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Fortress tour



A sunny ferry-ride to Suomenlinna



Letkajenkka is a 1960's version of a Finnish folk dance.

Good coverage for the Session

"The probability of running across a statistician on the streets of Helsinki is considerably increased during this week" was the opening sentence of an article in the leading Swedish-speaking newspaper *Hufvudstadsbladet*.

● The article was based on an extensive interview of the Swedish-born, Canadian national, professor Carl-Erik Särndal, and dealt with improving the quality of statistics, the subject professor Särndal is working on as a consultant of Statistics Finland.

The 52nd ISI Session has inspired reporters more than expected. The opening ceremony was covered widely in the papers, and it was also mentioned in the news on various radio channels. On Friday night, a popular current affairs programme of the Finnish Broadcasting Corporation, *A-studio*, interviewed professor Leslie Kish, a legendary statistician. The interview made a great impression on the viewers.

The executive secretariat has served as an active link between journalists and statisticians and prepared press releases for every day of the

scientific programme. The press releases have born fruit in the form of articles in the press, particularly in Finland's leading daily newspaper *Helsingin Sanomat*.

In *Helsingin Sanomat*, the Session has not only been visible on the pages of home news and economy, but also in the tourism department, in the form of a short note on the excursion to the *Suomenlinna* fortress on Saturday.

On the Sunday issue, almost a whole page was dedicated to the Session. The feature included interviews of Denise Lievesley of Unesco, Andrew Flatt of the UN, Oladejo Ajayi of the Nigerian Federal Statistical Office and Carolyn Carlson of the IMF.

In general, statistical news are well received in the media in Finland, and Statistics Finland has a fairly good reputation as a reliable source of information.

Call for registration to Heidelberg ISCB - GMDS - 99

Monday 13 - Friday 17 September 1999

20th Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics, 14 - 17 Sept. 99

44. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Medizinische Informatik, Biometrie und Epidemiologie 13 - 16 Sept. 99

Medical informatics, clinical biostatistics and epidemiology for efficient health care and medicinal research

Ruprecht Karls University of Heidelberg
Dept. of Medical Biometry
Dept. of Medical Informatics

German Cancer Research
Dept. of Epidemiology
Biostatistics Unit

Please use the Internet for registration via <http://www.dkfz-heidelberg.de/biostatistics/iscb-gmds-99>. Send further requests and questions to ISCB-GDMS-99@dkfz-heidelberg.de

El Khowarizim Committee on Statistics for the Arab Countries

There will be an open meeting for all interested in this subject on Monday 16 August 17.45 - 19.00 in room 1F/1.

Disasters and emergencies, risk

The 4th International Conference of LACDE - Local Authorities Confronting Disasters & Emergencies - will be in Reykjavik (Iceland), August 28-31, 2000: includes a Workshop on Risk Management and Insurance aspects, see <http://www.samband.is>.

Contact: unnar@samband.is or Raymond Bar-On (Israel) baronray@netvision.net.il.

Today's weather

Mostly fair weather in southern Finland.

Mostly clear skies. Temperature in the afternoon almost 20 degrees Celsius. Wind is from north, speed 2-5 m/s.

Changes in the programme

Please check the full programme of meetings where changes have been made. The new programme will be displayed at the door of the meeting room in question.

Monday, 16 August

In *IPM18*, "Multiway data in psychometrics and chemometrics", to be held at 9.00, the talks of Pieter Kroonenberg and Claus Andersson will be given in the reverse order. Mr Andersson will speak at 9.04, and Mr Kroonenberg at 9.39.

In *IPM36*, Nick Fisher (AUSTRALIA) will be chair and presenter of the introduction. The presentation of Corinna Cortes (UNITED STATES), scheduled at 16.30, has been cancelled.

In *CPM28*, Doo-Sub Kim has cancelled. The new programme of the meeting below:

Stijn Vansteelandt, BELGIUM, will act as chairperson.

9.00 The cube of the correlation coefficient
*Yadolah Dodge (SWITZERLAND);
Valentin Rousson
9.15 Predicting multivariate responses in non linear regression
L. D'Ambrà; *R. Lombardo (ITALY)

9.30 A small sample modification of an estimator of a polynomial regression with measurement errors
Chi-Lun Cheng, *Hans Schneeweis (GERMANY)

9.45 Sensitivity of generalized linear modelling to incomplete outcomes
*Stijn Vansteelandt (BELGIUM),
Els Goetghebeur

A new presentation for *CPM104.1* at 11.00: "Demographic situation in Russia and problems of information on population" by Andrei G. Volkov (RUSSIA).

New item for *CPM81*: at 17.00, "Intervalle de confiance de l'indice de végétation, de l'indice de brillance et de la matière sèche totale" by Abdellani, F. and Chamayou, J. F. (FRANCE).

In *CPM70*, the presentation scheduled 13.45 "Availability of repairable systems governed by semi-Markov processes" by Rafael Pérez-Ocón (SPAIN) and Inmaculada Torres-Castro has been cancelled.

In *CPM137*, a new paper has been added, to be presented at 14.45: "The set-up and development of the register "Bulstat" by G. Stanev (BULGARIA).

Tuesday, 17 August

In *IPM32* at 9.00, the chairperson is W. K. Li.

In *CPM134*, the paper "Generalised kernel density estimator" by Novak, Serguei (NETHERLANDS), scheduled at 9.30, has been cancelled.

