr.	Franz	Ferschl	Prof.	Albert	Prat-Bartés
Dr.	Edwin D.	Goldfield	Prof.	Ronald	Pyke
Prof. Dr.	Khatab M.	Hassanein	Mr.	Félix	Rosenfeld
Dr.	Saburo	Kawai	Prof.	José Luis	Sanchez-Crespo
Dr.	Salem H.	Khamis	Dr.	Mangala P.	Singh
Dr.	Tsutomu	Komazawa	Prof.	Harshinder	Singh
Prof.	William H.	Kruskal	Dr.	Ranjan K.	Som
Prof. Dr.	Jack C.	Lee	Prof. Dr.	Ton	Steerneman
Dr.	Gustaaf F.	Loeb	Dr.	William T.	Tucker
Mr.	Georg A.	Luther	Dr.	Yehuda	Vardi
Mr.	Motosaburo	Masuyama	Mr.	Joseph	Waksberg
Prof.	Lincoln E.	Moses	Prof.	Aleksander	Zelias

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is the highest executive body within the ISI, and is elected by the membership and approved by the General Assembly, which meets biennially at ISI Sessions. The Executive Committee is composed of the Institute's Officers (President, President-Elect and three Vice-Presidents). It directs the Institute according to the Statutes and By-laws, and oversees ISI affairs in between meetings of the ISI Council and General Assembly.

The Executive Committee for the period 2005-2007 is as follows:

<i>President:</i>	Niels Keiding	(Denmark)
<i>President-Elect:</i>	Denise A. Lievesley	(UK)
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Len W. Cook	(New Zealand)
	Nicholas I. Fisher	(Australia)
	Gilbert Saporta	(France)

The Executive Committee for the period 2007-2009 will be as follows, after the General Assembly's official acceptance of the binding nomination resulting from the election ballot organised during the end of 2006:

<i>President:</i>	Denise A. Lievesley	(UK)
<i>President-Elect:</i>	Jef Teugels	(Belgium)
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Len W. Cook	(New Zealand)
	Stephan Morgenthaler	(Switzerland)
	Vijayan N. Nair	(USA)

Council

The Council is composed of the Institute's Officers, consisting of 16 elected individual members, the immediate Past-President, the seven Section Presidents, in addition to the Special Interest Group Committee Chairs, the Statistics Netherlands Director-General, the Secretary-Treasurer and the Director of the Permanent Office as ex officio members. The Council formulates the Institute's policies and programmes in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly.

The members of the Council for the 2003-2007 period are as follows:

Carol Carson	(USA)	Maria Gabriella Ottaviani	(Italy)
Chihiro Hirotsu	(Japan)	Jon N.K. Rao	(Canada)
Graham Kalton	(USA)	Simon Schwartzman	(Brazil)
Ben Kiregyera	(Uganda)	Klaus Trutzel	(Germany)

The members of the Council for the 2005-2009 period are as follows:

Hasan Abu-Libdeh	(Palestine)	Akihiko Ito	(Japan)
Jean-Jacques Drosbeke	(Belgium)	Susan Linacre	(Australia)
Abdel El-Shaarawi	(Canada and Egypt)	Almut Steger	(Germany)
Wing Kam Fung	(Hong Kong, China)	Chris Wild	(New Zealand)

The Council for the 2007-2011 period will be as follows, after the General Assembly's official acceptance of the binding nomination resulting from the election ballot organised during the end of 2006:

Jaromir Antoch	(Czech Republic)	Ursula Gather	(Germany)
Carolee Bush	(USA)	Mathisca de Gunst	(The Netherlands)
Alicia L. Carriquiry	(Uruguay)	Genshiro Kitigawa	(Japan)
Tim Dunne	(South Africa)	Jung Jin Lee	(Korea)

The "Past-President" Council Member for the 2005-2007 term is Stephen M. Stigler (USA).

The Special Interest Group Committee members having ex officio membership in the Council are Jef Teugels (Environment Committee) and Ray Carroll (Life Sciences Committee). In his position as Director-General of Statistics Netherlands, Gosse van der Veen is an ex officio member of the Council.

The following Section Presidents enjoy membership of the Council for the period 2005-2007:

Bernoulli Society:	Peter Jagers	(Sweden)
IAOS:	Brian Pink	(Australia)
IASC:	Gilbert Saporta	(France)
IASS:	Gordon Brackstone	(Canada)
IASE:	Gilberte Schuyten	(Belgium)
ISBIS	Bovas Abraham	(Canada)
Irving Fisher Society (transitional):	Jan Smets	(Belgium)

ISI Committees

The ISI Statutes and By-laws state:

"The General Assembly or the Council may establish committees, in the work of which non-members of the Institute may be invited to participate."

ISI Committees can be classified as 'Standing Committees', 'Ad Hoc Committees', or 'Special Interest Groups'. The distinction between 'Standing' and 'Ad Hoc' Committees implies a period of termination (commonly referred to as "sunset" period). Standing Committees are, in principle, considered to be long-term (or indefinitely ongoing) bodies, while Ad Hoc Committees are dissolved as soon as they realise their (typically short-term) objectives. In accordance with ISI "sunset provisions", every year, the ISI Council and Executive Committee review the work of all ISI Committees, with a view to continue or discontinue them. Each Committee submits a written report of its activities every year to the ISI Executive Committee, which advises the Council about the work undertaken, including its views about the needs to continue or discontinue a Committee.

Some Committees are designated as 'Special Interest Groups'. Such Committees have a strong 'Interest Group' aspect to their existence and are essentially sub-sections (or mini-sections) of the ISI. The application of such a designation is considered by the ISI Executive Committee and Council on a case by case basis. The Chairpersons of such Committees are entitled to membership in the ISI Council on a non-voting basis, in accordance with the ISI Statutes [Article 5b: *"representatives of specified statistical interest groups may be entitled to membership in the Council without voting rights. Special Interest Groups may establish task forces (sub-groups)"*]. These Committees presently enjoy special "Interest Group" status:

- Committee on Statistics and the Environment;
- Life Sciences Committee.

During the ISI Sydney Session, the ISI General Assembly formally supported the initiative to grant ISI Section status to The International Environmetrics Society (TIES), such that the ISI Committee on Statistics and the Environment would be retired. The ISI is awaiting the decision of TIES itself regarding the possibility of becoming an ISI Section.

ISI occasionally appoints individuals to act as “co-ordinators” to oversee the operation of a specific activity or to keep the ISI up-to-date with the developments taking place in external organisations. ISI Committees and Co-ordinators typically conduct their work by correspondence, during the ISI Sessions, or during specialised meetings.

The following listing provides an indication of the broad range of ISI members’ interests:

Summary of ISI Committees and Co-ordinators

Name	Chairperson	Type
Council	Niels Keiding	Standing Committee
Executive Committee	Niels Keiding	Standing Committee
Elections Committee (2005-2006)	Peter Thomson	Standing Committee
Elections Committee (2007)	Abdel El-Sharaawi	Standing Committee
Nominations Committee	Lutz Edler	Standing Committee
Publications Committee	David Brillinger	Standing Committee
Programme Co-ordinating Committee	Pedro Luis Nascimento Silva (ISI Lisboa Session) John Kovar (ISI Durban Session)	Standing Committee
General Topics Committee	Richard Smith (ISI Lisboa Session) Dennis Trewin (ISI Durban Session)	Standing Committee
Strengthening of Co-operation between ISI and Statistical Societies	Bill Smith	Co-ordinator
Life Sciences Committee	Raymond J. Carroll	Standing Committee & Special Interest Group
Environment Committee	Jef Teugels	Standing Committee & Special Interest Group
Christiaan Huygens Committee on the History of Statistics	Jean-Jacques Dreesbeke	Standing Committee
Marco Polo Committee on Tourism Statistics	Joe O’Leary	Standing Committee
Sports Statistics Committee	J. Richard Alldredge	Standing Committee
Agriculture Statistics Committee	Fred Vogel	Standing Committee
Women in Statistics Committee	Cynthia Clark	Standing Committee
PARIS 21 ISI representative	Jean-Louis Bodin	Co-ordinator
ISI Investment Committee	Rudi Acx	Standing Committee
ISI Finance Committee	Olav Ljones	Standing Committee
Committee on Risk Analysis	Lutz Edler	Standing Committee
Committee on Professional Ethics	David Morganstein	Standing Committee
ISI Service Certificates Review Committee	David Cox	Standing Committee
Khwarizimi Committee	Hilal Al-Bayyati	Standing Committee
Strategic Planning Committee	Nicholas Fisher	Ad Hoc Committee
Restructuring Committee	Nicholas Fisher	Ad Hoc Committee
Mahalanobis Committee	Lynne Billard	Standing Committee
East Asia Outreach Committee	Jung Jin Lee	Ad Hoc Committee

Detailed information about the functions of ISI Committees and the names of members participating in each Committee can be obtained from the ISI Permanent Office upon request.

