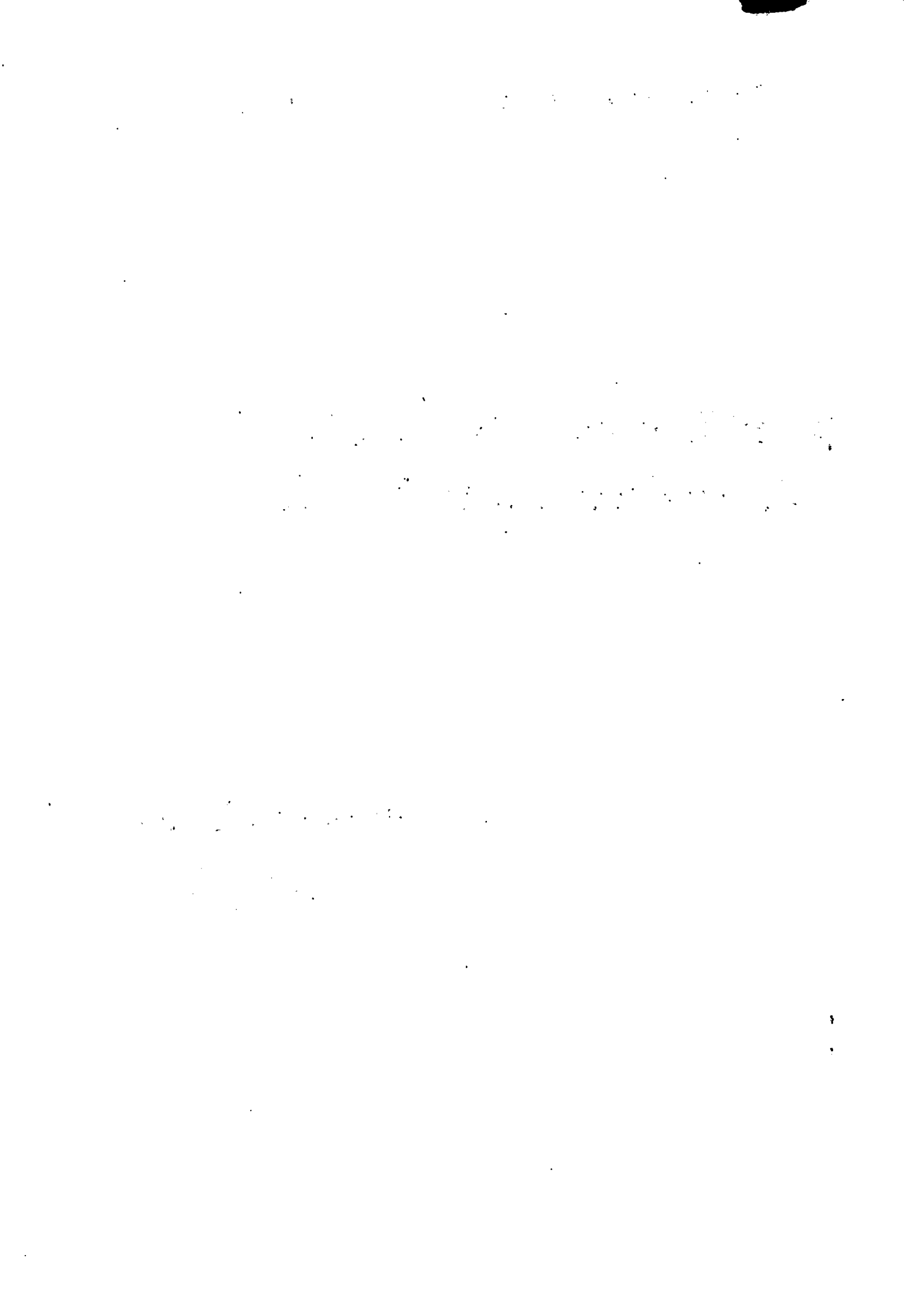


INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF SURVEY STATISTICIANS**

THE SURVEY STATISTICIAN

n°18



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DECEMBER 1987

- TOKYO SESSION

1.1. The 1987-1989 Council

The composition of the Council elected between march and july, 1987, is as follows :

<u>President</u>	Mr Colm O'MUIRCHARTAIGH (Ireland)
<u>President-elect</u>	Mrs Barbara BAILAR (USA)
<u>Executive Director</u>	Mr Xavier CHAROY (France)
<u>Vice-Presidents</u>	Mr Graham KALTON (USA)
	Mr Alvaro GONZALES VILLALOBOS (Brazil)
<u>Scientific Secretary</u>	Mr Ugo TRIVELLATO (Italy)
<u>Members 1987-1989</u>	Mrs Clyde CHARRE DE TRABUCHI (Argentina)
	Mr Eugène K. FOREMAN (Australia)
	Mr Richard PLATEK (Canada)
	Mr A.J. SCOTT (New-Zealand)
	Mr Daroga SINGH (Inde)
	Mr Kirk M. WOLTER (USA)
<u>1989-1991</u>	Mr Gordon BRACKSTONE (Canada)
	Mrs Beverley CARLSON (USA)
	Mr Jacques CHARMES (France)
	Mr Ben KIREGYERA (Uganda)
	Mr Kinichiro SAITO (Japan)
	Mr Heinrich STRECKER (F.R.G.)

1.2. The reports to the General Assembly

President's report by Ivan FELLEGI

Looking back on the past two years I can think of some achievements to be proud of ; and some disappointments as well. But if I didn't have any disappointments that would be a sign of inadequate ambitions for IASS ; or complacency. But, following in the footsteps of a singularly productive President, Leslie Kish, I may have unrealistically expected to duplicate his performance.

SECRETARIAT

INSEE, as before, continued to provide secretarial support for IASS generously. Without that support the Association could no possibly have maintained its range of activities while also maintaining its very low membership fees. We owe a genuine debt of gratitude to INSEE.

I was particularly fortunate to be able to count on the services of Mr Charoy as Executive Director of the Association. He is thoughtful, dedicated and has been helpful to me immeasurably. It is my impression that the Secretariat as a whole has functioned much better than in the past.

PUBLICATIONS

Improvements in the substantive content have occurred. I particularly like the new service in the Survey Statistician of brief abstracts of articles of interest to our members which have been published in relevant journals. Our Scientific Secretary, Professor Holt - together with a number of voluntary "monitors" - deserves much of the credit.

There is still, however, much room for improvement : appropriate sections of the Survey Statistician are not well enough identified ; the scheduling of the different issues is quite unpredictable (making it more difficult to have widely known "closing dates" for manuscripts and announcements) and the quality of the English text leaves a great deal to be desired. This latter problem will, I expect, be rectified : Statistics Canada volunteered its services to do the translation.

We distributed a sample copy of Survey Methodology, published by Statistics Canada, free of charge to members. We also obtained substantially reduced rates of subscription to this journal, as well as reduced rates for the Journal of Official Statistics published by Statistics Sweden. I hope many of you will take advantage of it.

Last but not least, the Secretariat once again made an excellent contribution by publishing the relevant papers presented during our 1985 meeting in Amsterdam. This free service to our members is particularly important for those who could not participate in person. This is a another extremely valuable contribution by INSEE to IASS.

MEETING AND WORKSHOPS

One of the most significant developments has been our success in obtaining funding from several sources for a workshop on survey methodology designed for statisticians from developing countries. The idea was to seek sufficient funding so that those attending the workshop could also benefit from the excellent opportunity of attending the ISI/IASS meetings in Tokyo.

The first breakthrough occurred when the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada responded positively to my request for seed money for this initiative. They contributed \$ 30,000 Canadian (approximately \$ 22,350 U.S.). This guaranteed the possibility of holding at least a small workshop. I then approached a host of other funding agencies, national and international statistical offices, and the ISI itself. I was delighted by the response : a total of some 7 donors contributed in total about \$ 75,000 (U.S.) this should permit us to bring 15-20 developing country statisticians to the workshop and to the ISI/IASS meetings (depending on final arrangements and final unit costs).