The following presentation has been moved from *CPM5.1* to *CPM7.1*, scheduled at 10.45: "Some remarks and misunderstandings in multiple comparisons methods" by Cheslaw Domanski (POLAND), Dariusz Parys and Lechoslaw Stepień.

IPM12 on "Whither statistical publishing?", scheduled on Tuesday 17 August at 13.00, has been cancelled.

Some names of the speakers of *IPM 42* "Statistical training of people working in and with official statistics" have been omitted by mistake in the Information Bulletin No 3. The meeting is to be held at 13.00 - 15.15. These should be added:

As organisers:
Blumberg, Carol Joyce, UNITED STATES

Smulders, René H. M., THE NETHERLANDS

As chairpersons:
Blumberg, Carol Joyce, UNITED STATES

Smulders, René H. M., THE NETHERLANDS

Papers: 13.25 Impact of Internet on official statistics: User opportunities
* Bregar, Lea; Ograjensek, Irena (SLOVENIA)

In *CPM3*, a new paper has been added and scheduled at 14.45: "On the noncausal problems in stochastic analysis" by *Shigeyoshi Ogawa.

A new presentation for *CPM58*, starting at 15.30, will be heard at 17.15: Comparison of Predictive Accuracy of Neural Network Methods and Cox Regression for Censored Survival Data, by Stanley Azen (UNITED STATES); Annie Xiang; Pablo Lapuerta; Alex Ryutov and Jonathan Buckley.

The following presentation has been moved from *CPM49.2* to *CPM46.2*: "Linear regression for survey data using regression weights" by * Pedro Luis do Silva Nascimento (BRAZIL), Duarte Nogueira and Pacheco Renata. The presentation is scheduled at 17.00.

An addition to *CPM130*, starting at 15.30: Operational estimation of the Russian GDP dynamics, by Andrey Kosarev. The presentation is scheduled at 17.15.

Wednesday, 18 August

In *IPM62*, at 9.00, Joan Garfield has cancelled her appearance. The chairperson and introductory speaker will be Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, FINLAND.

A new meeting, *IPM84*, President's Invited Paper Meeting on "Recent advances in probability and statistics", will be held at 13.00 - 15.15 in meeting room EL/136. The organiser is Willem van Zwet, the speakers will be

Jef Teugels Wind and Stochastics
Elja Arjas Latent structures supported by point measurements
David Siegmund Mapping quantitative trait loci
Richard Tweedie Publication analysis in meta-analysis

In *IPM20*, at 13.00 - 15.15, the discussant Bertrand S. Clarke from UK, has cancelled his presentation.

In *CPM132*, at 13.00 - 15.15, the paper "Reseaux de neurones et regression logistique en finances" by Ana Silvia Haedo (ARGENTINA) and Leonardo Focsaner has been cancelled.

In *CPM86*, scheduled at 15.30, the chairperson will be Paul Sommerville.

In *CPM38*, scheduled at 15.30, the presentation of Filzmoser, Peter (AUSTRIA) has been cancelled.

In *CPM30*, the presentation of Y Wu (CANADA), scheduled at 15.30, has been cancelled.

Corrections

In "Participant statistics" on Saturday's issue there were a few misprints. Argentina was mentioned twice, and the Philippines and Portugal had been omitted altogether. From Argentina, there are 15 participants and two accompanying persons, from Portugal 13 participants and four accompanying persons, and from the Philippines five participants and one accompanying person.

Open meeting of statistical societies

An open meeting of representatives of national statistical societies will take place today at 17.30 in room 1F/3, to be chaired by Luigi Biggeri. All statistical society representatives are welcome to attend.

Re-enforcing the unity of statistics

The new President of the ISI, Jean-Louis Bodin, 58, hopes that the unity of statistics could be re-enforced by increasing the interaction between the different constituencies of the ISI family and between the ISI and its sister organisations. In this respect, special attention should be paid to statistical domains not well covered by the ISI family, such as statistical work in private firms.

● “For me, the ISI is the pole of excellence in the statistical world. The source of this excellence is the unique professional and geographical diversity in its membership and in the membership of its five sections. Thanks to its scientific activities using the best methods and the best practices, the ISI will play a fundamental role at the dawn of the 21st century to develop the role of statisticians in the society and to make the society more aware of the role of statistics”, says Mr Bodin.

Jean-Louis Bodin has substantial experience in international relations and co-operation in official statistics and in various statistical areas such as data banks and data dissemination, statistics of building and public works, organisation of data collection and data capture and demographic statistics. At the moment, he is seconded to the European Commission and is responsible for the liaisons between Eurostat and the European Parliament. His educational background includes a diploma from the “Ecole Polytechnique”, and further studies in statistics and economics at the “Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l’Administration Economique (ENSAE)”.

Attended all sessions since Warsaw

Mr Bodin’s contact with the ISI started in 1969, when he participated in the Conference of the IUSSP (International Union for Scientific Study of Population), jointly with the 37th ISI Session in London.