ISI Permanent Office

The Director of the Permanent Office is appointed by the Executive Committee and acts as Secretary/Treasurer of the ISI. Under the guidance of the Executive Committee, the Director is in charge of the Institute’s activities. The Permanent Office undertakes the daily tasks required to ensure the efficient conduct of ISI and Section business, and assists in the implementation and administration of programmes initiated by the membership and the ISI Sections. The Director of the Permanent Office is Daniel Berze.

The ISI Permanent Office is located in the Offices of Statistics Netherlands (CBS). Statistics Netherlands has a long history of providing invaluable support to the Permanent Office. The ex officio Council representative from Statistics Netherlands is its Director-General Gosse van der Veen (The Netherlands).

The ISI Permanent Office computer network is a sub-component of the Statistics Netherlands network. This means that the Office receives help and support from Statistics Netherlands for the maintenance and updating of its hardware and software. The ISI also receives support from the Statistics Netherlands for its website, which has switched to a new server, providing the ISI with more independence in its operation of the ISI website. The ISI has introduced an updated accounting and membership database software (AccountView) with the ongoing aim of improving the quality and timeliness of its service to members. The ISI has hired a permanent accountant, Mr. Michael Leeuwe, to ensure that an accurate and efficient accounting of all income and expenditure takes place, for the approval of the ISI Director as well as the external accountants (Mazars).

As a result of the retirement of Mrs. Ank Lepping, a reorganisation of several ISI Permanent Office tasks has taken place, with some tasks being outsourced (e.g. editing of the *Bernoulli* journal) while others have been assigned to other ISI staff members.

Finances

The ISI Executive Committee has focussed considerable attention on the ISI's financial situation during this biennium. For many years, ISI's expenditures have greatly exceeded the total ISI income received from all membership dues, publications and conferences, such that the ISI has relied on investment income in order to ensure a balanced budget. The reduction and/or cancellation of some previous sources of income and more moderate investment returns have stimulated the need to reassess the ISI's financial situation. The ISI Executive Committee has specified a financial framework in which the ISI must work to ensure that income and expenditure are in balance, with investment income being used to finance the costs associated with new membership activities and/or services. With this in mind, two new Committees were formed. The ISI Investment Committee, Chaired by Mr. Rudi Acx, has worked to assess the ISI's investment position, ensuring that the ISI receives a satisfactory return on its investment portfolio within the framework of an institutional low-risk investment mandate. The ISI Finance Committee, Chaired by Mr. Olav Ljones, has worked to provide advice to the ISI Permanent Office on the financial situation of the ISI, with an aim to improve the annual budgets, accounts and activity planning, while ensuring a link between an evaluation of accounting results and activity planning.

The ISI EC, the Council and the ISI Permanent Office have reviewed all expenditures to reduce costs where possible, while considering new potential sources of income. A review of the entire ISI publications portfolio has been instigated and several changes have been introduced, the most notable being the transfer of the publishing of the *International Statistical Review* from the ISI Permanent Office to a commercial publisher, Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, and the transfer of the publishing of the *Bernoulli* journal from the ISI Permanent Office to the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. Existing printing contracts were reviewed, and where feasible, either re-negotiated or transferred to a more competitive producer. Special attention was aimed at ISI Permanent Office overhead costs and significant reductions have been realised.

A significant amount of work has again been invested in fostering relations with ISI institutional members, and in particular in re-establishing ties with Eurostat, with the intention to re-establish their institutional support to the ISI. Also, efforts to stimulate the nomination of individual elected members have taken place, resulting in the election of sufficient new members to maintain the ISI's existing membership base, but not enough to ensure sustained growth.

While 2005/2006 has seen a reduction of expenditures and a slight increase in income, the net annual result is still negative before investment income, such that the ISI must remain prudent and cautious in making long-term commitments, which may lead to continued deficits and restrict the organisation's ability to increase the value and quantity of the products and services that it provides to the membership.

Balance Sheets

The balance sheets of 2005 and 2006 (see Appendix 1) reflect the financial status of the ISI as described above. For comparison purposes, the earlier years (2003 and 2004) are also presented.

The value of total assets has increased slightly, with most ISI Sections experiencing an increase in their assets in the course of the last two years, with the exception of ISBIS, which as a new ISI Section, is working to develop its membership base and other sources of income.

Statement of Income and Expenditures

Reviewing Appendix 2 (stating profit and loss), it is apparent that a slight reduction in income took place in 2005, counteracted by an increase in income in 2006. A considerable reduction of expenditures was realised in both 2005 and 2006, as a result of organisational adjustments and cost cutting measures.

Financial income remains an indispensable part of total income, and in 2005 the ISI enjoyed a considerable increase in financial income, bringing the 2005 year end results towards a more balanced position. In 2006, investment income was reduced considerably, such that there was insufficient income to negate the annual loss, resulting in a net loss of about € 50,000.



As all ISI investments are now listed according to their market value, it should be noted that an "Appropriation Result" has again been added to the "Income and Expenditure" statement in 2006. This provides an indication of the annual change in the value of the Capital Fund, while also taking into consideration the unrealised (non-liquidated) change in the total investment portfolio results. To inform you in some detail about the financial results of the ISI Sections, we provide statements on income and expenditure of each Section as well as statements about the financial reserves of each Section.

Bernoulli Society	Appendix 5
IAOS	Appendix 6
IASC/ERS	Appendix 7, 8, 9
IASE	Appendix 10
ISBIS	Appendix 11

No financial statement is included about the IASS, nor the IFC, which are not administered by the ISI Permanent Office.

Conclusions

The ISI Executive Committee recommends that work continue to monitor ISI finances, with a goal to ensuring a balance of income and expenditure, such that investment income is channelled to the introduction of new activities, products and services for members. This can only be achieved by continuing to monitor expenditures, paired with efforts to identify and obtain new sources of income, thereby reducing dependency on financial income, thus ensuring the continuous long term financial health of the organisation.

Niels Keiding President	Daniel Berze Director of the ISI Permanent Office
	

Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability (BS)

The daily running of the Society is in the hands of its Executive Committee. For the 2005-2007 term, this consists of:

President: Peter Jagers (Sweden)
President-Elect: Jean Jacod (France)
Past-President: Donald Dawson (Canada)
Scientific Secretary: Arnaldo Frigessi (Norway)
Membership Secretary: Volker Mammitzsch (Germany)
Treasurer: Ursula Gather (Germany)
Executive Secretary: Daniel Berze (Director, ISI)

President-Elect Jean Jacod will take over as President for a two-year term at the Lisbon Session in August 2007.

Policy of the Society is discussed and decided by the Executive and a twelve-member Council. The members of the Society's Council serve for four-year terms:

2003-2007

Tim Brown (Australia)	Wilfrid Kendall (UK)
Frank den Hollander (The Netherlands)	Eva Vedel Jensen (Denmark)
Valerie Isham (UK)	Alison Etheridge (UK)
Zhi-ming Ma (P.R. China)	Rajeeva Karandikar (India)
Murad Taqqu (USA)	Anton Wakolbinger (Germany)
Mario Wschebor (Uruguay)	

2005-2009

Victor Perez-Abreu (Mexico)

Final authority resides in the General Assembly of the Society, which meets at the World Congresses and at the biennial Sessions of the ISI.