Special credits are due : to IDRC for their generous initial contribution which made the workshop possible ; to Professor Holt who carried out all the considerable work in organizing the workshop ; and to the seminar leaders, all of whom are donating their time.

IASS also cosponsored two other very successful meetings : one on Panel Surveys and one on Telephone Surveys.

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES

My greatest disappointment is that we have not been able to get a lively dialog going with Country Representatives : there are far too few contributions to the Country Reports section of the Survey Statistician. I shall look forward to a meeting of representatives who are able to get to Tokyo to see how we can make more progress in this area.

It has been an honour to serve as your President. Please help President O'Muircheartaigh as much as you can to keep the Association healthy. I do believe it is a worthy cause.

Executive Director's Report by Xavier CHAROY

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

Since the creation of the IASS on January 1, 1984, the Secretariat of the Association has been the responsibility of the French Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques (INSEE).

At the present time, the Secretariat is made up of : Executive Director X.CHAROY, appointed in 1985 by the Association Council ; the editor of Le Statisticien d'Enquêtes/The Survey Statistician, G. ROY ; the executive secretary Mrs A.M. VESPA-LEYDER and a secretary Ms. F. ANSELMi. All of the above are on the payroll of the INSEE ; only Mrs VESPA-LEYDER and Ms ANSELMi are full-time Secretariat employees.

The Secretariat looks after the permanent administrative tasks of managing the Association (collecting fees, updating the membership list, organizing elections, etc.), preparing, editing and distributing The Survey Statistician and other Association publications, preparing for the biennial sessions, corresponding with Executive Members, the Council and the Country Representatives.

INSEE also provides much assistance in kind (premises, telephone, mailing of correspondence and publications, printing of the newsletter, the directory and various other publications). Once again, our thanks to Institute's Director General, Mr MALINVAUD.

PUBLICATIONS

2.1. The Association's main publication is The Survey Statistician, which comes out in June and December each year (admittedly, sometimes with a bit of a delay). This four issues have been published since the Amsterdam session ; number 14 of December 1985 contained the minutes of the Council and General Assembly meetings as well as the reports submitted to that Assembly.

The Survey Statistician is published in French and English and sent to Association members according to their choice of language when they join. Starting with the June 1987 issue, Statistics Canada has kindly provided translation services. In addition, the Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE) of Spain provides a Spanish version for members speaking that language. Since the Amsterdam session, numbers 13, 14, 15 and 16 have been translated in this way. Our thanks to the INE and its Director General for this contribution.

2.2. At the Amsterdam Session, the Executive decided to accept Statistics Canada's proposition to adopt Survey Methodology as the Association's technical publication. Members may subscribe at a preferential rate ; subscription payments are sent to the Secretariat along with membership fees, and forwarded to Statistics Canada.

2.3. The Secretariat distributes the ISI Newsletter (which comes out three times a year) to all Association members who are no members of the ISI.

2.4. As an aftermath to the Amsterdam session, a two volume collection of the invited papers read at the sessions organized by the IASS, as well as a few other papers judged to be of interest to survey statisticians, have been distributed to all members. The proceedings of the Congress had been distributed only to ISI members and persons attending the sessions.

2.5. A new edition of the membership directory, updated as at May 1987, has just been published and distributed.

MEMBERSHIP

As at May 1987, there were 1 144 members, 220 of which were also members of the ISI.

Geographical breakdown was as follows :

Black Africa	139
North Africa and Middle East	42
Asia (minus Middle East)	126
Oceania and Pacific	72
North America	275
Latin America and Carribean	153
Western Europe	292
Eastern Europe	22
Misc.	23

It will be noted that the figures for Eastern Europe are still very low.

There are, in addition, 13 corporate members, mainly statistical offices. These institutions merit a thank you for their assistance to the Association via 2 000 FF assessment (reduced to 800 FF for developing countries).

The numbers are down about 5 % over what they were just before the Amsterdam session. This is in part explainable by the fact that some members were struck from the list for not having paid their membership fees for more than three years. When the count reported was taken, a reminder letter to them and to all those who have not paid their 1987 dues had had no results.

Follow-up on members by the Country Representatives, bases on information provided by the Secretariat, has not been carried out sufficiently. Probably the responsibility for this failure lies on both sides (Secretariat and correspondents). It is certain that an effort to recruit new members and keep the old ones must be done in the future.

FINANCES

We herewith present the accounts for 1985 and 1986

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
Membership fees	109,200.92	81,708.04
Financial proceeds	4,049.08	3,690.16
Other	19,280.00	-
TOTAL	132,530.00	85,398.20
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Staff	20,427.57	3,048.39
Presidential Secretariat	19,328.42	-
Miscellaneous secretarial expenses	4,326.97	5,325.45
Travel and meetings	38,458.65	2,010.00
ISI Newsletter	18,887.07	6,684.88
Survey Methodology	-	1,260.08
Investments	18,420.30	-
Misc.	11,448.73	83.75
TOTAL	131,297.71	18,412.55
Excess over receipts	1,232.29	66,985.65

It will be immediately noted that there was a marked drop in membership income between 1985 and 1986. This confirms the drop in membership already mentioned and gives rise to a concern that this trend will be accentuated in future, if steps are not taken.

As for costs, it will be noted that there is a decrease in personnel expenses ; instead of paying for translations, the Secretariat initially took them over and now Statistics Canada is providing them. Presidential Secretariat expenses have also disappeared, because President Fellegi, unlike President Kish, can have these expenses met by his organization (Statistics Canada). The decrease in the "Travel and meetings" category between 1985 and 1986 is explained by the fact that there was no congress in 1986. There will be a large increase in 1987.

As at July 15, 1987, the bank and postal accounts had a positive balance of 151 878,50 F ; financial investments were estimated at 50 480 F.

Scientific Secretary's Report by David HOLT

1 - IASS WORKSHOP FOR STATISTICIANS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (Tokyo ; 4-7th September, 1987)

We are indebted to our President, Ivan Fellegi, for his efforts in raising the equivalent of about US \$ 77,000 to fund a Workshop for statisticians from developing countries immediately prior to the ISI meetings in Tokyo. We are grateful, also, to all of the agencies which contributed.

At the time of writing this report the precise number of participants at the Workshop is unknown but we hope that we will have been able to support 15-20 statisticians from developing countries to attend both the Workshop and the ISI Meetings. Each participant was required to identify a topic which was relevant to their work and which was an obstacle to producing good quality, timely statistical estimates. The programme for the Workshop was based on these topics and therefore aimed at the real needs of statisticians working in the developing countries. Our purpose was to identify problems and to share experiences from different countries with an additional contribution from a small number of survey experts. Our hope was to create a better understanding of each problem, and to learn about solutions already practised in other countries.

Workshop Funding Agencies

International Development Research Corporation (IDRC) Canada	Can\$ 30000
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	US\$ 10000
Overseas Development Administration (ODA) - United Kingdom	10000
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	AS\$ 12000
ISI Studies Fund (ISI)	G 15000
Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI)	US\$ 8000
Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC)	US\$ 6000

2 - STATISTICAL SUMMARIES

Since the General Assembly in Amsterdam in 1985 we have created a panel of monitors, each of whom reads one of the major statistical journals to identify papers which should be drawn to the attention of our members. We are particularly anxious to identify papers that may be of interest to statisticians in developing countries (who may not have access to journals) and practising statisticians in Government Departements, etcetera. We have published brief summaries in the Survey Statistician which are meant to give enough information to help our members decide which papers they should read more fully. The purpose is to bring articles to the attention of members, not to provide a full account of the contents.

I am very grateful to the Monitors who have agreed to support the Association in this way. Their efforts in monitoring the Journals, commissioning summaries or in some cases writing them personally, is greatly appreciated.

