

Committee on the Carver Award

The Committee to select this year's Carver Medal winner has settled on William L Harkness, Professor Emeritus at Penn State University. After trying to reach him by telephone, I sent him the following e-mail. If I recall correctly, there should be a citation. I suggest:

For his years of distinguished service as Program Secretary and on various committees of the IMS.

David O. Siegmund
Chair

Report on issues regarding the establishment of an IMS Asia and Pacific-Rim Meeting Sequence

IMS ad hoc committee on Asia and Pacific-Rim Meetings

Committee Members

Ngai-Hang Chan (Hong Kong)
Probal Chaudhuri (India)
Rong Chen (US, China) – Chair
Zehua Chen (Singapore)
Ming-Yen Cheng (Taiwan)
Nick Hengartner (IMS program secretary, ex officio)
Byeong Park (Korea)
Akimichi Takemura (Japan)
Matt Wand (Australia)

Executive Summary

The IMS *ad hoc* committee on Asia and Pacific-Rim meetings was charged by the IMS president to study the feasibility and forum for an IMS meeting series in Asia and Pacific-Rim. The main objective of such a meeting series is to establish and increase a more international presence of IMS and to increase IMS membership, particularly in under represented and growing areas. It is the finding of this committee that such a meeting series in Asia and Pacific-Rim is indeed necessary, timely and feasible. The statistical research communities in Asia and Pacific-Rim have been growing with the economic growth in the region. The regional statistical societies in the area have been active, but with limited collaborations across different countries and regions. The statistical researchers in this area have become increasingly productive in statistical research, applications and education and have produced significant number of outstanding students. However, the presence of IMS, as a leading international society for statisticians, is rather limited. IMS membership in the area has not grown at the same rate as the local statistical communities. This committee believes that an IMS Asia and Pacific-Rim meeting series would be extremely beneficial in several fronts, including but not limited to: (1) providing an excellent forum for scientific communications and collaborations among the researchers within the area and with researchers from other parts of the world; (2) significantly increasing the presence, leadership and services of IMS as an international society; (3) promoting and attracting next generation of statistical researchers in the area; and (4) significantly increasing IMS membership in this area.

The committee also found that it is indeed feasible to establish such a meeting series and there are significant local interests to host such meetings. The meeting series may demand certain financial support from IMS initially, but it is highly likely that the meetings can attract sufficient local resources to cover most of the meeting expenses. The committee strongly endorses the establishment of an IMS meeting series in Asia and Pacific-Rim.

1. Introduction

With the increasing importance of statistical theory, methods and applications in the modern society and the recent tremendous economic growth in Asia and Pacific-Rim area, the statistical research communities in the area have been growing significantly. The regional statistical societies in the area have been active in promoting statistical research and disseminating and enhancing communication and collaboration of their members. The statistical researchers in this area have become increasingly productive in statistical research, application and education and have produced significant number of outstanding students. However, the collaborations between the societies across countries and regions in this area are quite limited. It also has limited access to international conferences and workshops due to its geographical location.

Comparing to the growth of statisticians and statistical activities in the area, IMS's presence in this area has not been growing at the same pace. While IMS journals have been publishing more papers authored by the researchers in this area, IMS membership from this area has not seen major growth. In some cases, IMS is still being viewed as a theoretical society located in the U.S. The lack of strong presence of IMS in the area has been noticed by many researchers both in and outside the area.

2. Rationales for an IMS Meeting Series in Asia and Pacific-Rim.

In the age of globalization, IMS, as the leading international society for statisticians, has the responsibility to make a genuine effort to become truly global and significantly increase its presence in the Asia and Pacific-Rim area. The committee found that an IMS meeting series in the area can be an important step to achieve such an objective.

- (1) An IMS meeting series will provide an excellent forum for scientific communications and collaborations for the researchers within the area. It will also promote communications and collaborations between the researchers in this area and those from other parts of the world. Overall it would benefit and promote statistical research in general and benefit IMS members both in and outside the area in particular.

- (2) An IMS meeting series will significantly increase the presence of IMS as an international society for statistical researchers and increase its leadership and service to its members globally.
- (3) The area has been traditionally very strong in producing a large number of high quality undergraduate students in mathematics and statistics. A strong presence of IMS in the area will attract those students to continue their education and career in statistics locally or abroad, hence promote and maintain strong workforce in statistics and future memberships of IMS.
- (4) With carefully planning and some ingenuity, an IMS meeting series will significantly increase IMS membership.