The Bernoulli Society's mission

The Bernoulli Society's mission is to further, through international contacts, the increase of knowledge through the advancement of the sciences of probability (including stochastic processes) and mathematical statistics, and their applications. Consequently, the Bernoulli Society (BS) organises and supports every year a large number of international conferences. The Society holds a World Congress every four years: the most recent meeting was held in Barcelona in July 2004. More frequent meetings, co-ordinated by the Society's standing committees and often with support from other organisations, include: the European Meeting of Statisticians, the Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications, the CLAPEM Meeting (Latin-America Congress on Probability and Mathematical Statistics), the European Young Statisticians Meeting, and various meetings on special topics such as statistics and probability in the physical sciences. The Bernoulli Society interfaces with the broader international statistical community as an ISI Section and through cooperation with other Societies including in particular the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS).

Publications and Website

Bernoulli journal: Holger Rootzén of the Chalmers University of Technology took over as Editor of *Bernoulli* at the beginning of 2007. Under his leadership, we are confident that the journal will continue the remarkable development that took place under Editors Ole Barndorff-Nielsen and Willem van Zwet, and continued during Peter McCullagh 2004-2007. Publishing the *Bernoulli* has been successfully taken over by the IMS, and the journal has the position as one of the leading journals in probability and statistics. *Bernoulli* is online with Project Euclid and all registered Bernoulli Society members receive it without charge.

Stochastic Processes and their Applications: This journal, which is published by Elsevier, is sponsored by the Bernoulli Society. Editor-in-Chief is Maria Eulalia Vares, Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, Brasil. The journal retains a leading position in the theory of stochastic process. The last year has been marked by discussions with Elsevier about pricing and access to electronic versions. At the writing of this report these have not yet been finally concluded.

Probability Surveys, Statistics Surveys, Electronic Journal of Probability, Electronic Journal of Statistics : The Bernoulli Council co-sponsors and co-publishes with the IMS an array of electronic journals, launched 2004-2007. They are open access and serve as an important step in the further development of open access online publications in probability and statistics.

Bernoulli News: *Bernoulli News* is published twice a year and is also available online. The Editors are Krzysztof Dębicki and Zbigniew Palmowzki, Wrocław University, Poland.

Bernoulli Society Website: Björn Böttcher of Philipps-Universität Marburg was appointed the Society's Web Editor in 2004. He developed a new design for the web pages and new features are being added (<http://isi.cbs.nl/BS/bshome.htm>).

Conferences

Bernoulli Society is noted for its excellent meetings. The past two-year period has seen no World Congress; the next after Barcelona 2004 will be Singapore 2008. Instead, we have had European Meetings of Statisticians, in Oslo, Norway, 2005 and Torun, Poland,

2006, and there has been a CLAPEM meeting in Lima, Peru, 2007. The 2006 Vilnius Conference was also held under the auspices of the BS.

The 30th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications was held at UC Santa Barbara, USA, and the 31st in Paris 2006. The planning of many future events is proceeding, in particular the next joint BS World Congress and IMS Annual Meeting in 2008 with Professor Louis Chen as Chair of the National Organising Committee.

Cooperation with other Organisations

Institute of Mathematical Statistics: In view of the success of the joint World Congress - IMS Annual Meetings, the two Societies have explored ways of expanding our cooperation. A number of concrete steps have been taken in this direction, including:

- The Bernoulli Society and IMS have a joint online membership list;
- The two Societies jointly publish several electronic journals;
- A Reciprocal Membership Agreement provides individuals the opportunity to become joint members of the two Societies at a reduced cost;
- IMS publishes the *Bernoulli*.

Thanks

I would like to express thanks to our member Volker Mammitzsch, whose term as Member Secretary is ending. I would also like to express sincere thanks to ISI Director Daniel Berze and the ISI Executive Committee for their support of the Bernoulli Society.

Peter Jagers
Bernoulli Society President (2005-2007)

International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC)

Report of activities 2005-2007

Executive Committee of IASC for 2005-2007:

President:	Gilbert Saporta (France)
President-Elect:	Jaromir Antoch (Czech Republic)
Past President:	Stanley P. Azen (USA)
Vice Presidents:	Erricos Kontoghiorghes (Cyprus) Yutaka Tanaka (Japan)
Scientific Secretary:	Paula Brito (Portugal)
Treasurer:	Michel Van De Velden (The Netherlands)

Council:

2005-2007:	Jaromir Antoch (Czech Republic) James Gentle (USA) Erricos Kontoghiorghes (Switzerland) Jung Jin Lee (Korea) Yuichi Mori (Japan) Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi (Italy)
2005-2009:	Wing K.Fung (Hong Kong) Zhi Geng (China) Robert Gentleman (USA) Genshiro Kitagawa (Japan) Dominique Ladiray (France) Masahiro Mizuta (Japan).

During the past period IASC has revised its committees. The new committees and their respective chairpersons are as follows:

- IASC Programme Committee for ISI 2009 (Durban) - Yutaka Tanaka
- Committee for liaison with Machine Learning and KDD organizations - Djamel Zighed
- IASC Publications committee - Stan Azen, Erricos Kontoghiorghes
- IASC Election and Nomination Committee - Jaromir Antoch
- IASC Membership Committee - Lutz Edler
- IASC Nomination Committee for ISI Membership - Yuichi Mori
- IASC Electronic Affairs and Public Relations Committee - Gianfranco Galmacci

Publications

Computational Statistics & Data Analysis is the official journal of IASC. Thanks to its editors CSDA has progressed substantially and is an international reference. The impact factor of this journal in 2005 was 0.733. The number of pages published for volume 50 reached 3700 pages, and 5500 pages for volume 51, i.e. 9200 pages since the 55th Session of the ISI in Sydney.

Regions

25th Anniversary of the European Regional Section of IASC

The European Regional Section (ERS) of IASC, established in 1981 during the 43rd Session of ISI in Buenos Aires, celebrated in 2006 its 25th anniversary. On this occasion, Gianfranco Galmacci, former ERS chairman, prepared a document on the Milestones of ERS origins and life. The full document is now available on the IASC website, at http://www.iasc-isi.org/ERS/25th_Anniversary/Milestones.pdf.

Asian Regional Section

The IASC Asian Regional Section (ARS) has now its own website <http://www.iasc-ars.org/>. The officers of the Board of Directors are Wing Kam Fung (Chairperson, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China), Yutaka Tanaka (Past Chairperson, Nanzan University, Japan), Moon Yul Huh (Chairperson-elect, SungKyunKwan University, Korea) and Philip Leung-ho Yu (Scientific Secretary, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China).

Meetings and conferences

IASC and its regions have organized very successful meetings:

8th ERS-IASC Summer School

The topic was on Statistical Models in Financial Series. The school took place in Barcelona (Spain) from July 17th to 23rd, 2005. and was hosted by the Department of Statistics and Operations Research of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain) and organized jointly with the Department of Business Economics of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain). The aim of the School was to provide an overview of the recent development in the methodological, computational and applications aspects of the Statistical Models applied to Financial Time Series.

The lectures were taught by Agustín Maravall (Banco de España), Daniel Peña (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid), Esther Ruiz (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid), Ruey Tsay (University of Chicago) and Cesar Villazón (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona). The School was attended by 23 students, most of them young researchers (PhD students and recently-appointed teachers). The students came mostly from Spain (64%, the majority of them from the rest of Spain) but also from Croatia, Holland, Honduras, Iran, Ireland and Serbia-Herzegovina.

The 3rd World Conference on Computational Statistics and Data Analysis

This took place in Cyprus last 28th - 31st October 2005. It was organized by the European co-editor of CSDA, Erricos Kontoghiorghes. The conference comprised 4 keynote talks, 4 Tutorials, 28 Tracks, 70 sessions and around to 400 presentations. It is important to stress that there were more than 100 presentations related to computational econometrics and statistical finance. The biggest track (35 talks) was on "Nonlinear time series modelling and Financial Econometrics".

The 5th IASC Asian Conference on Statistical Computing

Held by the Asian Regional Section in Hong Kong, China, 15th - 17th December 2005. This Conference was co-organized by the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, The University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Statistical Society.

The Conference provided a forum for researchers and practitioners in Asian countries and countries in other parts of the world to share their knowledge in the advancement of the theories, methods, and practice of statistical computing and to foster interest and ideas in effective and efficient statistical computing through international contacts. While the focus was on statistical computing, the Conference was also of direct relevance to statisticians who had been working in statistical methods and data analysis with applications in various disciplines such as medicine, business, ecology, biology, engineering, etc.