“I was a young statistician at

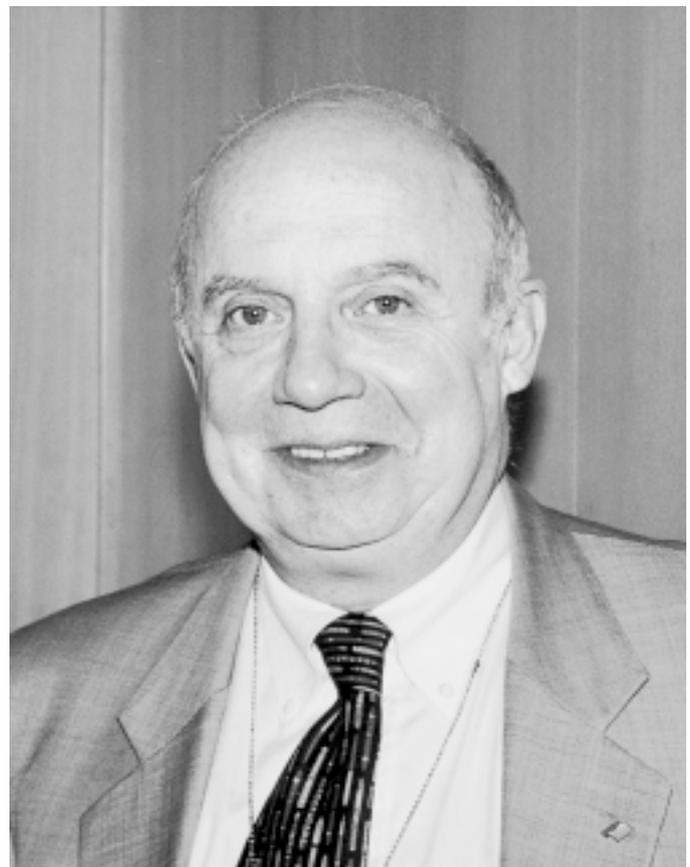
that time (I was 28) and very impressed by having been selected by Prof. Leslie KISH as one of the invited authors in the meeting he organised”, he recalls. He has also been one of the collaborators of Gérard THEODORE, one of the founding fathers of the IASS, and therefore accompanied IASS during its first steps forward. Since the 40th session in Warsaw in 1975, he has attended all the ISI sessions.

Since then, he has been active in many functions within the ISI. He was, among other things, secretary general of the National Organising Committee of the 47th session held in Paris in 1989. Mr Bodin is a founding member of the IAOS, and from 1989 to 1991 he was the President of the section. He also chaired the ISI Programme Co-ordinating Committee of the 50th session held in Beijing in 1995.

A mobile family

Mr Bodin says his family has been infected by “the international virus”. “My son, who is 29, is working in New York and my daughter, who is 26, is working in London. At present, I’m working in Brussels, but, thanks to the French technology for fast trains, the distance between Paris and Brussels is 350 km, but only takes 1 hour and 25 minutes and I’m therefore very often in Paris”, he describes.

During his spare time, Mr Bodin likes to go to the cinema and to listen to operas. As a Frenchman, he appreciates good restaurants, good food and good wines. “I was born in Bordeaux, the world capital of good wine. My wife as well as



my friends or my colleagues, who have accompanied me on professional missions, say that I’m very quickly able to find the best restaurants in a city I’ve never visited before without any external help!” he proudly declares.

Because there is not enough time to discover people and culture while on professional missions, he likes to go back for holidays with his wife in some countries he has previously visited for professional reasons, e.g. China, Vietnam or Mexico.

Renforcement de l'unité de la statistique

Le nouveau président de l'IIS, Jean-Louis Bodin, 58 ans, espère que l'unité de la statistique pourra être renforcée en augmentant les interactions entre les différentes composantes de la famille IIS et les organisations qui lui sont apparentées. A cet égard, une attention particulière doit être portée aux domaines de la statistique qui ne sont pas bien couverts par la famille IIS, par exemple l'activité statistique dans les sociétés privées.

● "J'estime que l'IIS est le pôle d'excellence dans le monde statistique. La source de cette excellence réside dans la diversité tout à fait unique de ses membres et des membres de ses sections, aussi bien sur le plan professionnel que sur le plan géographique. A travers ses activités scientifiques, fondées sur les meilleures méthodes et les meilleures pratiques, l'IIS jouera un rôle fondamental à l'aube du 21ème siècle pour développer le rôle des statisticiens dans la société et pour améliorer la connaissance par la société du rôle de la statistique", dit M. Bodin.

Jean-Louis Bodin a une expérience substantielle dans les relations internationales et la coopération dans la statistique publique et dans divers domaines de la statistique tels que les banques de données et la diffusion de l'information, les statistiques de la construction et des travaux publics, l'organisation de la collecte des données et de la saisie des données et les statistiques démographiques. En ce moment, il est détaché auprès de la Commission européenne où il est responsable des relations entre Eurostat et le Parlement européen. Son bagage intellectuel comprend un diplôme de l'Ecole Polytechnique et des études plus spécialisées en statistique et en économie à l'Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique (ENSAE).

A toutes les sessions depuis Varsovie

M. Bodin a eu son premier contact avec l'IIS en 1969

lorsqu'il a participé à la Conférence de l'UIESP (Union Internationale pour l'Etude Scientifique de la Population), qui se tenait à Londres en parallèle avec la 37ème Session de l'IIS.