3. Feasibility

With numerous informal discussions with statistical researchers in the area, we found that it is highly feasible to establish such a meeting series.

- (1) It will attract a significant number of participants from within and outside the area, hence ensure high quality in terms of scientific content. The local researchers are increasingly productive, doing innovative statistical research and interesting and important real applications. The area will also attract leading scientists from outside the area to the meeting, to communicate and gain international experiences.
- (2) We have noticed significant and enthusiastic local interests to host such meetings in various countries and regions in the area. There is indeed a high demand of high quality general topic international conferences on a regular basis.
- (3) The meeting series may demand certain financial support from IMS initially. But with the prominent status of IMS and the potential high quality of the meetings, it is highly likely that the meetings can attract sufficient local resources to cover most of the meeting expenses, if not all.

4. Recommended Organizational and Logistic Details:

- (1) **Name:** We recommend the name of the meeting series as ‘IMS Asia and Pacific-Rim Meetings (IMS-APRM)’. It covers all countries and regions in Asia and Pacific-Rim.
- (2) **Frequency of the Meeting:** We recommend once every two years initially. If it is shown to be successful, of high demand and without heavy financial dependence from IMS, it can be done once a year.

(3) Organizational Structure:

- a. IMS should form a standing committee on the IMS Asia and Pacific Rim meetings. A separate financial account for the meeting series, with certain amount of initial endowment from IMS. The goal is to have the meeting series completely self-financed.
- b. The meetings can be run independently or jointly with local societies.
- c. The committee decides the meeting location and appoints local organizing committee chair and program committee chair. For better communication, the local organizing committee chair should be appointed as the co-chair of the program committee. Each chair forms his/her own committee.
- d. Local committee decides the venue of the conference and is charged of local logistics and seeking financial support from local government and other sources. Each meeting should try to assume full responsibility on financial arrangements, including determination of registration fee and short course tuitions. Minor deficit can be covered by the IMS-ARPM account. Minor surplus should be transferred to IMS-ARPM account if possible.
- e. Program committee decides the scheme of the meeting, invites keynote speakers, organizes invited sessions, issues call-for-paper, selects contributed papers and sessions, and plans the conference program.

(4) Local IMS Sections and Affiliated Membership: IMS could enter cooperative agreements with regional societies, and cooperate with them on membership agreements. For example, for some small additional membership charge, a member of a local society could become an IMS member. This surcharge might be managed fiscally within the region (e.g. the IMS-APRM account) and used to support activities that involve several societies in the area. Also, those affiliated members in each country/region can form a local IMS section, which may serve as local host for the IMS meetings. The sections can also organize more or less autonomously local IMS section conferences, workshops, short courses, etc.

(5) Membership Drive: With discounted registration for members and special discounts for new members, the conference can serve the purpose of membership drive. But how to make those people stay as members afterward can be a challenge. Discount on membership fee would help. The key is to provide valuable services to the members.

- (6) Possible Inauguration Meeting: Committee member Byeong Park has contacted Korean Statistical Society. KSS has expressed strong interests to co-host the first IMS-APRM in Korea in the summer of 2008.

5. Summary

The committee strongly endorses the establishment of an IMS meeting series in Asia and Pacific-Rim. We found it necessary, timely and feasible, with significant benefits to IMS.

To: Jim Pitman
President, Institute of Mathematical Statistics

cc: Elyse Gustafson, IMS Executive Director

Dipak Dey, Uwe Einmahl, Steve Evans, Kai-Tai Fang, Cindy Greenwood, Brenda MacGibbon, John Marden, Qi-Man Shao, Sue Wilson (Members, IMS Committee on Fellows)

From: Jianqing Fan, Chair, The IMS Committee on Fellows

Re: Final report of the Committee

The 2007 IMS Fellows Committee received nominations for 48 candidates in early February. We have completed our review. Please find this final report.

(I) We had three rounds of votes and discussions and came up with 23 elected fellows. These 23 names were finally voted as a group and I have received unanimous supports from the members of the committees.