There were about 150 participants for the Conference, and about 100 papers presented. Over 50 papers were published in the Conference Proceedings. Most of the participants came from Asian countries including China, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Thailand, and we also had participants from other countries such as Australia, France, Israel, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, UK and USA.

COMPSTAT 2006

The 17th biennial Conference of the European Regional Section was held in Rome August 28th-September 1st, 2006. exactly 20 years after the 7th COMPSTAT symposium held in Rome, in 1986.

The programme of the conference included 4 keynote speakers, 14 invited and 7 solicited sessions, 54 contributed sessions for a total of 327 papers and 32 posters. The conference included sessions on new advances in computational statistics in statistical software, exploratory data analysis, data mining, pattern recognition, statistical graphics and data visualisation, statistical data bases, and related fields, according to the mission of IASC to link traditional statistical methodology, modern computer technology, and the knowledge of domain experts in order to convert data into information and knowledge. Over 550 participants attended this conference coming from a broad number of countries around world.

The proceedings of the conference have been published by Springer after a peer-review refereeing process that led to the selection of 182 papers focusing on a wide range of different topics.

Four satellite meetings to Compstat 2006 attracted many participants:

Workshop on Data and Information Visualization and Tutorial on Data Mining

Held by the Institute of Statistics and Econometrics at Humboldt-Universität at Berlin from August 24th until August 25th, 2006. About 70 researchers attended this workshop.

A tutorial on Data Mining by Prof. Jerome H. Friedman from Stanford University on August 23, 2006 attracted about fifty participants.

Eighth Workshop of the ERCIM Working Group on Matrix Computations and Statistics

This took place in Salerno, Italy, on September 2nd-3rd, 2006. The Workshop aimed at bringing together researchers and practitioners working in the interface of Numerical Linear Algebra and Statistics. This includes the adaptation of recent advances in Scientific Computing, Algorithms and Software Tools in order to tackle Large-Scale Statistical Applications. Scientific Program Committee Co-

chairs were Stanley P. Azen, University of Southern California, Daniela di Serafino, Second University of Naples, Erricos J. Kontoghiorghes, University of Cyprus, Bernard Philippe, INRIA/IRISA, Rennes, The workshop was supported by the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM), the International Association for Mathematics and Computers in Simulation (IMACS), the Italian Statistical Society (SIS), the Second University of Naples, the University of Salerno and the Institute for High-Performance Computing and Networking (ICAR). The scientific program consisted of 4 plenary sessions, each with an invited keynote talk, and 12 parallel sessions, for a total of 55 contributed talks. Around 80 participants attended the Workshop.

International Workshop on Knowledge Extraction and Modeling (KNEMO'06)

KNEMO'06 took place in Anacapri (Italy), from September 4th-6th 2006. Organised by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Naples "Federico II" with the co-sponsorship of the INTERFACE Foundation of North America and the IFCS (International Federation of Classification Societies).

The Workshop was meant to address the analysis of "complex systems" where the difficulty of analysis is not only the availability of huge masses of data but also the complex structure of relationships. It is somehow the problem of extracting information from models, not just data, where the challenge consists in considering the interaction between Knowledge Extraction and Modelling along two possible directions: Knowledge Extraction from Models and Knowledge Extraction by Modelling.

The Steering Committee of the Workshop was made of Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi – co-chairman, Carlo Lauro – co-chairman, Amy Braverman (as the INTERFACE representative), Henk A.L. Kiers (as the IFCS representative) and Michael G. Schimek (as the IASC representative).

The Workshop enjoyed the attendance of 94 participants from 19 different countries. The scientific programme of the Workshop comprised 55 contributions presented during 15 plenary sessions. A Book of Abstracts has been printed and delivered to all participants together with a CD-ROM comprising the full papers sent by the Authors.

The International Conference on "Statistical Latent Variables Models in the Health Sciences"

took place in Perugia, Italy, on September 6th-8th.

The meeting was intended to serve as an interdisciplinary workshop to discuss theoretical and applied statistical issues concerning design, measurement, and analysis and to foster interaction among researchers who are likely to bring important interdisciplinary insights to the field. The conference had 103 participants coming from 20 different countries.

2007 IASC-ARS Special Conference

The 2007 IASC-ARS Special Conference was held in Seoul, Korea on June 7th-8th, 2007, jointly organized by the Asian Regional Section of IASC, the Korea National Statistical Office (KNSO), the Korea Statistical Society (KSS) and was sponsored by the Bank of Korea. The theme was "Pan-Asian Collaboration between Statisticians". 80 participants attended.

IASC is planning the following events:

IASC07 International Conference on Statistics for Data Mining, Learning and Knowledge Extraction

IASC 07 is a satellite meeting of the Lisboa Session that will be held at the University of Aveiro, August 30th – September 1st, 2007. The purpose of the meeting is to foster the interaction of researchers in the interface between computational statistics, data mining, knowledge discovery and statistical learning. Carlo Lauro (Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II", Italy) and Gilbert Saporta (Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, France) are conference co-chairs. The Conference program will consist of six contributed paper sessions, a poster session and a software demonstration session. A CD-ROM of the conference containing the invited papers and the accepted contributed papers will be produced.

IASC-ERS 2007 Summer School on Statistical learning: Data Mining and Regression Tools

will take place in the Island of Procida, Italy, from September 3rd until September 7th, 2007. The School is locally organized by the Second University of Naples, the University of Naples "Federico II", the University of Orientale and the University of Benevento; Prof. Rosaria Lombardo (Faculty of Economics of the Second University of Naples) is the chairperson.

The school is intended to achieve post-graduate training in special areas of statistics for both researchers and teachers. Also professionals working in industry are invited to participate. The participants are expected to have a good background in statistics at the Ph.D. level although not necessarily oriented to the subject of the course.

COMPSTAT 2008

The 18th COMPSTAT symposium will take place in Porto, Portugal, on August 24th-29th 2008., locally organized by the Faculty of Economics of the University of Porto .

The Conference Program will consist of keynote speakers presentations, invited sessions, contributed sessions, poster sessions and a round table on "New Ideas Via Software".

COMPSTAT 2010

The COMPSTAT 2010 symposium will take place in Paris. The meeting is scheduled for August 23rd to 27th, in the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM) The conference will have the support of INRIA, the French national institute in computer science and control where a satellite meeting or a tutorial will be organized.

The 4th World Conference on Computational Statistics & Data Analysis of the International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC) and the 6th Conference of Asian Regional Section of IASC

This joint Meeting will be held at Pacifico Yokohama in Japan on 5th-8th December 2008 in order to bring together researchers and practitioners to discuss recent developments in computational methods, methodology and applications in statistics.

International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS)

Report of Activities 2005-2007

The International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS-AISE) was founded in 1973. Operating in English and French, it aims to promote the study and development of the theory and practice of sample surveys and censuses. It also aims to increase the interest in surveys and censuses among statisticians, governments and the public in the different countries of the world. At present, the IASS has approximately 1,050 members from 130 countries, and 30 institutional members.

Executive Committee

The IASS Executive Committee for the years 2005-2007 was composed as follows:

President:	Gordon Brackstone
President-Elect:	Pedro Luis do Nascimento Silva
Vice-Presidents:	Jelke Bethlehem John Kovar
Scientific Secretary:	Lilli Jappec
Executive Director:	Michel Péronnet
Director ISI:	Daniel Berze (<i>ex officio</i>)

Council Members

The policy of the Association and the main decisions are discussed and decided by the Executive Committee with the support of the Council, which is composed of twelve members elected for a four-year period, as follows:

2003-2007		2005-2009	
Pascal Ardilly	(France)	Giuliana Coccia	(Italy)
J-J. Dreesbeke	(Belgium)	Geoffrey Lee	(Australia)
Guido Ferrari	(Italy)	Leyla Mohadjer	(United States)
Linda Hewitt	(Trinidad & Tobago)	Sarah Nusser	(United States)
Naman Keita	(Mali)	Don Royce	(Canada)
Hiek Som	(Cambodia)	Wei Yuan	(China)

The 2007 Election Nominations Committee, chaired by Beverley Carlson, worked diligently during 2006 to identify candidates for the posts of as President-Elect, Vice-Presidents (2), and Scientific Secretary for the period 2007-2009, as well as Council members (6) to serve from 2007-2011. Elections are in progress as this report is being prepared and results will be made available on the IASS website before the ISI Session in Lisbon.