3 - SURVEY ADVICE BY CORRESPONDENCE

The Association has established a list of "experts" who would be prepared to give advice on statistical problems by correspondence. The idea is that the most suitable problems and solutions would be published in the Survey Statistician and so be available to all of our members. This endeavour has not succeeded because of a lack of problems sent in by members. Perhaps the scheme has not been published widely enough or perhaps the need for the service does not exist but the next Scientific Secretary, and Executive will have to consider this matter.

Since Dr Verma ceased to be Director of the International Research Centre, the service has not had a single coordinator and if it is to be relaunched a new coordinator will need to be found.

4 - CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

I am pleased to report that the IASS were joint sponsors with the American Statistical Association of the International Symposium on Panel Surveys held in Washington in November, 1986. This was a very interesting and successful meeting with more than 100 participants. It is hoped that a book will be published containing many of the papers presented.

The IASS has agreed to co-sponsor an International Conference on Telephone Survey Methodology, jointly with the American Statistical Association and the American Association for Public Opinion Research. This will be held 8th-11th November, 1987 in Charlotte, North Carolina, U.S.A.

1987 Programme Committee by Graham KALTON

Composition of the Committee :

Chairman : Mr Graham KALTON (U.K.)

Members : Mr Wilton BUSSAB (Brazil)

Ms Beverley CARLSON (U.S.A.)

Mr Bert KERSTEN (Netherlands)

Mr Jan KORDOS (Poland)

Mr Colm O'MUIRCHEARTAIGH (Ireland) Scientific Secretary

Mr Gildas ROY (France)

Mr Dennis TREWIN (Australia) Chair of the 1985 Programme Committee

Procedures

The Committee started its work prior to the 1985 Session by compiling a large number of suggestions of topics for the 1987 programme, and also of possible organizers of meetings and speakers. Letters inviting suggestions were sent to Regional and Country representatives and some other IASS members, and invitations to submit suggestions were placed in the Survey Statistician and International Statistical Information.

The Committee carried out an initial evaluation of the suggestions received by mail, and then determined its final recommendations at meetings in the ISI Session at Amsterdam. These recommendations were then made to the ISI Programme Coordinating Committee.

Programme

The following meetings for invited papers in the 1987 Session have been organized by the IASS. The names given with the meeting titles are those of the organizers.

Measurement and utilization of health related indicators V.K. VERMA (India)

Measuring change from surveys G.J. BRACKSTONE (Canada)

Master samples in national household surveys A.K.M. GHULAM RABBANI (Bangladesh)

Variance estimation with complex samples A.J. SCOTT (New Zealand)

The future of the population census L. HERBERGER (FRG)

Methodological issues in surveys for price indexes B.M. BALK (Netherlands)

Effects of mode of data collection on survey response D. LIEVESLEY (U.K.)

Survey processing on microcomputers B.N. DISKEN (USA) & T. WALCZAK (Poland) (Joint with IASC)

Small area statistics A. MARTON (Hungary)

The programme for the invited paper meetings includes participants (organizers, speakers, and discussants) from a wide range of countries, including :

Australia	Japan
Bangladesh	New Zealand
Burma	Netherlands
Canada	Norway
Denmark	Poland
Egypt	Sri Lanka
FRG	Sweden
France	Tanzania
GDR	UK
Hungary	USA
India	Yugoslavia
Italy	Zimbabwe
Israel	

In addition a number of special topic contributed paper sessions have been organized on topics of interest to IASS members, including :

Statistical methodology for studying the status of women B.A. CARLSON (USA)
Census evaluation A. LERY (France)
Handling missing data in surveys R.J.A. LITTLE (USA)
Timeliness and accuracy in preliminary estimates and revisions of economic data U. TRIVELLATO (Italy)
Survey sampling V.P. GODAMBE (India)
Confidentiality protection in national statistical offices L.H. COX (USA)

The IASS has also organized a Workshop for Survey Statisticians from Developing Countries, which is being held prior to the ISI Session, from 4-7 September, 1987 in Tokyo.

1989 Programme Committee by Luigi BIGGERI

Composition of the Committee :

Chairman : Mr L. BIGGERI (Italy)

Members : Mrs C. CHARRE DE TRABUCHI (Argentina)
Mr W.A. FULLER (U.S.A.)
Mr W.J. KELLER (Netherlands)
Mr H. KUDO (Japan)
Mr H. LEMEL (France)
Mr A. MARTON (Hungary)
Mr F. MEHRAN (Switzerland)
Mr G. NATHAN (Israel)
Mr H. WU (China)
Mr D. HOLT (U.K.) (ex officio)
Mr G. KALTON (U.S.A.)

Report of the Chairman of the 1989 IASS Program Committee

The work for the Program Committee began in the first months of the year 1986 and since then the following activities have been carried on :

- 1 - A note advising the composition of the Committee and asking for suggestions regarding topics was sent and published in the ISI Newsletter and in the Survey Statistician.
- 2 - A letter was sent to many IASS members in order to obtain advice and assistance on topics, organizers and authors for invited papers meetings and, in case, for special topics contributed paper meetings. The letter, asking to specify the methodological and/or empirical aspects of the proposal, was sent to :

- the members of the present and previous IASS Council
 - the IASS local Representatives
 - the members of the IASS Committee
 - the more active IASS members (about n° 135)
 - the members of the 1987 Program Committee
 - the IASS Italian members
- 3 - With the active collaboration of the Committee members, a lot of suggestions were envoyed to me ; in fact 45 members replied with about 140 proposals. This is certainly a very valuable result. However the large number of proposals for topics include a great deal of duplications or approximate duplications, many of the topics are much more suitable for the other ISI Sections or for a general ISI session and some topics were either on the 85 or on the 87 programs.
- 4 - In any case, a list of the suggested topics was prepared (ranking them approximately into ten groups relating to their main characteristics : methodological, applied, etc...) and it was sent to the members of the Committee asking them to rank the topics and to identify the "favourite" ones.
- 5 - We have already received the replies, views and suggestions on the prepered topics by seven Committee members. Now we'll coordinate the responses and will prepare a first consolidated list of suggestions for the invited paper meetings for the Paris Session.
The list will be sent to each member of the Program Committee and will be discussed in the Program Committee meetings, which will be held in Tokyo.

Nomination Committee (1985-1987) by Lars LYBERG

Composition of the Committee :

Chairman : Mr Lars LYBERG

Members : Mr Thomas B. JABINE (USA)
Mr Alain LERY (France)
Mr Gotthard FORBRIG (GDR)
Mr Akin FADAHUNSI (Nigeria)
Mrs Charre de TRABUCHI (Argentina)

I - FORMAL PROCEDURES

1. Compiling a preliminary list of potential candidates

- a) The Nominating Committee was formed after the Amsterdam meeting.

Repeated attempts were made to get a committee member from Asia. These attempts failed.

- b) Each member suggested possible candidates for the various positions. A consolidated list of candidates was compiled.

2. Vote by Committee members

- a) The members of the Nominating Committee were asked to vote for :

- 1 - Two President-elect candidates
- 2 - Four Vice-presidents
- 3 - Two Scientific secretaries
- 4 - 12 Council members

- b) The ballots were counted by the chairperson and a list of candidates was drawn up on the basis of the results.

3. Approaching the candidates

a) For each position the chairman wrote to those candidates that received the most votes. The purpose of the letter was to ask whether the candidate would accept the nomination. The letter made it clear that the candidate was being nominated to stand for election. The candidate was informed about the number of other candidates and their respective positions. The length of term was also specified. The names of other potential candidates were not revealed.

b) Provided the candidate was willing to stand for election, he/she was asked to send a CV of 100-150 words which would eventually accompany the ballot sent to the IASS members.

c) If the candidate approached was unwilling to stand for election or did not reply in time the next candidate, ordered by number of votes for that position, was approached. In some cases such additional candidates had to be contacted by special courier letters because of time constraints.

4. Notification to the IASS secretariat

On March 1, 1987, the complete list of candidates and their CV's were sent to the IASS Secretary. This material was used to prepare the ballot. The Nominating Committee's involvement ended at this point in time.

II - NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

1. If possible the Nominating Committee or parts of it should meet during the previous ISI meeting so that the nominating procedure can start as soon as possible.

2. IASS should compile general guidelines for committee members that should accompany the chairperson's initial request for candidates. Such guidelines should contain instructions regarding restrictions on the composition of the council.

3. To these general guidelines the chairperson should add specific instructions regarding necessary geographical representation among candidates. Committee members should also be encouraged to suggest more female candidates.

4. It is this chairman's experience that postal services in many countries are indeed poor. Some nominal candidates were simply impossible to reach by ordinary mail. Telex, telephone and special courier mail had to be used in the final stages of the nominating process. Also, the votes by one of the committee members got lost in the mail, which caused an extra delay of 45 days. Therefore, standard mail should be used as little as possible during the later stages of the process. Committee members should send their ballots by telex or special delivery. If these procedures causes financial problems for some committee members, the IASS should reimburse them.

5. The nominating procedure should start right after the previous ISI meeting. During the first six months ordinary mail could be used after that period the special contact measures mentioned above should be used.

Publication Committee by Richard PLATEK

Composition of the Committee :

Chairman : Mr Richard PLATEK (Canada)

Members : Mr E. DE ALBA (Mexico)
Mr E. GOLFIELD (USA)
Mr T.V. HANURAV (India)
Mr L. LYBERG (Sweden)
Mr G. ROY (France)

The Committee had for its objectives to ensure that members of the IASS be made aware and have access to various publications relevant to their needs.

For a number of years an idea had been oscillating between the creation of a journal of IASS or the adoption, under some suitable conditions, of one of the existing journals for the purpose. Although the idea of creating a separate journal is not without an appeal, it has many practical problems. The choice of the character for the journal, a continuing flow of suitable articles, and adequate method of refereeing are only some of the problems that a budding journal would have to face.

As an alternative, two existing journals were looked at as possible candidates that might fill the needs of IASS.

The two journals were "Survey Methodology" published by Statistics Canada and "The Journal of Official Statistics" published by Statistics Sweden. The two journals differ somewhat. The Journal of Official Statistics is an international review of problems facing statisticians all over the world. The Journal of Survey Methodology has been published for several years (in English and French). Its articles come from the technical staff of Statistics Canada and some contribution from survey statisticians all over the world. The Journal has a liberal policy permitting republication in other journals.

It was felt that Survey Methodology Journal came close to the interests of IASS members in its content and being published in English and French, both official languages of IASS.

Consequently, an arrangement has been reached between Statistics Canada, the producer of Survey Methodology Journal, and the IASS concerning the availability of the Journal to the members of IASS. Under this agreement the members will be able to acquire the Journal at a reduced rate. The price of an annual subscription is 60 French Francs for members in developed countries and 30 French Francs for members in developing countries.

A special form has been designed which enables the members to subscribe to the Journal at the time of renewing their annual membership. At present there are 152 subscribers who have availed themselves of the arrangement. However, every renewal time produces a few more commitments. The committee feels that this has been an important and positive step forward. The arrangement with the Journal of Official Statistics produced by Sweden is somewhat less formal. Nevertheless, the Journal is easily available to the members. In making all these arrangements the chairman of this committee received a great deal of support from past and present presidents of IASS.

There are still some issues which should be considered by a future publication committee. As the contact between the IASS and the Journal of Survey Methodology becomes solid and permanent a question should be discussed whether there is a need for a special relationship between the IASS and the board of the journal. Should the IASS be represented at the Editorial Board? Should there be a special section in the Journal which could be devoted to the interests of the IASS or some parts of the IASS like the 3rd World? Publication committee should be continuously concerned with the identification of reviews, proceedings, articles, symposia, etc. which might be of value and interest to the members.

Undoubtedly all this requires some work and dedication on the part of the members of publication committee. Thus far, there has been very little cooperation among the members of this committee. In fact, with the exception of Lars Lyberg, not a single member has ever replied to any communication sent to them by the chairman. I am convinced there is a need for the existence of a publication committee. I would, however, like to make a couple of suggestions which would improve the working and effectiveness of such a committee.

First of all, prior to nominating a member to serve on the committee a firm commitment must be obtained of the willingness to participate in the work of the committee. The nominating letter from the president of the association to a prospective member should stress that it is an honour to be asked to serve on the committee and it should require a reply sent to the president from the member on his/her intentions. I feel also that the number of members of the committee should not exceed four members plus a chairperson. The president of the association on the recommendations from the chairperson of the committee can at any time change the composition of the committee. To avoid any problems, simply new member/s who are willing to do some work could be added to the committee.

If, there is a need for any further explanation of any of the points raised in this report, I would be glad to elaborate upon them.

Seminars Committee by Gérard THEODORE

Composition of the Committee :

Chairman : Mr G. THEODORE (France)

Members : Mrs L. de CERVETTO (Argentina)
Mr V. VERMA (Netherlands)
Mr J. KORDOS (Poland)
Mr G.E. KICKINSON (New Zealand)
Mr O.O. AJAYI (Nigeria)
Mr L. BIGGERI (Italy)
Mr D. SINGH (India)

The Committee's activities have been reduced as a result of the geographical dispersion of its members and the general decrease in credits on the national and international levels for technical assistance.

An interim report was distributed to Committee members on April 7, 1986. No feedback has been received on it.

Contacts were as follows, continent by continent :

1 - Asia

There was an exchange of correspondence in late 1985 and the first quarter of 1986 with Mr Geoffroy Penrice and Mrs Suchada Kiranandana (Head of Statistics Department - Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy - Bangkok - Thailand) with a view to setting up a seminar before the Tokyo meeting. Mrs Kiranandana indicated in a letter dated November 6, 1986 that a two day seminar will be held at Bangkok immediately after the Tokyo session 18-20 Sept. 1987 on the theme "Role of statistics in strategic or development planning". This seminar will be the responsibility of the Thai Statistical Association ; Drs Sanga Subharsi and Prachoom Suwatee have been designated co-directors of the seminar organizing committee. Sessions are slated to address the following :

- . Mathematical Statistics
- . Sample surveys
- . Biostatistics
- . Actuarial and demographic statistics

2 - Africa

Two distinct projects had been envisaged, one for anglophone Africa and one for francophone Africa.

i) Anglophone Africa

Correspondence has been exchanged with our colleagues O.O. Ajayi (Nigeria) and O. Boateng (Ghana). Our colleague Ajayi should be able to give a progress report at Tokyo, if he attends. In his letter of June 1987 he reports that to date there have been problems in securing funds for an English language seminar and suggests using interpretation facilities at a French language seminar. Colleague Boateng has not replied to my correspondence. The IASS would have to submit the file to the OSCE with a view to obtaining the necessary funds.

ii) Francophone Africa

Agreement in principle to the holding of a seminar during the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 1988 has been reached. It was initially slated for the Ivory Coast but probably will be held in Niger, agreement in principle with the Director of Statistics having been obtained. A circular letter was sent out in November 1986 to the various states' statistical services in order to determine their needs and priorities. It seems that "seeking a better balance between the statistical information produced by statistical services and the requirements of economic and social policy", a theme closely related to the concerns expressed by the government of Morocco subsequent to the October 1984 seminar at Rabat, is to be the central theme of this seminar. Positive responses have been received from the government of Morocco, Burundi and Senegal, among others. The seminar is tentatively to be a five day event for some 25 to 30 participants, some statisticians and other users of statistics.

3 - Europe

According to our colleague Martins Collins, Social and Community Planning Research (London) had planned to hold a seminar in September 1986, co-sponsored by the IASS. In early 1986, Dr Mikki Phillips informed the chairman of this committee that the seminar had been moved to Spring 1987. Finally, according to the latest information from Social and Community Planning Research (letter of May 8, 1987), this seminar will be held at Bristol in September 1988.

4 - Latin America

Preliminary contacts were made at Amsterdam with the Director General of Statistics for Argentina, Mr. Beccaria. It is his intention to include a regional seminar on population censuses in the second quarter of the 1988 program, contents yet to be determined.