"J'étais à l'époque un jeune statisticien (j'avais 28 ans) et j'étais très impressionné d'avoir été choisi par le Prof. Leslie KISH comme l'un des auteurs invités dans la réunion qu'il avait organisée", rappelle-t-il. Il a également été l'un des collaborateurs de Gérard THEODORE, l'un des "pères fondateurs" de l'AISE, et il a donc accompagné l'AISE dans les premiers pas de son existence. Depuis la 40ème session tenue à Varsovie en 1975, il a participé à toutes les sessions de l'IIS.

Depuis lors, il s'est occupé de beaucoup de tâches au sein de l'IIS. Il a été, entre autres, secrétaire général du Comité National d'Organisation de la 47ème session tenue à Paris en 1989. M. Bodin est membre fondateur de l'AISO et il a été de 1989 à 1991 Président de cette section. Il a également présidé le Comité de Coordination des Programmes de la 50ème session tenue à Beijing en 1995.

Une famille mobile

M. Bodin dit que sa famille est atteinte par le "virus international". "Mon fils (29 ans) travaille à New York et ma fille (26 ans) à Londres. En ce moment, je travaille à Bruxelles, mais, grâce à la technologie française dans le domaine des trains à très grande vitesse, la distance entre Paris et Bruxelles est 350 km, mais n'est en temps que de 1 h. 25",

explique-t-il.

Pendant ses moments de loisirs, M. Bodin aime aller au cinéma et écouter des opéras. En tant que français, il apprécie les bons restaurants, la bonne chère et les bons vins. "Mon épouse, aussi bien que mes amis ou mes collègues qui m'accompagnent dans mes voyages professionnels disent que je suis capable de trouver très rapidement les meilleurs restaurants dans une ville que je n'ai jamais visitée auparavant, et ce sans aucune aide extérieure!" dit-il avec fierté.

Comme il n'y a pas assez de temps pour découvrir les peuples et leur culture au cours des missions professionnelles, il aime revenir pour les vacances avec son épouse dans quelques pays qu'il a auparavant visités pour des raisons professionnelles, par exemple la Chine, le Vietnam ou le Mexique.

Literacy in use

Finns are great readers. The circulation of newspapers and the number of loans in public libraries in proportion to the population are among the highest in the world. The Finnish writers best known to the international readers are Frans Emil Sillanpää and Mika Waltari.



National Board of Antiquities/Pietinen

Mika Waltari was an enormously productive writer.

- The national awakening in the second half of the 19th century prepared the ground for Finnish literature. Kalevala, the national epic, a collection of folk poetry and songs was compiled by Elias Lönnrot and published in 1849.

Johan Ludvig Runeberg wrote heroic romances in verse, *Vänrikki Stoolin tarinat*, "Tales of Ensign Ståhl" in 1848 and 1860 in Swedish. The tales describe the war between Sweden and Russia in 1808-1809. This collection includes the poem that was to become the Finnish national anthem, *Maamme*, "Our land".

Kivi first in Finnish

Swedish was still the dominant language in Finnish literature in the 19th century. Aleksis Kivi was the first author bold enough to write in Finnish. He was severely criticised for this, as well as for depicting ordinary people in a realistic and humorous way. His main work, the novel *Seitsemän veljestä*, "The seven brothers" came out in 1870. He also wrote the first Finnish plays.

The most cited poet of

Finland is undoubtedly Eino Leino, who was a journalist, critic and translator. He has been described as a genuine innovator and a breaker of taboos. In spite of this, he was officially acknowledged even during his own time. He received the national literature prize eight times, was granted a state writer's pension in 1918- the first one ever granted - and, finally, was buried at public expense in 1926.

The Nobel Prize winner

In 1939, the Nobel Prize was awarded Frans Emil Sillanpää, Finland's most respected prosaist in the inter-war period. He became a writer of national importance in 1919 with his novel *Hurskas kurjuus*, "Meek Heritage", a story of a tenant farmer in the Civil War of 1918. He achieved international renown with *Nuorena nukkunut*, "Silja the Maid" of 1931, depicting the life, first love and death of a young servant-girl.

Mika Waltari debuted as a writer only ten years later than Sillanpää. He was enormously productive and incredibly versatile. He wrote novels, plays, detective stories, film manuscripts, cartoons, travelogues and even wartime propaganda.

Mika Waltari's international fame is largely based on a single novel, *Sinuhe egyptiläinen*, "Sinuhe, the Egyptian" which he wrote in 1945. The main character is a physician living in Egypt around 1400 BC. The book made it onto the bestseller charts in France and in the U.S.A. and was even filmed in Hollywood. Experts in Egyptology were amazed at the accuracy of detail, because Waltari had never visited Egypt.



National Board of Antiquities

Oddly enough, there are no photographs of Aleksis Kivi. This drawing is by E. A. Forssell.

The post-war novel

The most important author to describe the incidents of the Continuation War in 1941-44 was Väinö Linna, whose *Tuntematon sotilas*, "The Unknown Soldier" came out in 1954. It described the soldiers as not always heroic, but often insubordinate, fatigued and dissatisfied. In spite of severe criticism for bringing discredit on veterans, it became one of the favourite books of the Finns.

The most popular Finnish writer internationally today is Arto Paasilinna, the author of 25 picaresque novels since 1972. The main character is

often an everyman who encounters rules and tyranny and cheerfully liberates himself from the guardianship of society, a theme highly appealing to the independent and stubborn Finn.