Secretariat

The IASS headquarters is situated in Libourne, France, and operates with financial support and facilities kindly provided by INSEE, the French statistical agency.

Executive Director:	Michel Péronnet
Treasurer:	Michel Kagan
Executive Secretary:	Anna Maria Vespa
Secretary:	Claude Olivier

Michel Kagan replaced François Fabre as Treasurer during 2006.

Survey Statistician

The Newsletter of IASS, *Survey Statistician*, continued to be published twice each year, in English and French, under the editorship of Steve Heeringa. The Newsletter provides members with current information about activities of the Association and other events of interest, about developments and applications of survey methodology across the world, and about methodological issues of current interest. The Section Editors are: John Kovar for *Country Reports*, James Lepkowski for *Software Review* and Anders Christianson for *Ask the Experts*. IASS is very grateful to the Australian Bureau of Statistics for their help in printing and distributing *Survey Statistician*, to Statistics Canada for its translation into French, and to INSÉE for publication and distribution of the French version.

The IASS website: <http://isi.cbs.nl/iass>

The IASS website continued to provide a well-structured source of current information, in English and French, for members of IASS. The IASS Webmaster, Eric Rancourt, has continued to provide direction of the site and to ensure that information remained current. The site is housed with the ISI in Voorburg and we are grateful for the technical support of the ISI office in facilitating improvements and updates.

Cochran-Hansen Prize

The IASS established the Cochran-Hansen Prize in celebration of its 25th anniversary. The Prize is awarded to the best paper on survey research methods submitted by a young statistician from a developing or transitional country.

Following discussions in Sydney, and some disappointment with the number of entries for the 2005 Prize, we initiated a renewed effort to attract interest and submissions for the 2007 Prize, under the leadership of Sarah Nusser. These efforts have paid off with a strong slate of entries for 2007. A Prize committee, consisting of Sarah Nusser, Jelke Bethlehem, Linda Hewitt, Geoffrey Lee, and Pedro Silva, was struck to review the entries and select the winner. The winning paper will receive the Cochran-Hansen Prize in the form of financial support to present the paper at the ISI Session in Lisbon as well as books or journal subscriptions to the value of about € 500.

IASS Invited Paper Meetings, Lisbon 2007

David Steel has chaired the IASS Programme Committee for the ISI Session, Lisbon 2007. IASS is sponsoring 14 sessions, four of these jointly with IAOS, and one with IASE. The session topics cover a broad range from the more theoretical to the highly practical. Among other themes, the program reflects a lot of interest in the combination of data from different sources or methods of collection, concerns for data quality, and the role of survey research in the information age. In addition, IASS President-Elect, Pedro Silva, is serving as chair of the overall ISI Programme Coordinating Committee for ISI 2007.

IASS Short Courses, Lisbon 2007

A traditional and popular IASS activity is the organisation of Short Courses on survey methodology in connection with each ISI Session. They represent an opportunity for survey statisticians to follow Courses given by high level international experts. Lilli Japac, Scientific Secretary, started organising the Short Courses shortly after the ISI Session in Sydney. The preliminary programme has been advertised through several dissemination channels. The Programme comprises the following Courses:

Course A: Workshop on Survey Sampling, Presented by: Colm O'Muircheartaigh and Steven Heeringa

Course B: Variance Estimation in Complex Surveys, Presented by: Wayne Fuller, Kirk Wolter, F. Jay Breidt, Anthony An

Course C: Workshop on Editing and Imputation of Survey Data, Presented by: John G. Kovar, Eric Rancourt

Course D: Introduction to Survey Quality, Presented by: Paul Biemer, Lars Lyberg

Course E: Statistical Disclosure Control, Presented by: Anco Hundepool, Eric Schulte Nordholt, Peter-Paul de Wolf

Course F: Design and Analysis of Repeated Surveys, Presented by: David Steel, Craig McLaren

With funding for students from developing countries no longer available from the U.N. Statistics Division, other international agencies were approached to seek funding. Only the World Bank has responded positively with some funds being made available generally for attendance at the ISI meetings. As a result we intend to provide some IASS support to assist a few students to attend, but we may again experience difficulties in attracting registrations from developing countries for these Courses.

IASS Satellite Meetings to the 2007 ISI Session

IASS has agreed to sponsor two satellite meetings following the 2007 ISI session. A Conference on Small Area Estimation will be held September 3-5 2007 in Pisa, Italy, and a Conference on Innovative Methodologies for Censuses in the New Millennium will be held in Southampton, U.K. from August 30 to September 2, 2007.

IASS Invited Paper Meetings, Durban 2009

In 2006 the IASS Programme Committee for 2009 was formed under the leadership of Leyla Mohadjer. The Committee includes 13 members and has been working hard developing proposed program topics for the 2009 session. These will be considered by the ISI Programme Coordinating Committee (chaired by IASS Vice-President John Kovar) during the Lisbon sessions.

International Conferences between ISI sessions

Since the 2005 ISI session, IASS has co-sponsored a variety of important conferences on topics of interest to survey statisticians. Immediately following the Sydney Session a Conference on Complex sampling, retrospective sampling and missing data (in honour of Alastair Scott) was held in Auckland, New Zealand. In May 2005, the fourth Colloque francophone sur les sondages (Symposium on sampling techniques) was held in Quebec, Canada on August 2005. A Conference on Small Area Estimation (SAE 2005) was held in Jyväskylä, Finland.

In January 2006, the 2nd International Conference on Telephone Survey Methodology took place in Miami, U.S.A. This was followed in April by Q2006, the 3rd European Conference on Quality in Survey Statistics, held in Cardiff, Wales. At that meeting IASS organised a panel discussion on the role of survey statisticians in managing data quality. The International Conference on Methodology of Longitudinal Surveys took place in July 2006 in Colchester, U.K.

Finally, IASS is a co-sponsor of two conferences planned for June 2007 - ICES III, the 3rd International Conference on Establishment Surveys is being held in Montreal, Canada, and the 2nd Baltic-Nordic Conference on Survey Sampling takes place in Kuusamo, Finland.

Gordon Brackstone
May 2007, Ottawa

International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS)

Report of Activities 2005-2007

The Executive Committee of the IAOS for the period 2003-2005 comprised of the following members:

President:	Brian Pink	(Australia)
President-Elect:	Olav Ljones	(Norway)
Vice-Presidents:	Paul Crowley	(Ireland)
	Aija Zigure	(Latvia)
	Shigeru Kawasaki	(Japan)
	Carmelita N. ERICTA	(Philippines)
SCORUS Representative:	Derek Bond (Chairperson, SCORUS)	(UK)
Executive Director and Treasurer:	Daniel Berze (Director, ISI)	

International Conferences

The 2006 IAOS Conference was hosted by Statistics Canada in Canada's capital city, Ottawa, from 6th to 8th September. The Conference Programme focused on issues associated with measuring the environmental, social and economic impacts of people on the move, both within and between nations. The principle themes covered in the Conference were:

- The Statistical Infrastructure Needed to Understand Sub-national Population Changes
- Economies Without Borders
- Communities That Cross National Boundaries

The Conference was addressed by two keynote speakers: Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland and Mr. Donald J. Johnston. Dr. Brundtland is the Director-General Emeritus of the World Health Organization and a former Prime Minister of Norway. She also chaired the World Commission on the Environment and Development, which popularised the concept of sustainable development in its landmark report *Our Common Future* published in 1987. Mr. Donald J. Johnston was the retiring Secretary-General of the OECD and has also served in a number of positions in the Canadian Government.

Both of the keynote speakers acknowledged the importance of statistics and the role of information in the decision-making process. The role of official statistics is to provide objective and impartial information upon which society can make judgments. It was essential that people have good quality information and sound evidence when making decisions. Official statistics have an important role to play in this process and provides policy makers the evidence upon which decisions can be taken. A number of sessions, dealing with various aspects of these themes, were held during the three-day Conference which was attended by approximately 280 delegates from over 40 countries. There were also representatives from a number of international organisations, including the European Commission, World Bank, IMF, ILO, World Trade Organization, OECD, UNECE and UNESCO.