5 - Tokyo Congress

i) Thanks to contacts made by the IASS President, \$ 30 000 Canadian have been obtained from the International Research Development Centre of Canada (IDRC) with a view to organizing a three day seminar at Tokyo bringing together a number of participants from the developing countries. The IDRC funding should cover the travel and accommodation costs of seven participants. It was hoped that some 12 to 15 persons could attend this seminar. It must be held prior to the ISI sessions (September 4 to 7, 1987). Organization has been entrusted to Dr Holt, IASS Scientific Secretary, with liaison with the IDRC provided by Mr Prigly of Statistics Canada.

ii) During the ISI Congress, a "Question and Answer" session is planned, with attendance by some sixty persons.

The Committee's future and its program are to be discussed in Tokyo.

It seems that the activity of the next committee ought to be more focussed on the promotion of meetings in Latin America and those for anglophone African states.

Terminology Committee by Barbara BAILAR

Composition of the Committee :

Chairman : Mrs Barbara BAILAR (U.S.A)

Members : Mr Colm D'MUIRCHEARTAIGH (Ireland)
Mr F. AZORIN (Spain)
Mr G.K.G. FORBRIG (G.D.R.)
Mrs Judith LESSLER (U.S.A.)
Mr Leslie KISH (U.S.A.)
Mr G. ROY (France)
Mr L. ROSHWALB (U.S.A.)
Mr J.L. SANCHEZ-CRESPO (Spain)

Members of the Terminology Committee corresponded about specific elements of survey terminology. An article describing the use of words such as longitudinal surveys, rotating surveys, and follow-up surveys was written and published in the Survey Statistician. It was also sent for comment to the Community of European Statisticians: Numerous comments were received, with additional clarification. A follow-up article describing the comments was prepared but not published by the Survey Statistician.

Terms dealing with precision and accuracy, following up the discussion at the meeting in Amsterdam, were described by Dr Sanchez-Crespo and Dr Azorin. These have not yet been prepared for comment in the Survey Statistician.

The idea of having a Terminology Column in the Survey Statistician is a good one. In practice, it has not yet achieved its potential.

The work of this Committee is very difficult to do by correspondence. Face-to-face meetings to list the different usages of survey terms are needed.

1.3. Meetings minutes

1.3.1. Council meetings (September 11 and 15, 1987)

1 - MEMBERSHIPS

In order to make it easier for those from countries with non-convertible currencies to become members and pay their dues, I.P. Fellegi proposed that the government organizations be allowed to belong to the association as "collective members". In other words, they would pay and transfer the dues of some of their members. In effect, transfers of funds are more easily done by organizations than by isolated individuals.

Some parties commented that applicants who did not belong to these organizations could not join. However, it should be noted that individuals are in no way excluded from membership.

The proposal, which was agreed to by most of the General Assembly, will be studied in more detail by a working group made up of O.O. Ajayi, J. Charmes, A. Marton and X. Charoy (chairperson).

The downward trend in the number of members, which has manifested itself in particular through a decrease in dues receipts in 1986, cannot yet be attributed to competition from the recently created IAOS.

Mention should be made of the success of the reminder letter sent in July 1987 to members who had failed to pay their dues following the request made at the beginning of the year.

2 - LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

The President, I.P. Fellegi, expressed his disappointment with the lack of drive shown by the local representatives in the past two years.

G. Kalton will be replacing O.O. Ajayi as vice-president in charge of the local-representatives network. In addition, two regional co-ordinators have been appointed - namely, C. Charge de Trabuchi for Latin America and B. Kiregyera for Anglophone Black Africa. The local representatives will receive a set of instructions and working documents before the end of 1987.

3 - COMMITTEES

The Council decided that, in future, the members and chairpersons of the

committees would be appointed for two-year terms, with the possibility of a single two-year extension in some cases. The purpose of this action is to ensure the renewal necessary for the committees' vitality.

* Publications committee

R. Platek's report brought out the difficulty of leading such a committee. For that reason, it was proposed that only one person look at the publications question. R. Platek could do the work until 1989 and then G. Brackstone could take over.

The Association renewed the agreement with Statistics Canada regarding Survey Methodology and will continue to cover half the cost of subscription to this review for members from developing countries.

Statistics Canada would like to see IASS members - particularly those from developing countries - contribute articles to Survey Methodology. The local representatives will have to promote the writing of such contributions.

Statistics Sweden proposes to send T. Dalenius' publication free of charge to those new IASS members from developing countries who have received it.

The presentation of Survey Statistician was recently improved. Statistics Canada continues to provide the translation services for this publication. In order to ensure that the journal is issued regularly, deadlines will be set for the submission of contributions.

* Terminology committee

It is difficult to keep this committee operating, despite the interest that many members have in the matter. However, it was decided that the endeavour would continue under G. Brackstone and R. Tortora.

* Workshops committee

The President, I.P. Fellegi, expressed his gratitude to Tim Holt, the scientific secretary, for organizing the workshop that preceded the session, on september 4-7 and involved 26 participants from developing countries.

Since G. Theodore has indicated his intention to step down as chairman of the workshops committee, B. Carlson will be asked to replace him and C. Theodore will be asked to remain a member of the committee.

The IASS is now directly involved in the following seminars :

- Charlotte (USA, Nov 1987)
- Bristol (UK, Sept 1988)
- Niamey (Niger, Nov 1988)
- Hungary (date not fixed yet)

If the IASS is to sponsor a seminar, the President must approve the program for the seminar. The Council must then be sent a report by the organizers.

Insofar as its financial position allows, the IASS is prepared to finance participation in a few cases for certain seminars.

* Nominating committee

A. Lery will chair the new committee.

* 1991 program committee

K. Wolter will chair the committee.

4 - CONSULTATION-BY-CORRESPONDENCE SERVICE

Since no questions had been asked since this service was created, the Council decided to do away with the service.

5 - PARIS CONFERENCE (1989)

Three Association events should be organized for the Paris conference :

- a workshop for nationals of developing countries (similar to that in Tokyo)
- a short course
- question-and-answer session

B. Bailar will be in charge of co-ordinating the workshop. U. Trivellato should be co-ordinating the short course, even though he will be on sabbatical in 1988-89.

A working group made up of X. Charoy, K. Wolter and U. Trivellato (chairperson) will try to find solutions to the problems connected with organizing these events.

1.3.2. General Assembly (September 14, 1987)

The various reports were presented to the General Assembly by the outgoing president, I.P. Fellegi, the scientific Secretary, T. Holt, the Executive Director, X. Charoy, and the committee chairpersons.

The success of the September 4-7 Tokyo seminar for statisticians from developing countries was pointed out.

The President proposed to the assembly that government organizations be allowed to belong to the IASS as "collective members" to facilitate the collection and transfer of dues, particularly in countries with non-convertible currencies. The assembly voted to accept this proposal.

Moreover, M. Malinvaud proposed that we follow the example of the Bernouilli Society which, when it receives dues from countries with non-convertible currencies (notably eastern countries), uses the money in those countries by organizing seminars there.

It was also suggested we work together with the IAOS.

1.3.3. Meeting of local representatives (September 11, 1987)

1 - Reminder regarding duties of local representatives

- recruiting new members
- keeping old members
- collecting dues

On the new council, G. Kalton has the particular responsibility of leading and co-ordinating the local-representatives network.

The idea was put forward that the IASS should be promoted in certain national statistical publications and at conferences and various seminars. In this way, membership in the Association might be increased.

2 - Country reports

The Secretariat has received few country reports in the past two years.

These reports are supposed to appear in Survey Statistician and are a good way for members to find out about experiences in other countries.

3 - Regional meetings

Several meetings are already planned. For example, there will be one in Bristol (UK) in September 1988 and one in Niamey (Niger) in November 1988.