Arto Paasilinna's novels have been bestsellers in Finland and abroad, and he has been awarded literature prizes in France and Italy. He has most fans in France. His greatest international success is *Jäniksen vuosi*, "The year of the hare", the story of a man who escapes mortgage payments, work stress, a nagging wife and the whole organised society to live in the wilderness on his own.

Milestones of the history of statistics in Finland

Sweden - of which Finland was a part - was the first country in the world to found a statistical office to produce official statistics. This happened in 1748, and the office was named Tabellverket, Tabulation Office. Before that, households were already enumerated for taxation purposes.

1648	the first population registers, kept by the parish priests
1748	the Tabulation Office was founded
1749	the first vital statistics in the world were compiled by the Tabulation Office
1865	the provisional Statistical Office of Finland, Statistiska Byrån, was founded
1879	the first Statistical Yearbook of Finland was published
1886	the first course of statistics was held at the University of Helsinki
1917	Finland became independent
1920	the Finnish Statistical Society was founded
1920-22	J. W. Lindeberg published the Central Limit Theorem
1945	the first chair of statistics was created at the University of Helsinki
1948	national accounts were calculated for the first time
1955	Finland joined the UN
1961	Finland became an associate member of the EFTA (full member in 1986)
1969	the Population Register was founded
1969	Finland joined the OECD
1975	the interview organisation of Statistics Finland was founded
1990	a completely register-based population census was carried out
1995	Finland joined the European Union

International Association for Official Statistics, IAOS

● The International Association for Official Statistics, IAOS, was founded in 1985. It is thus the second youngest of the ISI Sections. It brings together producers and users of official statistics.

The objectives of the IAOS are to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and to foster the development of effective and efficient official statistical services. It aims at advancing international contacts among individuals and organisations, users of official statistics and research institutions by organising seminars and conferences.

The IAOS has over 500 members in more than 70

countries. There are 35 institutional members, mainly national statistical offices. The society is run by an Executive Committee of eight persons, elected for a period of two years.

The Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics, SCORUS is a specialised subsection of the IAOS. It provides a participation forum for statisticians and researchers who are interested in regional and urban issues. It organises biennial conferences, and meets also in connection with the ISI Sessions.

The IAOS meetings are held in connection with the ISI Sessions and separately. The general assembly is convening at 17.45.

ISI Marco Polo Committee On STATISTICS OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM COSTS

● The 2nd Administrative Meeting was held on August 13, 1999. A Plan of Activities was approved, including establishing an International Public Data-exchange Network and Data Laboratory; encouraging membership, especially of Central and other Banks: no membership fee is levied, sponsoring organisations and voluntary assistance are welcomed; encouraging university teaching of tourism statistics; requesting an Invited Paper Session at both SCORUS (with IAOS) Conference, November 7-10, 2000, Shenzhen, China, and at ISI's 53rd Session, Seoul, August 22 - 29, 2001: proposed main Topic – **Border and Household Surveys on Travel and Tourism** (International and Domestic), also the 3rd Administrative Meeting.

Election of Officers -
Chair - Scott M. Meis (CTC Canadian Tourism Commission)
Vice-Chair - Stephen L. J. Smith (University of Waterloo, Canada)
Editor - Raphael Raymond Bar-On (Israel)
Secretary - Mara Manente (CISSET, University of Venice, Italy)

Members:
Susan Starkins (South Bank University, London *), **with special attention to education and IASE**;
 Joesep T. O'Leary (Purdue University, USA), with special attention to data-base networking and web-site;
Sophia Erickson (EUROSTAT, Luxembourg), **with special attention to national and international statistical offices**;
 Trude Evanson (Norwegian Statistical Office, Norway), with special attention to national accounts);
Antonio Massieu (WTO – OMT World Tourism Organization, Spain), **with special attention to international organisations**.
 The Officers were empowered to co-opt others.

A newsletter, registration forms and further details are available at this meeting or from Scott Meis (Director, Research: Canadian Tourism Commission), *Chairperson* E-mail : meis.scott@ic.gc.ca, Raphael Raymond Bar-On (Consultant, Israel), *Editor* E-mail : baronray@netvision.net.il

* subject to her agreement

IASE General Assembly

The General Assembly of the International Association for Statistical Education, IASE, will be held today, Monday August 16, at 11.30 - 12.30 in 1F/HH

This is an opportunity for all interested in statistical education to meet the IASE executive and hear reports about the activities of the Association.

Agenda

1. President's report; introduction of executive committee members
2. Membership, finances and the cafeteria system
3. Publications
4. Future Meetings: Round Table, 2000, ICME 9, 2000, ISI 53, Seoul 2001, COTS 6, 2002
5. Proposal of IASE Statutes modification
6. Reports on SRTL and PME 23
7. Future Challenges
8. Other business

Inventive Finns

Living in Finland, in often extreme conditions, has required more than an average amount of inventiveness. The Foundation for Finnish Inventions has drawn up a list of the most important Finnish inventions. The list ranges from submachine guns to Internet cryptosystems.



Museum of Art and Design

Nokia introduces a couple of new models of mobile phones each year.

● An obvious item on the list is the Nokia research department, who have helped to make Nokia the world's leading mobile phone supplier. Other inventions are not as high-tech as theirs, but they have still made everyday life a trifle easier.

The dish-drying cabinet was invented in 1943 by Maiju Gebhardt, a teacher in home economics and a keen developer of household functions. The cabinet, placed over the sink, consists of racks, on which the dishes are put to dry after washing and rinsing. Even though 40 per cent of Finnish households have a dishwasher, the drying cabinet is installed in every new kitchen.