The 25th SCORUS Conference on Regional and Urban Statistics and Research was held from 30 August to 1 September 2006 at Wrocław University of Economics in Wrocław, Poland under the theme 'Globalization Impact on Regional and Urban Statistics'. This conference celebrated the beginning of the 50th year of activities within the ISI focused on urban and regional statistics. It was noted that most of the current sessions focused on the urban component of the name and it was agreed that there was a need to start taking a closer look at the rising importance of rural regions and their relationship to urban zones.

Other Activities

Preparations have been made to organise an IAOS Satellite Meeting around the 2007 ISI Lisboa Session. The United Kingdom will host a Satellite Meeting following the ISI Session from August 31 to 2 September on the topic "Innovative Methodologies for Censuses in the New Millennium". This meeting is to be held at the Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK.

Planning of the IAOS scientific program contribution to the 57th ISI session in South Africa in 2009 is well advanced and a decision has also been finalised on the location and timing of our 2008 IAOS conference. The National Bureau of Statistics of China will host the conference at the Shanghai International Convention Centre, Shanghai on 14-16 October 2008.

Progress on developing strategies to revitalise the membership of our Section, a process that had been started by the 2003-2005 Committee, has been stalled over the 2005-2007 period by a reluctance on the part of the current Committee to move independently of knowing the outcome of the restructuring proposals for the ISI. These are still under consideration and so this task will now be handed on to the incoming Committee.

One tangible area of progress in this regard has involved extending the prizes available in the best paper competition for young official statisticians in the field of official statistics for the ISI 2007 Session. This competition was introduced by the 2005-2007 Committee for ISI 2005. The purpose of the competition is to encourage more young official statisticians to take an active interest in the activities of the IAOS. The author(s) of the best paper will be awarded a cash prize valued at € 1,500, an invitation to the ISI Session in Lisboa, Portugal, in August 2007 with airfares and accommodation included and an opportunity to present their paper at the Session. 2nd is a cash prize valued at € 1000 and 3rd is a cash prize valued at € 500. All 3 winners will be given 2 years membership of IAOS and will also receive a certificate of award from the IAOS acknowledging their success in this competition.

Finally, the IAOS committee is currently in discussions with a publishing company regarding the possible introduction of a Journal of the IAOS which would be published on a quarterly basis. The main aim of the Journal would be to support the IAOS mission by publishing articles to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and to foster the development of effective and efficient

official statistical services on a global basis. Papers would be expected to be of wide interest to readers and all papers would be refereed before a decision to publish.

Brian Pink
President 2005-2007
International Association for Official Statistics

International Association for Statistical Education (IASE)

IASE webpage: <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/>

President's Report

The IASE Executive Committee for the 2005-2007 term consisted of:

<i>President:</i>	Gilberte Schuyten	(Belgium)
<i>President-Elect:</i>	Allan Rossman	(USA)
<i>Past-President:</i>	Chris Wild	(New Zealand)
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Andrej Blejec	(Slovenia)
	John Harraway	(New Zealand)
	Christine Reading	(Australia)
	Michiko Watanabe	(Japan)
	Larry Weldon	(Canada)
<i>Executive Director:</i>	Daniel Berze	(The Netherlands)

Special assignments were given to Carmen Batanero (Spain; ICOTS-7 and ICMI/IASE Joint Study), Carol Joyce Blumberg (USA; ISLP), Beth Chance (USA; SERJ), Lisbeth Cordani (Brazil; ICOTS-7), Iddo Gal (Israel; SERJ), Helen MacGillivray (Australia; ISI-57), Brian Phillips (Australia; Satellite 2007), Juana Sanchez (USA; SERJ), Tom Short (USA; SERJ) and Susan Starkings (UK; ICOTS-7)

The IASE Executive Committee for the 2007-2009 term is:

<i>President:</i>	Allan Rossman	(USA)
<i>President-Elect:</i>	Helen MacGillivray	(Australia)
<i>Past-President:</i>	Gilberte Schuyten	(Belgium)
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Andrej Blejec	(Slovenia)
	John Harraway	(New Zealand)
	Delia North	(South Africa)
	James Nichelson	(UK)
	Enriqueta Reston	(Philippines)
<i>Executive Director:</i>	Daniel Berze	(The Netherlands)

The past two years have been very successful for the IASE.

The main event was our ICOTS-7 Conference in Salvador, Brazil in 2006. The conference was a big success thanks to the excellent work by the International Programme Committee and in particular to the efforts by Carmen Batanero, Susan Starkings and John Harraway as well by the excellent local organization by Lisbeth Cordani, Pedro Morettin and their team. A main result is the ICOTS-7 Proceedings CD Rom edited by Allan Rossman and Beth Chance which is now freely available at the publication page of IASE.

The first steps towards organizing next ICOTS-8 in 2010 have already been taken by the IASE Executive. After having venues at different continents, ICOTS-8 returns to Europe in Ljubljana, Slovenia, July 11 -16, 2010. The conference theme '**Data and Context in Statistics Education**' emphasizes two concepts that are key concepts at nearly all levels of statistics education. The subtitle '**Towards an Evidence-Based Society**' offers a gateway to reflections about the past, present and future status of statistics in society and about the impact of statistics education on learning objectives.

The International Programme Committee Executive consists of John Harraway (New Zealand; IPC Chair), Roxy Peck (USA; Programme Chair), John Shanks (New Zealand; Information Manager), Helen MacGillivray (Australia; Scientific Secretary) and Alan McLean (USA; Editor Proceedings).

The Local Organizing Committee is chaired by Andrej Blejec (Slovenia).

You can access the ICOTS-8 website at: <http://icots8.org/>

By the time this Report becomes public, we will have just held a two-day Satellite Conference on *Assessing Student Learning in Statistics*, Guimarães, Portugal, August 19-21, 2007 with Brian Phillips and Beth Chance as Joint Chairs of the Programme Committee.

Allan Rossman (USA) organised the topics for Invited Paper Meetings for the 56th Session in Lisbon and the Invited Paper Meetings for 57th Session in Durban are being organised by Helen MacGillivray (Australia). The IASE Programme Committee for ISI-57 has chosen the theme *Statistics Education for the Future*.

In addition, there have been IASE sponsored sessions at the 2005 Joint Statistical Meetings (Minneapolis 2005) organised by Carol Blumberg. IASE also co-sponsored a number of activities such as the Stochastic Thinking and Reasoning Research Forum 4 (New-Zealand, July 2-7, 2005) and Forum 5 (UK, August 11-17, 2007)

Planning for the IASE Round Table Conference at Monterrey, Mexico, June 30-July 4, 2008 is underway. This Round Table is one of the components of the ICMI/IASE Joint Study *Statistics Education in School Mathematics: Challenges for Teaching and Teacher Education*.

The IASE research flag SERJ is in good shape. Four very interesting issues are published in 2005-2006; in Vol. 4, No. 1 (May 2005) a special section was included about **Reasoning about Variation** with guest editors Joan Garfield and Dani Ben-Zvi) and a special issue Vol. 5, No. 2 (November 2006) dealt with **Reasoning About Distribution** with guest editors Maxine Pfannkuch and Chris Reading.

Plans are underway to continue with special issues dedicated to a central theme.

The flow of submissions is increasing and thanks to the efforts of the editorial board under the leadership of Iddo Gal and Tom Short the journal is growing in prestige.

The International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP) has been under transition. Under the leadership of Carol Joyce Blumberg from the start in 2001 up to mid 2006, Carol constructed a web site which offered a gateway on Internet towards Statistical Literacy and towards IASE. Juana Sanchez is taking over and has a great vision about ISLP. In collaboration with the INE of Portugal, ISLP conducted in 2007 a statistical literacy game in some schools around the Guimarães area. By the time this report become public, we will know the winners of the first ISLP Statistical Literacy Games held in Portugal. The semi-final took place on Saturday, August 18, 2007 in Guimaraes, where teams of students 10-18 years participated in these games.

The important collaboration with ICMI *Statistics Education in School Mathematics Challenges for Teaching and Teacher Education*, which started in 2005 under the leadership of Carmen Batanero, is making progress. This ICMI/IASE project consists of several components, one of which is the IASE Roundtable in 2008 in Mexico.