1.4. - List of Local Representatives

ARGENTINE	Mrs Clyde CHARRE DE TRABUCHI Mrs Clara BADLER	French 2740 1425 BUENOS AIRES Bd Orono 610 P2° 2000 ROSARIO
BANGLADESH	Mr. Siddiquer RAHMÁN	Director, BBS 19, Outer Circular Road Rajarbagh DHAKA-17
BÉLGIUM	Mr. Louis LOHLE-TART	Rue Americaine, 81 B.1050 BRUXELLES
BOTSWANA	Mrs F. MODISE	Central Statistical Office Private Bag 0024 GABORONE
BRAZIL	Mrs E. PINHO DE CASTRO SILVA Mr. Wilton DE OLIVEIRA BUSSAB	Rua Tabápua 308 Apto 52 04533 SÃO PAULO SP Universidade de Sao Paulo Instituto de Matemática e Estatística CP 20570 AQ IQUATEMI SAO PAULO 01451
CANÁDA	Mr Gordon BRACKSTONE	78 Charing Road NEPEA ONTARIO K2G4C9
CHINA	Mr. Hui WHUI	State Statistical Bureau BEIJING
CUBA	Mr. Luis SILVA	Instituto Superior de Ciencias Medicas de la Habana Vice Rectoria de Invest. e Posgrado Avenida 25 N. 15005 PLAYA, HABANA 16
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	Mr. Václav CERMAK	Severozápadni 11 N° 18 Praha 4 14100
DENMARK	Mr. Finn MADSEN	Danish National Institute of Social Research Borgergade 28 DK 13000 KOBENHAVN-K
FRANCE	Mr. Jean-Michel REMPP	INSEE 18 Bld Adolphe Pinard 75675 PARIS CEDEX 14

GERMANY (D.R.)	Mr. Gotthard FORBRIG	Wilhelm Pieck Universität Klement Gottwald St. Nr.6 ROSTOCK 1 2500
GERMANY (F.R.)	Pr. Heinrich STRECKER	Im Rotbad 40 D. 7400 RUEBINGEN
HUNGARY	Mr. Adam MARTON	Central Statistical Office Keleti K. N° 5-7 BUDAPEST 1525
INDIA	Mr. J. ROY	Indian Statistical Institute 203 Barrackpore Trunk Road CALCUTTA 35
INDONESIA	Mrs SUKMADI Sri Budianti	Central Bureau of Statistics J.L. DR Sutomo 8 P.O. Box 3 JAKARTA
ISRAEL	Mrs Malka KANTOROWITZ	Central Bureau of Statistics HAKIRYA - Romena JERUSALEM
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LEBANON	Mr. François FARAH	M.A.S.S. B.P. 208 HAZMIEH
LIBYA	Mr. Farouk EL BISHTI	Statistics Dept. Faculty of Science Al Fateh University P.O. Box 13574 TRIPOLI

MEXICO	Dr. Edmundo F. BERUMEN TORRES	INEGI Insurgentes Sur 795 12 Piso MEXICO D.F. C.P. 03810
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NIGERIA	Mr. O.O. AJAYI	Federal Office of Statistics P.M.B. 12528 LAGOS
NORWAY	Mr. I.B. THOMSEN	Central Bureau of Statistics Dronningsgate 16 OSLO
PAPUA-NEW GUINEA	Mr. John SHADLOW	National Statistical Office P.O. Wards Strip PAPUA NEW GUINEA
PERU	Mrs Leonora LAGUNA	581, Belisario Flores LIMA 14
PHILIPPINES	Mr. Burton ONATE	University of the Philippines at Los Banos College, Laguna Philippines (3720)
SENEGAL	Mme Awa THIONGANE	Direction de la Statistique BP 116 DAKAR
SPAIN	Mrs Carmen ARRIBAS	Instituto Nacional de Estadística paseo de la Castellana, 183 28016 MADRID
SWEDEN	Mr. Lars LYBERG	Statistics Sweden P/STM 115 81 STOCKHOLM
SYRIA	Mr. A. MALEK AL AKHRAS	Office of the Prime Minister. Central Bureau of Statistics DAMASCUS
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2 - NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

2.1 - Timing for sending papers to the Survey Statistician

To be published in the Survey Statistician, articles, announcement and other papers should reach the editor or the Secretariat of the Association at the following dates :

- before April 1st for publication in the June issue
- before October 1st for publication in the December issue.

2.2 - IASS topics at the Paris session.

We give here a provisionnal list of the topics which will be organized by the IASS at the Paris session :

- Data collection and estimations for informal economics
- Methodology of Household Budget Surveys
- Automation of Survey dates : collection and processing (jointly with IASC)
- Methodology of agricultural surveys
- Reduction of memory errors in retrospective surveys
- Estimation and analysis of panel survey data
- Quality improvement of survey questionnaires
- Survey evaluation with special reference to non-sampling errors

2.3. Competition for young statisticians from developing countries

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) announces the Fourth Competition among young statisticians from developing countries who are invited to submit a paper on any topic within the broad field of statistics, for possible presentation at the 47th Session of ISI to be held in Paris, France, in 1989.

Participation in the competition is open to nationals of developing countries who are living in a developing country, who will not be older than 32 years of age in the year during which the Session is to be held.

Papers submitted must be unpublished, original works which may include university theses.

The papers submitted will be examined by an international Jury of distinguished statisticians who are to select the three best papers presented in the competition. Their decision will be final.

The authors of the winning papers will be invited to present personally their papers at the Session of ISI concerned with all expenses paid (i.e. round trip airline ticket from his/her place of residence to Paris plus a lump sum to cover living expenses).

Manuscripts for the Competition should be submitted in time to reach the ISI not later than November 1, 1988.

The rules governing the preparation of papers, application forms and full details are available on request from the ISI Permanent Offices to which interested individuals should write for further information. The address is as follows :

The Director
Permanent Office
International Statistical Institute
428 Prinses Beatrixlaan
2270 AZ Voorburg
The Netherlands

2.4. Country Report

Federal Republic of Germany

During the Annual Session of the Deutsche Statistische Gesellschaft the third meeting of its section "Methods of Statistical Surveys" (Deutsche Statistische Gesellschaft and International Association of Survey Statisticians) took place on 29 September 1987 in Berlin (West) with Professor Dr. Heinrich Strecker in the chair. Three papers were presented and followed by discussions :

a) Report on the planning and realization of the Population Census of May 1987 in the Federal republic of Germany and particularly in Bavaria (vice-

president Diplom-Volkswirt Rudolf Giehl, Bayerisches Landesamt für Statistik und Datenverarbeitung, München)

b) Reasons for non-response in demographic studies (Professor Dr. Hartmut Esser, Universität zu Köln)

c) Efficiency of small samples in population statistics (Director Dipl. Mathematiker Jürgen Schmidt, Statistisches Bundesamt, Wiesbaden)

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 27 September 1988 in Bremen.

Heinrich Streckler, Local Representative of IASS, Federal Republic of Germany.

3 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

3.1. African Population Conference

It will be held in Dakar, Senegal, from November 7 to 12, 1988 and will be sponsored by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) and the Direction de la Statistique of Senegal. All information are to be obtained from :

IUSSP

34, rue des Augustins
4000 LIEGE, BELGIUM

3.2. COMPSTAT'88

8th Symposium on Computational Statistics will be held in Copenhagen, 29 august - 2 september 1988

CALL FOR PAPERS

Secretary : Niels E. Raun

UNI-C

Vermundsgade 5

DK 2100 COPENHAGEN

DENMARK

Computer mail : COMPSTAT D. DK CC RE01.BITNET

3.3. Automation in Survey Processing

The Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics has published a collection of articles describing the growing use of microcomputers in survey logistics and data processing. The authors report on current experiments, investigations and research projects accompanying the introduction of this new technology in the organizational ecology of electronic data processing, which until recently was based exclusively on the mainframe.

Microcomputers are used increasingly in the collection of survey data by telephone or, as handhelds in the field. They prove helpful in integrating questionnaire design and routing and provide data-editing facilities. This kind of computer assistance is rapidly altering survey logistics. The Dutch experience in scouting and assessing the new possibilities is reported in detail in CBS-Select 4 and will be of interest to statisticians, academic researchers and survey specialists.

