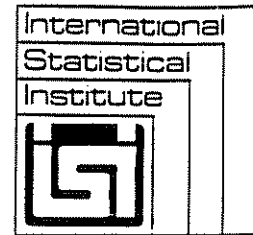


June 1995



INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

Recent Activities

Introduction

This note was prepared for members and participants of the Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians and of the subsequent meeting of the ACC Sub-Committee of Statistical Activities in Geneva.

Beijing Session of ISI

The 50th Session of the ISI will take place August 21-29, 1995 in Beijing, China. A program of over 500 scientific papers is envisaged on a wide range of topics. The ISI Sessions, and ISI in general, attempt to provide an interface among statisticians in academia, government and the private sector. In addition to the scientific meetings a great number of ISI Committee meetings, ISI and Section General Assemblies, as well as cultural activities will take place. Also, there will be a 3 day workshop (in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank) for chief statisticians of Asian transition countries. The 51st Session in 1997 will be held in Istanbul, Turkey; the 1999 Session in Helsinki, Finland (subject to formal approval by the ISI General Assembly in 1995); and the 2001 Session will probably take place in Seoul, Korea. Longer-term explorations about holding the 2003 Session in Germany and the 2005 Session in Australia are also under way.

Special Conferences

In addition to the Sessions, which occur in odd numbered years, ISI also convenes special conferences in even numbered years. In 1992 a conference was organized about statistical confidentiality in Dublin, Ireland. In 1994 a conference was held in Voorburg, The Netherlands entitled "Long-term Perspectives of International Statistics" (the Proceedings of this conference will be issued in the spring of this year). In 1996 a conference dealing with "Accuracy, Timeliness and Reliability of Economic Statistics" will take place in Washington D.C. These conferences are sponsored by ISI jointly with other organizations. For example EUROSTAT has been co-sponsor of all three events mentioned; in the 1994 conference Statistics Netherlands and other Dutch authorities participated; in 1996 the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Department of Commerce will act as the local host and co-sponsor. The program of the Washington Conference includes 8 basic papers (3 from Europe, 2 from Asia, and 3 from North America) and there will be 16 invited discussants.

Publications

Last year ISI launched a new publication entitled 'Annual Report on International Statistics' (ARIS), with the generous help of INSEE, Paris. The manuscript of the 1995 issue of ARIS has just been completed for transmittal for printing in Paris; it will have a somewhat enlarged coverage as some additional organizations have submitted information to be included in this well received international overview of statistical activities. ARIS includes reports about ISI, its Sections (five associations dealing with official statistics; mathematical statistics and probability; statistical computing; statistical surveys; and statistical education), about national statistical societies, and about many international statistical bodies.

The proceedings of the September 1994 Voorburg Conference about long-term perspectives in international statistics are also ready for the printer (in The Netherlands). It will appear in a volume entitled The Future of Statistics: An International Perspective early this summer.

The 1995 ISI Directory, which contains an updated list of members as well as lists of national and international statistical agencies and societies is already at the printer in Germany (to be produced with the generous help of the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden).

Another publication, a multilingual dictionary of statistical terms, is presently under preparation, based on the items in the Kendall-Buckland-Marriott 'Dictionary of Statistical Terms' of ISI. The initial version will cover six languages (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Dutch) but materials for expanding it with at least another eight languages are also at hand.

Briefing Seminars for Chief Statisticians

In recent years ISI has been conducting Briefing Seminars for new Chief Statisticians about the complexities of the international statistical system. Beginning in 1995, the Briefing Seminar will be carried out jointly with the Training of European Statisticians (TES) program of EUROSTAT. The next seminar will take place October 16-18, 1995 in Voorburg, The Netherlands. In addition to Professor Begeer, Professor Keller and Mr. de Vries (Directors at Statistics Netherlands), Mr. De Michelis (Director at EUROSTAT), the Director of ISI and others will make presentations at the Briefing Seminar. Interest in participating in the 1995 Briefing Seminar has increased considerably from previous levels and it appears that a productive and stimulating meeting will be possible about the subject.

Other Activities

ISI is promoting the cause of a World Numeracy Program (WNP), which on the analogy of UNESCO's World Literacy Program aims at spreading quantitative skills and statistical knowledge world-wide. It is hoped that a number of national numeracy programs will be stimulated with the help of national statistical associations and UNESCO national commissions at the Beijing Session of the ISI. In addition several other projects, including TV programs on the subject and possibly a museum of statistics are being explored.

ISI also has been participating in activities organized by UNFPA to follow up the Cairo Population Conference. The current emphasis is on improving and disseminating quantitative information about reproductive health, a matter closely connected to earlier ISI activities regarding fertility surveys.

Explorations are under way concerning the use of electronic means for ISI information and publications. In particular, involvement in the World Wide Web is explored for later this year. Two ISI Sections, the International Association for Statistical Computing and the International Association of Statistical Education are already using the Internet and the ISI involvement will build on their experience.

Further Information

On all points mentioned above, and regarding ISI and its Sections in general, further information can be obtained from the Permanent Office of the ISI, at the following address:

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