During the period 2005-2007, Past-president and Website Editor Chris Wild made many important additions. All conference proceedings, are delivered from the IASE Publications page <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/publications.php>

Also significant archival content added was added including the Proceedings of ICOTS 3 (1990) and the Proceedings of the First Scientific Meeting of the IASE held at Perugia in 1993. The scanning for all of the above was done by the Department of Statistics at the University of Auckland and Carol Joyce Blumberg's assistants at Winona State. We are still on the lookout for volunteers to scan other important Proceedings or even just send the books to Chris Wild. For example, we are still missing ICOTS 1, 2 and 4.

In terms of effort for webmaster Stephen Cope, the biggest job has been porting Carol Joyce Blumberg's ISLP pages from Winona State University and recreating them as a wiki so that it is easy for many people around the world to work on the content remotely.

Many regular features have been updated. For example, we now have about 24 statistics education doctoral dissertations in full version at <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/iasedissert> and about 18 abstracts.

Extensive reports of all activities are given in the 2005 and 2006 issues of *IASE Review* available from the IASE website as well as the Proceedings of all conferences, all issues of *SERJ*, the electronic journal co-published by the IASE and ISI and all other IASE publications.

We plan to continue our policy of free access on our web site for our publications and of cooperation with other statistics education journals and professional bodies interested in statistics education.

We also plan the alteration of the name of the association. The new name *The International Association for **Statistics** Education* will be submitted to the IASE General Assembly on Monday 27 August. This change is in line with the name of other similar associations.

In 'The coming of Age of Statistical Education' Vere-Jones (1995) discusses a threefold purpose of IASE: (1) IASE is a professional group representing the interest of statistics teachers, (2) IASE is a research organization promoting research into statistics education and (3) IASE is an organization representing the statistics community in education matters.

The above mentioned activities of IASE demonstrate that IASE has been working on all three roles. In order to fortify the IASE as an organization representing the statistics community in education matters, I would like to invite ISI members to become a member of IASE. If you are not yet a member of another ISI Section, it is free of charge. Please send an e-mail to Margaret (mmly@cbs.nl) indicating that you are an ISI member and that you would like to join IASE. If you are an ISI member and already a member of another ISI Section, then there is a nominal charge (see the application form on the IASE website or sends an e-mail to Margaret). If you have any further questions, please write to me (Gilberte.schuyten@ugent.be).

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to all the 2005-2007 IASE Executive Committee members, IASE members with special assignments and all people who participated in the many IASE activities.

International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS)

Report of Activities 2005-2007

Formation

International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS) is one of the newest Sections of the International Statistical Institute and was founded in April 2005, during the Sydney Session of the ISI.

ISBIS is devoted to the advancement and exchange of knowledge in business, financial and industrial statistics. ISBIS does this by promoting research and applications, and best practice; by enabling technology transfer; and by fostering communication amongst its members.

The current ISBIS Council members are:

Executive:

President: Bovas Abraham (Canada/India)

Vice President–Scientific Secretariat: William Q. Meeker (USA)

Vice President – Finance: Sung H. Park (S. Korea)

Vice President – Membership: Nicholas Fisher (Australia)

Vice President – Publications: Ronald Does (Netherlands)

Other Members:

Rong Chen (China), Luis Escobar (Columbia/USA), Graciela Gonzalez Farias (Mexico), Osvaldo Ferreiro (Chile), Jacky Galpin (South Africa), Yves L. Grize (Switzerland), Chihiro Hirotsu (Japan), Carlo Lauro (Italy), Vijay Nair (Malaysia/USA), David Steinberg (Israel), S.T.Teng (Taiwan), Jeff Wu (USA /China)

International Conferences

1. ISBIS-4 Cairns, Australia, April 2005

ISBIS organized a satellite conference in Cairns Australia just after the ISI biennial session in Sydney Australia in April 2005. Nick Fisher was the local organizer and Vijay Nair the Program Chair. We had about 150 participants representing 29 countries, with 47 from Australia. The one-day pre-conference workshop by Jerry Friedman and Glenn Stone on *Data Mining: Methods and Applications in Insurance and Finance* attracted over 30 delegates. Special efforts were made to support the participation of younger statisticians.

2. ISBIS-5 Lima, Peru, January 2006

The Fifth International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS-5) in Lima, Peru was a great success. Geoff Vining (Virginia Tech University) was the conference chair, Soren Bisgaard (Univ of Massachusetts) and Bovas Abraham (University of Waterloo) were co-organizers. The Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos was our local host and Ricardo Lopez from San Marcos and Jaime Tavera and Carmen Tavera helped with local arrangements.

There were about 135 participants from 20 countries with 65 from Peru, Ecuador and Columbia and 70 from other countries (including Brazil and Mexico). The conference included about 30 Peruvian participants from the private sector. We had 20 invited sessions in English and 8 in Spanish in the first two days. We also had 4 plenary talks 2 in English and 2 in Spanish; all the four talks were with simultaneous translation. On the third day we organized 3 panel sessions with (simultaneous translation): Future of Quality Technology, Six Sigma, and Business and Industrial Statistics in Latin America and Beyond.

3. ISBIS Participation in International Conferences

One of the objectives of ISBIS is to develop and promote relationships among national and regional organizations involved in activities similar to those of ISBIS.

Colombia:

The Sixteenth Colombian national statistical conference was in Bucaramanga, Colombia during July 29-August 3, 2006. The main theme was Industrial Statistics. Bovas Abraham (ISBIS President), and Geoff Vining (Chair of ISBIS-5 in Peru) gave plenary talks at this conference. We were invited because of the ISBIS-5 conference in Peru.

Cochin, India:

ISBIS was a co-sponsor of the International conference in Cochin, India (Jan 2-5, 2007) organized by the International Indian Statistical association (IISA).

Santa Fe, USA:

ISBIS is organizing an invited session in the Quality and Productivity Research Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico (June 4-6, 2007). This conference is sponsored by the Quality and Productivity section of the American Statistical Association.

Special Volume

A Special Issue of the Journal Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry (ASMBI) containing refereed papers based on the presentations in ISBIS-4 at Palm Cove, Australia was published. Dennis Lin (Penn State University) was the special guest editor and Jef Teugels was Editor-in-Chief of ASMBI.

ISBIS-2007: August 18-20, 2007 University of Azores, Azores, Portugal.

www.isbis2007.uac.pt

ISBIS is organizing a satellite conference (International Symposium on Business and Industrial statistics, ISBIS-2007) to the 56th Session of the ISI at the University of the Azores, August 18-20, 2007. ISBIS-2007 will provide a forum for presenting and exchanging ideas in statistical methods applicable to business, finance, and industry. Frank Samaniego (University of California,-Davis) is the Program Chair and Helena Bacelar-Nicolau (University of Lisbon) and Fernando Nicolau will handle all the local arrangements.

Sessions and Speakers

Plenary Speakers are Sir David Cox (Oxford University, UK), George Tiao (University of Chicago, USA) and Ed Wegman (George Mason University, USA). We have about 44 invited sessions and 10 contributed sessions. The topics cover areas such as Data Mining, Experimental Design, Financial Econometrics, Information Technology, Marketing, Network Modelling, Process Control, Reliability, Risk management, Quality, Six Sigma, Statistics and e-Commerce, Statistics in Business Litigations, Time Series etc..

ISBIS Sessions in ISI-2007

ISBIS is sponsoring several invited sessions in the ISI-Lisbon meeting.

1. Risk-Utility Formulations for Statistical Disclosure Limitation Problems
2. Stochastic Volatility Modeling: Reflections, recent developments and the future
3. Design of Experiments in Marketing and Advertising Testing Organizer: Johannes Ledolter, School of Business, University of Iowa, Iowa, USA
4. Issues in Business and Industrial Statistics in the Developing and Developed worlds (Panel Discussion)
5. Statistical Issues in Wired, Wireless, and Sensor Networks:
6. Six Sigma: A Business Strategy or a Management Fad (Panel Discussion)

ISBIS Sessions in ISI-2009 (Durban, South Africa)

ISBIS will be sponsoring some invited sessions in the ISI biennial session in 2009. Vijay Nair is the ISBIS program chair for this meeting.