The introductory chapter outlines the target : the integration of computer assisted survey research. Automated methods are being introduced in face to face interviews, telephone interviews and self-administered questionnaires. A system connecting the software of these various methods with that of intelligent data entry is a development which leads to changes in the organizational structure of survey research institutes such as the Central Bureau of Statistics.

In the Netherlands hand-held computers have been tried out with in a Price Survey and a Consumer Sentiments Survey and were made operational in the Labour Force Survey after a test had shown that they are accepted by interviewers and interviewees alike. Diagnosis of interviewer behaviour and data quality have suggested ways to improve questionnaires.

Data-editing procedures, which are mostly time consuming, were investigated in order to come up with tools for a new efficient system, incorporating more than entry and editing alone. It involves survey processing, combining data-collecting automation and computerized editing techniques in one system using a simple and structured language for the specification of the questionnaires. This BLAISE system generates the software for the successive intelligent and interactive processing steps and provides for interfaces with other statistical packages.

One of the steps already automated in the continuous Labour Survey is occupation coding by means of computer-aided text analysis, string editing and matching, thus transforming in batch verbatim records into 4-digit codes.

A general problem connected with automation is identification and disclosure protection of micro data sets, which are in increasing demand. CBS rules for

privacy protection have made analysis of risks and protective measures necessary as well as the development of an underlying theory and guidelines for protecting micro data.

Developments in computer-aided interviewing and questionnaire administration necessitate the formal analysis of routing structures, including the graph-theoretical description and quality characterization of questionnaires.

Computer-assisted telephone interviewing, now firmly established at the CBS, facilitates fieldwork management aspects like response pattern analysis of contactibility and cooperativeness. Data also become available for investigating telephone interviewer variance. A maximum likelihood procedure based on a beta binomial model finds smaller values than reported for face to face interviewing.

The last chapter of the book gives an account of the computing experience at the CBS and the data-processing hardware history from the perspective of the central computer staff.

"Automation in Survey Processing" is the first compilation of articles in English in the CBS-Select series, which aims to report methodological developments in the field of official statistics in the Netherlands.

This publication (144 pp, Dfl 40.00, excl. postage) can be ordered from : Central Bureau voor de Statistiek, room 0053, P.O. Box 959, 2270 AZ, Voorburg, the Netherlands. The publication, along with an invoice for the amount due, will be sent to you by Staatsuitgeverij in The Hague.

3.4. U.S. Census Bureau's Fourth Annual Research Conference (ARC IV)

ARC IV is scheduled to begin Sunday evening, March 20, 1988, and run through 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 1988, at the National Clarion Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, USA.

The program focuses on "Improvements in Technology & Measurement Problems Related to Census and Survey Operations". The program will devote one session to each of 16 topics within the overall theme, and also include the Shirley Kallek Memorial Lecture. Session topics include : counting the hard-to-enumerate population ; measurement models in undercount research ; improving foreign trade statistics ; statistical models for undercount adjustment ; disclosure research ; automated cartography ; computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) ; methods and software for survey data analysis ; computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) ; expert systems for matching and classifying ; microeconomic panel surveys ; standard industrial classification (SIC) ; demographic coverage improvement ; seasonal adjustment and related research ; issues in survey

methodology ; and quality control.;

For additional information contact Maxime Anderson-Brown, Office of the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233, USA, 301/763-1150.

3.5. I.A.S.S. - I.N.S.E.E. workshop, Niamey, 1988

A workshop will be organized jointly by IASS, the French National Statistical Institute (INSEE) and the Direction de la Statistique of Niger. It will take place in Niamey, Niger, from November 12 to 22, 1988. The subject will be : "adequation between production and demand of statistical data in developing countries".

It comes after two workshops also organized by IASS and INSEE, 1988 in Dakar Senegal and in 1984 in Rabat (Marocco) ; the first one dealt with methodologic problems of censuses and surveys, the second with employment and informal sector statistics.

AS the previous ones this workshop is organized to the benefit of government statisticians from some twenty five French speaking african countries. So as to allow fruitful discussions, the number of participants will be limited to about thirty.

Details may be obtained from :

INSEE, Service de Coopération
18, Boulevard Adolphe Pinard
75675 PARIS CEDEX 14 FRANCE

4 - QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Conducted by Leslie Kish, Please send Questions to him (ISR - the U of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, USA), or, to IASS, Paris. Please indicate whether or not you want your name given with the question. This has become an open forum, and we shall gladly print (after refereeing) additions, modifications, discussions of past published answers. Contributors to answers will be acknowledged if they agree.

Question : The standard errors of statistics (means, regression coefficients, etc.), the estimates $ste(y)$, are often unstable because they are based on too few primary selections (PSU's, replicates, degrees of freedom). This is a common, important problem, which is rather neglected compared to stability (precision) for the principal statistics (\bar{y}), in the form of lower expected standard errors, $Ste(\bar{y})$ for the (\bar{y}), a concern too vast for us here. Also too vast is the topic of how to get more

PSU's for the sample. We are concerned here only with too large sampling errors for the computed values of $st\bar{e}(\bar{y})$ when these are based on too few replicates.

Answer : Questions, discussions and controversies around this topic have troubled me for decades. But consulting others and books have not brought me dependable and portable answers, or references which I could transmit to others. Therefore, my discussions here are tentative, and I invite others to add to and to disagree with them. We should particularly welcome references which are readily accessible, comprehensible, and applicable (portable) to other practical situations. We are concerned chiefly with sample surveys, but these problems are similar to experimental designs, and may be even more common and severe there, and should be so recognized ; also in observational studies, or controlled observations. First, let me clarify the common and important problem by describing its several specific manifestations. Then we can discuss several possible approaches.

1. Few sites. Sometimes entire national (or provincial) surveys must be confined to 10 hospitals, or 10 schools, or 10 districts or to only 4 hospitals, schools or districts.

2. Design domains and subclasses. Statistics for provinces, states and other geographic subclasses are often based on few PSU's (districts, countries) even for large national samples.

3. Interpenetrating samples. These designs have been advocated with 4 replications for national samples, and "fractile analysis" was presented based on 2 replications; also by the late Prof. Mahalanobis. Ten replications of complex samples have been designed and used in order to facilitate computations of the $st\bar{e}(\bar{y})$; these designs have been attributed to Profs. Tukey and Deming. (3,4).

4. Repeated replications (RR). These methods for computing standard errors are also often called balanced repeated replications (BRR), "half-sample" or "pseudo"-replications, or jack-knife repeated replications (JRR). Sometimes they are based on 16 pairs of combined replications, then on 16 "degrees of freedom" (6).

5. Interviewer variances. Studies of the correlated variances of interviewers may be based on 20 (more or less) interviewers, or even fewer pairs of interviewers,

6. National samples of 20 to 50 PSU's. Even for national samples of this size the computation of variances is based typically on 10 to 25 pairs of selections, or "degrees of freedom". These also yield unstable estimates of sampling errors; especially for variances of comparisons, such as $var(\bar{x}-\bar{y})$ for two subclasses or two periods.

What can we do about these problems? A single sampling unit is useless, but from two PSU's one can compute unbiased estimates of variances. Some are willing to stop there, especially since there is no other number beyond two PSU's (and 1 d.f.), that can be denoted as a clear boundary for "measurability". Also 2H PSU's in "paired selections" from H strata serve as bases for many designs of survey samples. With H "large" or "not too small" these are useful, although it is naive to believe (as many do) that such paired selections are either necessary or sufficient for good survey design.