Functional food

Cultor, a large firm producing sugar and other sweeteners, introduced the "birch sugar" xylitol (can be found in other plants as well) in the 1970's. Since then, extensive research has managed to convince Finnish dentists, among with the rest of the population, of the ability of xylitol to reduce caries. More recently, it appeared to also decrease children's ear infections.

Finns have a hereditary predisposition to cardiovascular diseases, and the food industry has been working hard to develop products less harmful to the heart. One of the greatest successes in this field is Benecol, the margarine that lowers blood cholesterol.

Artturi Ilmari Virtanen, biochemist and the first leader of the Academy of Finland, also worked on nutrition, human as well as that of the cattle. In 1945, he was awarded the Nobel prize in chemistry largely due to the method of preserving butter and silage, based on the regulation of acidity. The invention had direct practical consequences: the use of the AIV (from the initials of the inventor) salt increased Finnish butter exports, and the AIV silage improved milk production.

Shipping throughout the year

An invention born out of necessity are ice-breakers. Without them export would not have been possible during wintertime, because all harbours are ice-bound during normal winters - some of them for as long as for six months. The first ice-breakers were built around the turn of the century. Today, the Finnish Maritime Administration operates a fleet of eight ice-breakers manned by a crew of 500 during wintertime.

Rain or shine

The Vaisala radio sonde, devised by Academician Vilho Väisälä and used to measure the atmospheric conditions, has been the most widely sold of its kind for over 60 years. The company was established in 1936, and it produces electronic measurement systems and equipment for meteorology, the environmental sciences, traffic safety and industry.

During the last few decades, many remarkable Finnish inventions have been made in the field of medicine or health care. Some of them even

manage to gain commercial success, such as the heart-rate monitor. This light-weight equipment consists of a belt round the chest and the monitor part round the wrist like a watch. A few years ago it was a real hit and a must for every serious fitness fan.

The heart-rate monitor was invented in 1975 by Seppo Säynäjäkangas, professor in electrical engineering at the University of Oulu. He also founded a firm, Polar Electro, to produce the monitors. Professor Säynäjäkangas has been awarded a prize for enhancing the export of Finnish products.



Mikko Nurmi

Winter seafare would be impossible without ice-breakers.

A technology-crazy nation

In Finland, the use of the Internet has expanded at breakneck speed during the last couple of years. According to the Network Wizard's Internet Domain Survey, Finland has more domains (107) per 1,000 inhabitants than any other country in the world.



Antero Aaltonen

Home computers are common in families with children.

● About 40 per cent of Finnish households have a computer at home. According to a survey by Taloustutkimus, a private market research firm, some 750,000 persons of the working age used the Internet at home weekly in spring 1999. Altogether, the number of people who had used the "net" sometimes at work, home, school or university, was estimated at 1.8 million in this survey.

Electronic payments

Another survey reveals that the Finns carry very little cash with

them compared to other Europeans. Cheques are so rare these days that most of us hardly remember what they look like. According to the statistics of the Finnish Bankers' Association, 82 per cent of all bank payments last year were made electronically, and 1.3 million Finns had a payment transfer agreement with their bank. The agreement enables the customers to pay their bills on their home or work computer without having to go to a branch of the bank for service.

This development was not entirely voluntary. Since the

bank crisis and recession of the early 1990s, the banks have been cutting down the number of their branch offices by more than half. They have also reduced their staff from about 50,000 in 1990 to 27,000 in 1997 and encouraged people to use cash dispensers for cash withdrawals, electronic tellers for bank transfers and cash cards to pay their shopping. They succeeded beyond expectations: the number of cash and payment cards in Finland is 5.6 million.

Computer literacy

Largely thanks to the school reform in the early 1970s, young people in Finland are in general better educated than their parents. Young people are also more skilled with computers. Because computer

skills are not entered into normal school reports, the Information Technology Development Center, TIEKE, developed a Computer Driver's Licence test to measure and prove computer skills for the needs of the working life.

The first Computer Driver's Licence tests were passed in 1994, and by the end of last year, a total of 50,000 Finns had acquired this certificate. The test consists of seven modules, each of them measuring one aspect of using the computer. Two thirds of the people who have passed the test are women, and the average age is 38. The oldest passer of the test was 78 years old.

Read more at www.tieke.fi/tieke/ajokortti/index.htm



Mikko Nurmi

The number of branch offices has decreased, and so has the number of cash dispensers.

My cottage is my castle

“It takes three generations to turn an Englishman into a gentleman but considerably longer for the Finns to shake the pine needles off their shoulders.” This is how Juha Tantt, a prominent Finnish journalist and writer, parallels two nationalities. With this he refers to the fact that the roots of most Finns are rural.



Antero Aaltonen

Holiday cottages are usually built of wood.

● The return to the rural roots can be seen on the motorways on summer Friday evenings, when families escape the towns to spend the weekend crammed in a space of little more than half of their urban homes. There are almost half a million holiday homes in Finland, and the average size is only 45 square metres.

The archipelago and the lake areas in Southern Finland are the most popular places for cottages. In some municipalities the population is doubled, tripled or even quadrupled during the summer season because of the cottagers.