(II) We recommend that the following 23 candidates be elected as fellows of the IMS, in alphabetical order:

Chen, Kani
Chen, Ming-Hui
Chen, Zhen-Qing
Cheng, Ming-Yen
Follmer, Hans
Hickernell, Fred J.
Hosoya, Yuzo
Hu, Inchi
Kosorok, Michael Rene
Lahiri, Partha
Li, Bing
Li Gang
Lin, Xihong
Linton, Oliver
Loh, Wei-Liem
Ma, Zhi-Ming
Raftery, Adrian E.
Regazzini, Eugenio
Sarkar, Sanat K.
Silverstein, Jack William
Vitale Richard A.
Wand, Matthew Paul
Zhou, Hongyu

(III) I have asked members to check the appropriateness of citations, if they are familiar with their work. However, I did not receive any feedbacks. I have also checked the citations of every elected member and did not find any significant deviations from the usual citations. Some of them might need editing or toning down. I would be happy to do this, if Elyse gives me a word file of the citations of these 23 new fellows.

Overall, the committee reckons that we have elected a very strong group as the fellows of the IMS.

Report: Committee on Membership

The ad hoc committee on IMS membership consisted of four members; Chris Genovese, Claudia Klueppelberg, Kavita Ramanan with Lancelot James serving as Chair. The committee began its activities at the end of December. The committee then submitted their thoughts on membership issues and some possible methods to attract new members as well as enhance current membership. The committee agreed with and supported the IMS president's idea of the formation of IMS groups. Related to this, and the potential of these groups to be a non-invasive way of attracting membership the committee is exploring (**explored**) the formation of IMS geographical groups and the selection/nomination of potential coordinators and facilitators of such groups. Overall the committee focused on individual membership rather than membership at a corporate/institutional level.

Committee on New Researchers
Report of the Chair, Mayetri Gupta
June 4, 2007

The New Researchers' Conference (NRC) is an annual IMS conference dedicated to creating interaction between new researchers in the fields of Probability and Statistics. The Tenth NRC will be held at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, July 24-28, 2007, immediately prior to the Joint Statistical Meetings, also to be held in Salt Lake City. All participants are expected to give a short, expository talk or contribute a poster on their research. In addition, the conference will consist of panel sessions of journal editors and funding agencies to discuss topics highly relevant to new researchers. The conference website is at <http://www.bios.unc.edu/~gupta/NRC>.

Of the 65 people who applied, 7 were rejected for the following reasons: 4 would receive their Ph.D. in 2008 or later; 1 had attended NRC in a previous year, and 2 missed the application deadline by more than a month. This left 58 "eligible" applicants who were invited to attend the meeting, 46 of them accepted. We are expecting 4 committee members will be present at NRC to help run the meeting.

NRC 2007 organizers

Program Chair: Mayetri Gupta (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
Local Chair: Xiaoming Sheng (University of Utah)

NRC 2007 Invited speakers/panelists

The IMS Tweedie New Researcher Invited Lecturer will be Samuel Kou (Harvard University), who was selected by the IMS Travel Awards Committee. Our confirmed invited speakers are Michael Newton (University of Wisconsin at Madison), Deborah Nolan (University of California at Berkeley), and David Banks (Duke University). The journal panel will include Susan Murphy (The Annals of Statistics), David Banks (Journal of the American Statistical Association), David van Dyk (Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics), and Geert Molenberghs (Biometrics). The funding panel will include Grace Yang (National Science Foundation) Wendy Martinez (Office of Naval Research), and Ram Tiwari (National Cancer Institute).

NRC 2007 funding

Funding for NRC 2007 will be coming from the NSF (\$20,000), ONR (\$10,000), NSA (\$10,000). Part of a two-year award from the NIH (NCI) made late last year will also be available (\$9,000). Committee members Mayetri Gupta, Xiaoming Sheng and Peter Hoff were instrumental in securing these funds. We received much-needed support from Peter Craigmile, Xiaojian Xu, and Ryan Elmore, and administrative support from both the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and University of Utah.

Proposed 11th NRC in Colorado

Location: Colorado State University

Local chair: Ryan Elmore

Funding: Funding will be requested from the same organizations that have funded previous NRCs.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT.

The publication committee has been involved in the following projects over the past year, all working through ad hoc committees.