ISBIS Journal:

There has been a proposal for ISBIS to sponsor the Wiley Journal **Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry (ASMBI)**. An ISBIS committee chaired by Vijay Nair has been discussing the details with representatives of Wiley and we are very close to signing a contract with Wiley to make ASMI the official journal of ISBIS.

ISBIS- Election and New ISBIS Council

The term of the current ISBIS Council members will be over in August 2007 and a new Council was elected whose term will be from August 2007- August 2009. The new Council members are:

Executive:

President: Nicholas Fisher (Australia)
President Elect: Yves Grize (Switzerland)
VP- Secretariate: Bill Meeker (USA)
VP-Finance: Graciela Farias (Mexico)
VP-Publications: V. Esposito Vinzi (Italy/France)
VP-Membership: Geoff Vining (USA)

Other members:

Eugenio Epprecht (Brazil), Alberto Ferrer (Spain), D.S. Hooda (India), Dennis Lin (USA)
George Michailidis (USA/Greece), Werner G. Mueller (Austria), Wei Yuan (China), Zhong-Zhan Zhang (China), Shu Yamada (Japan), Sung Hyun Park (Korea), David Steinberg (Israel), Stefan Steiner (Canada)

Submitted by Bovas Abraham, President, ISBIS

Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics (IFC)

The Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics (IFC) is a forum of central bank economists and statisticians who want to participate in discussing statistical issues of interest to central banks. The IFC is established and governed by the international central banking community and is associated with the ISI, where it currently has provisional section status.

Objective

The objective of the IFC is to promote the exchange of views amongst central bank economists, statisticians and policy makers who want to participate in discussing statistical issues of interest to central banks, including those relating to economic, monetary and financial stability. The IFC strives to strengthen the relationship between compilers of statistics and the community of users and analysts of statistical information, both in and outside central banks.

Recent developments

A survey of the IFC members (mostly central banks) conducted in 2004 indicated a strong feeling that the success of the Committee could best be ensured in the long run through a more formal structure and appropriate governance rules. In the course of 2005 and 2006 statutes were developed and approved by the more than 50 central banks that agreed to become full institutional members of the IFC. Moreover, at the beginning of 2006 the Bank for International Settlements agreed to provide the secretariat of the IFC. The first meeting of official representatives of the full institutional members was held in August 2006, at which the Committee's Executive was elected.

Governance

The Committee is composed of the designated representatives of the full institutional members. It elects the Chairman and other members of the Executive who manage the affairs of the IFC in accordance with the Statutes and the decisions and guidelines of the Committee. The members of the Executive are elected for a term of three years and have overlapping terms. The selection of members of the Executive is made with a view to ensure balanced geographical representation.

Current members of the Executive are:

- Chairman: Mr. Jan Smets from the National Bank of Belgium (until 2008)
- Vice Chairman: Mr. Radha Binod Barman from the Reserve Bank of India (until 2007)
- Vice Chairman: Mr. Leon Taub from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (until 2008)
- Ms. Cevriye Aysoy from the Central Bank of Turkey (until 2009)
- Ms. Prangtip Busayasiri from the Bank of Thailand (until 2008)
- Mr. Adam Czyzewski from the National Bank of Poland (until 2009)
- Mr. João Cadete de Matos from Banco de Portugal (until 2007)
- Mr. Steven Keuning from the European Central Bank (until 2009)
- Mr. Monde Mnyande from the South African Reserve Bank (until 2009)

The Secretariat of the Committee is provided by the Bank for International Settlements. Paul Van den Bergh, Chairman of the Committee from 2003-2005, is the senior official responsible for the Secretariat. The secretaries are currently Christian Dembiemont and Madeleine Op 't Hof.

Membership

The IFC has four categories of members:

- Full institutional members (currently 55), comprise central banks or international and regional organisations formally involved in central banking issues;
- Associate institutional members (currently none), comprise central banks, central bank related institutions, or international and regional organisations formally involved in central banking issues which do not wish to become full institutional members;
- Associate individual members (currently 3), consist of economic or statistical experts from public and private sector organisations and from the academic community, including members from ISI sections and committees;
- Honorary members (currently 7), who are elected in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the work of the IFC.

The list of members is posted on the IFC web site.

Activities

IFC/Bank of Canada Workshop, June 2005

The Committee co-sponsored a workshop at the Bank of Canada in Ottawa on the topic of "Data Requirements for Analysing the Stability and Vulnerability of Mature Financial Systems". The proceedings of the workshop, including an overall summary of its findings were published in the 23rd issue of the IFC Bulletin. The findings were presented at the BIS Committee on the Global Financial System.

CPI Workshop, 20 and 21 April 2006

The IFC hosted a workshop entitled "CPI Measures: Central Bank views and concerns". 37 CPI experts from 26 central banks and the IMF attended the workshop. Discussions covered a number of issues, including international methodological standards for CPI, inflation measures from the perspective of monetary policy and quantifying the measurement bias in CPIs. Issue notes and summaries of the discussions as well as comparative tables were published in the 24th issue of the IFC Bulletin. As a result of the workshop, suggestions for future work were submitted to international groups dealing with international CPI methodology.

Third IFC Conference, 30 and 31 August 2006

The theme of the conference was "Measuring the Financial Position of the Household Sector". The importance of this topic in central banking circles was reflected in the interest shown in the conference: more than 130 experts from 68 central banks participated in the conference and 42 papers were presented. The themes covered measurement issues related to household wealth and debt, distributional aspects of household finances and the use of household surveys to gather information on household finances. The results of the conference were published in the 25th and 26th issues of the IFC Bulletin.

Contribution to the IAOS Conference, September 2006

The IFC contributed to a conference entitled "People on the Move", organised by the International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS). The IAOS had invited the IFC to organise a plenary session on the topic "Financial Aspects of Migration: The Measurement of Remittances". Mr Cadete de Matos, member of the IFC Executive and Director of the Statistics Department at the Banco de Portugal, structured and chaired the session. The papers presented during the session will be published in the 27th issue of the IFC Bulletin.

BIS Governors Meeting, January 2007

The IFC and its activities were on the agenda of the January 2007 bi-monthly meeting of the Governors of the BIS shareholding central banks (almost all of which are institutional member of the IFC). The topic of the meeting was "Central Bank Policymaking: the Statistical Challenge and the Irving Fisher Committee". The IFC chairman was invited to provide the Governors with background information on the structure, objectives and activities of the Committee. The discussion focused on data issues related to financial and monetary stability and used the material produced at recent IFC workshops. During the discussion Governors made a number of suggestions for possible future analysis by the Committee. They also asked that the Chairman of the IFC provides them with a regular update of the Committee's activities.

Workshops with SEACEN and CEMLA, June and December 2007

A workshop on "The use of surveys by central banks" took place in Pune, India from 27 to 29 June 2007. It was organised by the IFC in cooperation with SEACEN (the South East Asian Central Banks Research and Training Centre) and hosted by the Reserve Bank of India. The workshop started by providing participants with an overview of central bank data collection practices. Thereafter it focused on different kinds of surveys, namely surveys on consumers/households, the business sector and monetary and financial conditions as well as international surveys and surveys for the compilation of external sector statistics. In December 2007 the IFC will organise another workshop on the same topic with CEMLA (Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies). This workshop will take place in the week of 10 December 2007 and will be hosted by the Central Bank of the Republic of Argentina.

Publications and website

IFC Bulletins contain the proceedings of the various meetings organised by the Committee on topical statistical issues of interest to the international central banking community. Hard copies of the Bulletins are available free of charge and electronic copies can be downloaded from the IFC website. As the IFC Bulletin is now part of the BIS publication series, it is registered and has ISSN and ISBN numbers. Papers published in the Bulletins will therefore be picked up more readily by internet search engines.

The IFC encourages the publication of analytical work on topical statistical issues of interest to the international central banking community, other than that presented at its various meetings. Therefore the Committee launched a new IFC Working Paper Series which will contain analysis by experts of the Committee's institutional members as well as by analysts outside the central banking community. The Working Papers need to meet a number of criteria. More information can be found on the IFC website.

The IFC website has been incorporated with the BIS website early in 2007 and made more attractive. A separate web-based application is available for the participants in IFC meetings, staff at institutional member institutions as well as for the Committee and Executive.