Return to nature

Most cottages have no modern conveniences, not even electricity. During the 90's, however, holiday homes have been built mainly for year-

round use, with most or all modern conveniences. Some people even work at the cottage occasionally with the help of a laptop computer and a mobile phone.

Far more popular pastime than tapping the keyboard at the cottage is doing something quite different from the everyday work. Because of the general primitiveness of living, water has to be carried in and out, firewood chopped and the sauna heated. Something always needs to be built or repaired in the cottage or the yard.

Most cottages are built by a lake or a river or on the seashore, which gives plenty of opportunities for fishing, swimming, rowing or boating. Walking in the forest observing the nature or picking berries and mushrooms is among many Finns' favourite hobbies.

Nyt on elokuu

● The Finnish names of the days of the week bear some resemblance to the same words in many Indo-European languages. The word for Wednesday, *keskiviikko*, for instance, is a literal translation from the German “Mittwoch”. The months, on the other hand, have indigenous names that often describe the typical features of the season or the topical tasks of the agriculture. *Kesäkuu*, for instance, is literally “the summer month”, *heinäkuu* “the hay month” (because of the haymaking) and *elokuu* means “the month of the harvesting”.

<i>Nyt on...</i>	It is now....
<i>tammikuu</i>	January
<i>helmikuu</i>	February
<i>maaliskuu</i>	March
<i>huhtikuu</i>	April
<i>toukokuu</i>	May
<i>syyskuu</i>	September
<i>lokakuu</i>	October
<i>marraskuu</i>	November
<i>joulukuu</i>	December
<i>maanantai</i>	Monday
<i>tiistai</i>	Tuesday
<i>keskiviikko</i>	Wednesday
<i>torstai</i>	Thursday
<i>perjantai</i>	Friday
<i>lauantai</i>	Saturday
<i>sunnuntai</i>	Sunday

There are four very distinct seasons in Finland, and they can even be divided into smaller parts, such as *kevättalvi*, which means late winter, in southern Finland roughly February-March. The area of Finland is so wide that it is possible to experience two-three seasons at the same time: in May, people still ski in Lapland, while in Helsinki the grass is green and there are leaves on the trees. The present season is *syyskesä*, literally “autumn summer”.

<i>talvi</i>	winter
<i>kevät</i>	spring
<i>kesä</i>	summer
<i>syksy (syys)</i>	autumn, fall

Suomenlinna...



The brass band played music from the Middle Ages.

Our daily bread

Black, sour rye bread, *ruisleipä* or *hapanleipä* is the first thing many Finns miss when abroad. Recent nutritional research has revealed more than a grain of truth in the old Finnish belief "Bread keeps a man going".

- Rye, oats and other wholemeal grain has proved to be beneficial in fighting against cancer and heart diseases.

Another saying goes that the army marches with its stomach. There was a near riot in the press a couple of years ago, when a Swedish firm won the round of tenders on supplying crisp bread to the Defence Forces. The army crisp bread is legendary, and it seemed unthinkable that foreigners should invade this critical area. A year later, a Finnish supplier was chosen and peace was restored on earth.

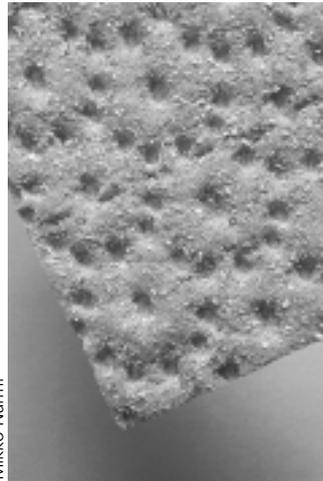
Endless variety

According to nutritionists, Finns do not eat nearly as much bread as they should, in spite of the fact that the Finnish bread assortment is the richest in the world. Bread is prepared with rye, wheat, barley or oats and with hard or soft crust. The shapes vary from oblong or round loaves, flat or plump, into rolls, crescents and pasties.

Oats and barley have been traditionally used in baking very flat bread called *rieska*, the Finnish equivalent to Mexican tortilla or Mediterranean pita-bread. This kind of bread can be prepared very quickly and needs no fermentation. The baking of the sour rye bread, on the other hand, is a very slow process and the dough is hard to handle, so very few people take the trouble of doing it themselves nowadays.

Fresh in east, dry in west

Many forms of rye bread still have a hole in the centre, just as they did long ago when the



Mikko Nurmi

Crisp bread is often seasoned with cumin.

loaves were hung on poles by the ceiling. In the western parts of the country, bread was baked only a couple of times a year. The loaves hardened and dried as they hung in the poles, but because of the dryness and the sourness they preserved well edible for months.

In the eastern parts of the country, the oven was used for cooking casseroles every week. It was then natural to bake bread at the same heating. A delicious eastern speciality is *karjalanpiirakka*, the Karelian pasty, baked quickly in a very hot oven. These little "pies" are made of a thin rye and wheat dough filled with rice pudding or mashed potatoes.



Antero Aaltonen

The making of Karelian pastries requires some skill.

Time-travelling in the Finnish Science Center

- In the Finnish Science Center Heureka you can take a look at the everyday living in ancient Egypt, watch a survival story of Alaska in the Verne theatre hemispheric cinema or try a computerized lie detector.