I: Textbooks:

An ad hoc committee has begun to investigate the desirability and feasibility of the IMS expanding its publication activities by entering into the book market in more serious fashion. Three possible series are currently being investigated.

- (i) A Lecture Notes series, to replace the Lecture Notes and Monographs part of the Lecture Notes-Monograph Series.
- (ii) A Collections series, to publish conference proceedings, festschrifts etc, which actually make up the majority of recent volumes in the current LNM series.
- (iii) A Textbooks series, which would be a completely new venture.

The committee comprises Robert Adler, Peter Bickel, George Casella, Anthony Davison, Elyse Gustafson, Jim Pitman, and Sid Resnick.

II: Copyediting and References:

Given recent changes and developments in the accessibility of electronic referencing, particularly the growing popularity of arXiv and the Mathematics Reviews data base, a committee is looking into providing seamless interfaces between IMS publications and electronic data bases. (Recall that all papers accepted by IMS journals now also appear in the open access arXiv collection.)

The same committee is also looking into the efficiency of copyediting procedures for IMS journals, with the complementary aims of making these more transparent to authors and reducing the pain that authors often go through as their papers are prepared for publication.

This committee is large, but the key players are Jim Pitman and others who are working ex-officio as editors and contributors to the production process of IMS journals.

III: Impact Factors:

Early in 2006 a committee was set up to investigate the (ab)use of impact factors, citation counts, etc, within areas of IMS interest.

This group has now basically been replaced by a joint committee of IMS, AMS and ICIAM, under IUM auspices, with the same goals but with its charge broadened to cover the general mathematical sciences. This joint committee on the "Quantitative Assessment of Research" has been charged with the following tasks:

1. To evaluate to what extent the ISI impact factor is a significant indicator for the quality of a researcher, a department, or similar institution in statistics or mathematics.
2. To determine to what extent the ISI impact factor can be used to compare the quality of research in mathematics with that in other disciplines.
3. To determine whether or not the ISI impact factor has any bias with respect to language, region, or length, source or field of publication, interdisciplinary work.
4. To examine these questions for a selection of other recently proposed measures based on citation data.

5. To propose suitable substitutes for these measures based on citations.
6. To list the possible dangers or advantages that the widespread use of impact factors and similar simple measures may have on publication behaviour, recruitment, balance between scientific disciplines, etc.

The committee has been asked to create a summary of its finding to be endorsed and publicly distributed by the Executive Committees of ICIAM, IMS, and IMU. It is requested to support its conclusions by examples and statistical data to be provided in additional documents meant to provide evidence and a solid basis for the findings.

This charge is clearly far more than a committee of three members (one from each organisation) can possibly produce in the year it was given, but hopefully it will produce be the germ from which a larger project can grow.

The IMS representative on the joint committee is Robert Adler.

The members of the IMS Impact Factors committee are Robert Adler, Terry Speed, Andy Stevens and Marc Yor.

Robert Adler
Haifa, June 13, 2006

Committee to select editors

Soren Asmussen (Chair)
Steve Lalley
Hans Kuensch

In 2006/07, two editors for new journals have been suggested by the committee and later approved by the IMS Council: Jon Wellner for Statistics Surveys and Larry Wasserman for Electronic Journal of Statistics.

The committee is currently searching for a successor for Ed George, whose term for Statistical Science expires by the end of 2007.

Soren Asmussen

Special Lecturers Committee report

June 2007

The task for the Special Lecturers Committee in 2007 was to make a proposal for the selection of

1. One Wald Lecturer (for 2008)
2. One Neyman Lecturer (for 2008)
3. Eight Medallion Lecturers (for 2009)

The Committee started its work on March 30, 2007, and concluded its specific selection tasks on May 31, 2007.

Regarding the work of this year's committee, there are two specific issues to be mentioned:

1. After discussion the committee decided to first deal with the selection of the Named Lecturers (Wald and Neyman Lecturers) and in a second stage with the selection of the Medallion Lecturers. In addition, the Committee first selected the Wald Lecturer and in a subsequent stage dealt with the selection of the Neyman Lecturer.
2. This committee was the first one working with the division into five categories for the Medallion Lecturers, namely Theoretical Probability (TP), Applied Probability (AP), Theoretical Statistics (TS), Applied Statistics (AP) and Interdisciplinary (I).