Here are some alternative ways "to pool" sampling errors, "to borrow strength" where the replicates (or the d.f.) are too few. These methods imply "modelling" implicitly and to different extents. However, the sampling errors of the computed ste (\bar{y}) can be extremely large. The coefficient of variation of ste (\bar{y}) is approximately $\sqrt{1/2d}$, where d=degrees of freedom. Thus for 4 interpenetrating samples C.V. [ste(\bar{y})] = $\sqrt{1/6}=0.4$, and for 10 replications, $\sqrt{1/18} = .0,24$, both much too large for many practical purposes.

a) Pooling over periodic surveys of the same design and variables would probably be the first choice when they are available; and those are used fruitfully for labor force surveys in the USA, Canada, Sweden, etc. (8).

b) Pooling over design classes of the same survey may be the choice for major domains (regions, provinces) of one-time national samples. This may be readily done by computing errors for the entire (national) sample and increasing it in proportion to the reduced sizes of design subclasses. It will often require separation of strata (e.g., urban and rural) if these have different designs and different stratum sizes between the subclasses. The technique essentially assumes equal "design effects" (deft^2) across subclasses and the entire sample.

c) Pooling over crossclasses and the entire sample has been practiced frequently. Because the deft^2 vary greatly, rough and modified equality is assumed for values of $\rho = (\text{deft}^2 - 1)/(\bar{b}_c - 1)$. (7,9).

d) Pooling over all variables of a survey has been practiced. However such pooling of deft^2 is crude because those values vary a great deal; e.g. with $b = 100$, and ρ values ranging from 0 to 0.1, the deft^2 varies from 1 to 11. Should we be satisfied with probability statements that are unbiased on the average? Is it better to average $\sqrt{\text{deft}^2} = \text{deft}$ values that vary less?

e) Pooling across similar variables and similar designs poses difficult questions about the sets denoted as "similar". However, these are frequent sources of "borrowing" values of either deft^2 or ρ . The World Fertility Surveys are

sources of many examples, and probably better than most (7,9).

f) Second stages of selection (secondary sampling units, SSU's) can usually yield many more replicates ; usually there are several blocks, segments, E.D.'s etc., per district, country, etc. These methods will yield biased underestimates of variances, because they disregard the clustering of the SSU's within the PSU's. Perhaps with modelling some components may be added to correct for those biases.

g) Collapsing strata of PSU's has been used to increase the d.f. of computations. The 2H PSU's in pairs from H strata have only H d.f.'s, but in triplets will have $(2H) (2/3) = 1.3H$, in quadruples $(2H) (3/4) = 1.5H$, and 2H-1 without any strata. It has also been noted that systematic computations with 2H-1 pairs will yield the precision of 1.3 H pairs. Collapsing strata yields biased overestimates by disregarding the stratification of PSU's (2,3, 10).

h) Modelling of the sampling errors may go further than in the methods above, each of which also depends to somewhat limited extent on models for "borrowing strength". Most common are probably computations based on simple random sampling (SRS), but these often yield very biased underestimates of variances for clustered samples, except when the clusters are very small, including statistics for small crossclasses.

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5 - Statistical Abstracts

5.1. Recent and future activities to improve sampling frames for agriculture

Ron Fecso, Robert D. Tortora, and Frederic A. Vogel

This is a summary of the article which appeared in the 1985 Proceedings of the Section on Survey Research Methods, American Statistical Association. A modified version can also be found in the Journal of Official Statistics, Vol. 2, No. 3, 1986, pp. 279-292.

Information about current and future supplies of agricultural commodities is needed by producers, agribusiness and government. To meet these needs the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (NASS) publishes about 300 national and 9 000 state reports each year. These reports include about 120 crops and 45 livestock items.

Agriculture in the U.S. is a business that consists of about 2.2 million farms. The diversity in farm size and commodities produced has many implications when considering the sampling methodology necessary for an efficient survey program. The skewness of the sampling distributions and the need to estimate for rare items has led to the development of multiple frame sampling procedures relying upon area and list sampling frames.

The area and list sampling frames each have strengths and weaknesses in relation to agricultural sampling in the U.S. This paper details these strengths and weaknesses, outlines the historical development of the sampling frames and survey designs and discusses current and proposed research directions.

Specific topics include stratification techniques, the use of computers and minicomputers in frame development and quality control, the use of satellite data, replicated sampling, record linkage, and multiple frame sampling.

5.2. The Codification of Statistical Ethics

Roger Jowell

Abstract : The international statistical community managed to survive without a code of ethics for its first hundred years. Now, after six years of active discussion and detailed formulation, the International Statistical Institute has published a comprehensive declaration containing an inventory of widely held professional values, a discussion of the ethical and technical conflicts involved in sustaining those values and translating them into statistical work, and guidelines to further reading

about such issues. The declaration is neither just a catalogue of unattainable ideals nor a set of rules, but an "educational code" with the aim of elucidating conflicts rather than enunciating on them. The paper rehearses the arguments that led to this new approach to code formulation and traces both the immediate and the earlier background to the process.

Key words : Code of ethics ; code of practice ; declaration on ethics ; professional code ; professional standards.

Note : The Declaration of Professional Ethics, adopted 1985 by the ISI, is reprinted in an appendix to this article.

COMMUNIQUE :

FIRST IAOS CONFERENCE ON OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN ROME 1988

The first international conference on issues dealing with production and usage of official statistics will be held in Rome, Italy, 4-7 October 1988. The conference is arranged by our Association and is organized by ISTAT, the Statistical Institute of Italy.

1. Structure of the Conference

The conference will consist of three different activities taking place in parallel throughout the four days.

- Invited papers Sessions

There will be four plenary invited papers sessions:

"Quality problems connected with field data collection" (Organizer: B. Kiregyera, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda)

"Legal and ethical problems/issues concerning official statistics" (Organizer: E. Rapaport, Statistics Sweden)

"Role of the private sector in the dissemination of official statistics" (Organizer: J. Duncan, Dun and Bradstreet Corporation, New York, USA)

"Comparisons of the main systems for National Accounts" (Organizer: G. Szilagyi, UN/ECE, Geneva)

- Contributed papers Sessions

A series of contributed papers dealing with problems and developments related to production and usage of official statistics will be discussed during the conference.

- Workshops

A number of small workshops will convene several times during the conference. Each group will prepare a report on a specific subject. The report will be discussed in plenary sessions during the final session of the conference.

Tentatively four workshops are planned for:

"Transfer of knowledge and experiences between statistical offices"

"Official and non-official uses of indices"

"National use of international standards"

"Management of production and processing of official statistics".

2. Call for papers to be presented by the author at the conference

Contributed papers should primarily deal with issues in the following areas:

- Training for official statistics
- Use of administrative data
- Questionnaire design for official statistics
- Data base and data banks for dissemination of official statistics
- Regional official statistics.

Any subject of general interest in the area of production and usage of official statistics can however be accepted.

A contributed paper may not exceed four pages plus one page for abstracts in the two official IAOS languages: English and French.

The deadline for sending intention to submit a contributed paper is April 15, 1988.

The deadline for receiving contributed papers is June 15, 1988.

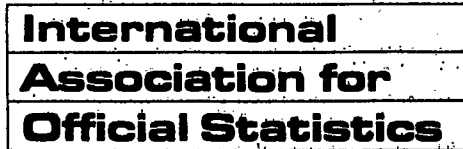
Intentions to submit papers and contributed papers should be sent to:
The Local Organizing Committee of the IAOS Rome 88 Conference
c/o Mrs. Grazia Arangio-Ruiz
ISTAT, Department of International Relations
Via Cesare Balbo 16
I-00184 Rome
Italy

Telex no. 610338 I

3. Intention to participate in IAOS 88 Rome Conference, October 4-7, 1988

Please complete attached reply form and mail it as soon as possible to Mrs. Grazia Arangio-Ruiz at address above.

IAOS ROME 1988 CONFERENCE



Name:.....

Address:.....

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AFFILIATION: IAOS ISI Others:.....

I intend to participate

I intend to submit a paper

a) Subject:.....

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b) Preliminary title:.....

.....

I have the intention to participate in a workshop.

Name of Workshop:.....

I wish to receive the second announcement of the IAOS 88 Rome Conference

I suggest that you send the second announcement to the following person(s):

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The Local Organizing Committee of the IAOS Rome 88 Conference
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