The exhibition of ancient cultures will take you to Egypt, Assyria, the Indus and the Middle East. You can visit an ancient Egyptian home, study Mesopotamian mathematics or consult an ancient doctor at his surgery. A mummy from the collections of the Estonian Tartu University is at display, and you will also have a chance to enter a crypt.

If you prefer modern technology, Heureka is a place for you, too! In the Technology exhibition you can test the reliability of a computer-based lie detector apparatus or conduct a virtual orchestra. The Multimedia Laboratory of the Helsinki University of Technology has developed a virtual orchestra which can be controlled by the data received through the acceleration sensors in the baton. Heureka has also produced a computer program visualising the possibilities of scientific computations.

Heureka is situated in Tikkurila, a few hundred metres off the Tikkurila railway station. The local trains I, R, K, P and H will take you there in about 20 minutes from the Helsinki central railway station. There are several departures per hour.

Opening hours:
Entrance fees:

daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays to 8 p.m.
exhibitions + Verne theatre FIM 85 for adults, FIM 50 for children 6 to 15 years, under 6 years free
exhibitions only FIM 65 for adults. FIM 40 for children 6 to 15 years, under 6 years free

...on Saturday



The final musical performance, "Piae cantiones" at Bastion von Fersen.

Discussion meeting on environmental statistics

● At Tuesday 17 August, the ISI special interest committee on environmental statistics organizes a discussion meeting on the challenges and opportunities for environmental statistics. The environment is taken in a broad context, dealing on the one hand with natural resources and ecology, and on the other hand with central issues like pollution and risk. Interest focuses on the three major compartments 'land, soil and water'. Also statistics on the environment, as collected by national statistical institutes will be addressed.

Environmental statistics is an important issue within the ISI context. During the conference, two invited paper sessions and one contributed paper session was organized. Also, a satellite conference is organized just following the ISI meetings in

Athens, Greece. At this moment the special interest committee is heading towards a section. Flyers with additional information have been distributed at various places in the conference center. Environmental statistics is largely problem driven, and it requires a broad range of statistical methodology. A typical spatial and temporal context serves as a suitable framework for progress now and in the future. Modern information systems are indispensable to obtain reliable information.

We encourage everyone who is concerned about the state and the future of the environment to attend this meeting. In particular as well we invite participants from developing countries to attend.

Time: 11.15, Place: room 1F/3

Open Meeting on Professional Ethics Tuesday, August 17 - 17:30 - Room 1F/3

The ISI Council has recently decided to create a new committee, the "ISI Committee on Professional Ethics". Two main reasons have prompted this initiative:

- the ISI's strong commitment to examine ethical issues in the past (as evidenced by the ISI Declaration on Professional Ethics adopted in Amsterdam in 1985)
- the rapid evolution of concerns about this topic, due particularly to the globalisation of the economy and, in the wake of the collapse of the Former Soviet Union, the transition to market based economies in an increasing number of countries (including developing ones).

An Open Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, at 17:30, in the room 1F/3 to discuss the functions of this new committee, its programme of work, and its modes of operation. The meeting will be chaired by the incoming ISI President, Jean-Louis BODIN. All participants in the ISI Session who are interested in ethical issues are invited to participate in this important meeting.

Guided nature tours

Harakka island

Starting from M4 door (Finlandia hall) on Tuesday Aug. 17th at 15.30 (lasts for 3 hours).

Welcome to join us with expert guidance to Harakka Island Nature reserve, where birds are preparing for migration. Well known and rich flora includes some rare species too. Magnificent views and peaceful atmosphere!

We shall also visit the island's Nature center and its little exhibition. See how Helsinki is raising environmental awareness in practise.

Cost: Boat trip costs FIM 20. Take your public transportation ticket with you.

Recommended: proper walking shoes, wind-stopping clothing (depending on weather).

World's shortest nature walk at Töölö bay area

Starting from M4 door (Finlandia hall) on Monday Aug. 16th at 15.30 (lasts about an hour).

Welcome to join us with expert guidance to the world's shortest nature walk near Finlandia hall at Töölö bay area. There is plenty of nature even this close to the city centre. Come to see the bird broods and luxuriant reeds. You may even see some muskrats.

Cost: free

Please register in the exhibition area at the stand of City of Helsinki Urban Facts.

More information: Senior environmental advisor Mr. Matti Nieminen, tel. 7312 2237.

Some Coming IASE Activities

Confercia Internacional: Experiencias y Perpectivas de la Ensenanza de la Estadistica, 20 - 22 September 1999, Florianopolis, Brazil: Contact Gabriella Ottaviani, ottavian@pow2.sta.uniroma1.it

Education Sessions at ICME-9 Statistical July 31 - August 6, 2000, Tokyo, Japan: Contact Susan Starkings starkisa@vax.sbu.ac.uk

IASE Round Table Conference on Training Researchers in the Use of Statistics 7-11 August, 2000, Tokyo, Japan: Contact Carmen Batanero, batanero@goliat.ugr.es

IASE Sessions in the ISI's 53rd biennial Meeting, Seoul, Korea, August 2001: Contact Lionel Pereira-Mendoza, pereiraml@am.nie.ac.sg

ICOTS-6: Developing a Statistically Literate Society Durban, South Africa, July 2002: Contact Gabriella Ottaviani, ottavian@pow2.sta.uniroma1.it

To become a member of the IASE either contact the ISI office or use the form on the IASE website <http://www.stat.ncsu.edu/info/iase/>