The reason for the first point was that the names of the Named Lecturers were requested by the end of April 2007, and given the short time frame it would have been very difficult to deal with the selection of the Named and Medallion Lecturers simultaneously.

This committee, during the execution of its task, spent a considerable amount of time on discussions about selection and voting procedures, and passed conclusions of these discussions in the form of recommendations to the IMS council and future committees.

General remarks about working procedures

The Committee work involved the following main steps:

1. Discussion and approval of the procedures.
2. Search, discussion and selection in two rounds for Wald and Neyman Lecturers, first dealing with the selection of the Wald Lecturer and in a subsequent stage with that of the Neyman Lecturer.
3. Same scheme for the Medallion Lecturers.

During the whole selection process (nominations, voting rounds ...) the Committee kept in mind the need to balance issues such as gender, geographical diversity, research areas, among others.

For the Medallion Lecturers, the selection procedure was such as to select in the first round 1 lecturer in Theoretical Probability, Applied Probability, Theoretical Statistics, Applied Statistics and in the Interdisciplinary category, guaranteeing in this way the minimal requirements in the "Guidelines". The second round of the Medallion Lecturers involved a selection across categories.

For the Wald and Neyman Lecturers the selection started from lists of names containing:

Wald: 7 names (one woman)
Neyman: 11 names (one woman)

For the Medallion Lecturers the selection started from a list of names containing:

Theoretical Probability: 3 names
Applied Probability: 4 names (two women)
Theoretical Statistics: 5 names (one woman)
Applied Statistics: 4 names
Interdisciplinary: 4 names (one woman)

For the assignments to meetings, the Committee took into account availability of sessions at the meetings, typical audience at the meetings and research areas of speakers.

Proposed selections and assignments to meetings

For the Named Lecturers, the Committee concluded its work with the following proposed selection to the IMS Council:

Wald Lecturer: Richard Durrett (Cornell University, USA)
Neyman Lecturer: Peter McCullagh (University of Chicago, USA)

For the Medallion Lecturers, the Committee concluded its work with proposing the following selection to the IMS Council:

Gordon Slade (TP), University of British Columbia, Canada;
Claudia Kluppelberg (AP), Technical University Munich, Germany;
Gareth Roberts (AP), University of Warwick, UK;
Tony Cai (TS), University of Pennsylvania, USA;
David Madigan (AS), Rutgers University, USA;
Peter Buhlmann (I), ETH Zürich, Switzerland;
Gabor Lugosi (I), Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Spain;
Sam Kou (I), Harvard University, USA

For the assignments to meetings, several options were discussed, but the Committees general feeling was that the best fit is

1. JSM 2009/IMS Annual Meeting (Washington, DC, Aug 2-6): 4 sessions
Tony Cai (TS), Peter Buhlmann (I), Gabor Lugosi (I), Gareth Roberts (AP)
2. ENAR 2009 (San Antonio, TX, March 15-18): 1 session
Sam Kou (I)
3. WNAR 2009 (TBA, end of June): 1 session
David Madigan (AS)
4. SPA 2009 (Berlin, Germany, July 27-31):
Gordon Slade (TP), Claudia Kluppelberg (AP)

The Special Lectures Committee; Chair: Irène Gijbels; Date: June 5, 2007.

Committee on Travel Awards

Tweedie Award was approved by Council and can be viewed here:

<https://imstat.updatelog.com/W375093>

Laha Award Report

February 21, 2007

Jim Pitman
IMS President

Dear Jim,

I am writing you on behalf of the 2007 IMS Committee on Travel Awards regarding the recommendation for the 2007 Laha Awards.

This year we had 28 applicants, of which 20 were students and 8 new graduates. As it has been the case during the last two years, for 2007 we had several strong candidates.

The committee has selected 15 winners whose names are below. Of them, 12 are students and 3 new graduates.

Best regards, Victor Perez-Abreu, Chair, IMS 2007 Committee on Travel Awards

2007 Laha Award Recipients

Chandra, Hukum
De Blasi, Pierpaolo
Du, Meng
Li, Hongfei
Li, Huilin
Li, Yingying
Liu, Rong
Lu, Lu
Luo, Sheng
Minin, Vladimir
Rocha, Guilherme
Sen, Bodhisattva
Wang, Lifeng
Wintenberger, Olivier
Wu, Yichao