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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.

Farewell party

● All good things come to an end, and the 52nd Session of the International Statistical Institute makes no exception. Tonight at 20.00 in the Opera House nearly 500 participants gather for the farewell party.

Unfortunately, not all participants interested in this event could receive a ticket due to the unexpected popularity of the Session.

There will be no transportation, as the Opera House is easy to reach on foot. From the main entrance of the Finlandia Hall, turn right and take a ten minute walk through the park to the white building at the other end of it.

Tonight's programme will include music performed by *Kolme blondia*, "The Three Blonds", good food and dancing.

Built in 1993

In 1997, the Finnish National Opera gave 266 performances and had almost 240,000 spectators. The construction of the opera building was a long and winding process and one of the biggest building projects in Helsinki in the 1990's.

The building was designed by Eero Hyvämäki, Jukka Karhunen and Risto Parkkinen and opened in autumn 1993. There are two stages and a modern setting for opera and ballet. The main auditorium



Kuvapörssi



Kuvapörssi

seats almost 1,400 persons.
 The old opera house on the *Bulevardi* street (meaning, as you might have guessed, "a boulevard") operates today as a stage for visiting dance and theatrical groups.

Jan Tinbergen Awards 2001

● The ISI announces the tenth 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 53rd Session of the ISI to be held in Seoul, Korea, in August of 2001.

As a special one-time only feature of the 2001 competition, participation will be restricted only to FEMALE nationals of developing countries (excluding nationals from transition countries), who were born in 1969 or later. Papers submitted must be unpublished, original works, which may include material from participants' university theses.

The papers submitted will be examined by an International

Jury of distinguished statisticians who will select the three best papers presented in the competition. Their decision will be final. The authors of the winning papers will receive the Jan Tinbergen Award together with a cash prize and be invited to present their papers at the Seoul Session of ISI, with all expenses paid (i.e. round trip airline ticket from her place of residence to Seoul plus a lump sum to cover living expenses).

Manuscripts for the Competition should be submitted to the ISI Permanent Office not later than January 1, 2001. The rules governing the preparation of papers, application forms and full details are available upon request from the ISI Permanent Office (isi@cbs.nl).

IASE - International Association for Statistical Education

● The youngest of the ISI Sections, the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE) was founded during the 48th ISI Session in Cairo in 1991. The purpose of the association is to advance statistical education at all levels through international cooperation and exchange of information through its programme of publications and meetings.

The more than 500 members of the IASE include teachers of statistics at the secondary and university levels, statisticians with a strong interest in education and a substantial group of education researchers. The IASE Executive Committee is composed of six members.

The IASE produces publications of its own, such as the *IASE Review*, and

contributes to publications of other producers. *Teaching Statistics*, for instance, includes IASE matters. The association organises international conferences, of which the most prominent are International Conferences on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS) every fourth year, and Round Table Meetings.

The ICOTS meetings are the IASE's largest scientific

meetings. The Round Table Meetings are attended by a small, select group of experts in statistical education from various parts of the world. Their purpose is to make recommendations from which institutions and individuals engaged in statistical education and training may benefit.

Characterization of statisticians by gender in several countries

This on-going project of the **Committee on Women in Statistics** invites anyone interested in knowing more about the project, or participating in it, to contact the coordinators at the Conference or at their addresses in Argentina:

Elia Boeri de Cervetto notas@indec.mecon.ar
Celina Curti ccurti@spu.edu.ar

Correction

Another omission has been found on the list of the participants' countries in the weekend issue: from Gambia, there are two participants according to the registrations list of 13 August.

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.

Today

Reminder to **the Nominations Committee of the ISI**: the second meeting of the committee will take place **today** at 16.00 in the room designated ISI Office on the first floor (entry level + one).

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 Stepien.

IPM12 on "Whither statistical publishing?", scheduled today at 13.00, has been cancelled.

In *IPM64*, the paper "PRN Sampling: the Australian experience", scheduled at 13.10, will be presented by W. F. Gross instead of Ken Brewer.

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*, the paper scheduled at 14.00, "Partially observed hidden Markov chain model statistics" by Rostislav Maiboroda (UKRAINE) has been cancelled.

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

In *CPM46.2* at 15.30 the chairperson has changed and will be Kari Djerf.

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.

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.

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.

Highlights of the weekend



Young musicians playing old music in the yard of *Tenalji von Fersen*.



Lakeland tour from *Aulanko* to *Visavuori*.



Glass blowing is an old craft. From the *littala* factory



Mami Takahashi from Japan on the ferry from Suomenlinna.



The childhood home of the composer Jean Sibelius in Hämeenlinna.



Visavuori, the home and studio of the sculptor Emil Wikström.



Professor Erkki Tomppo speaking of forest inventory at the president's invited paper meeting on Friday.



Some recipients of the ISI Service Medals.



The medieval brick castle in Hämeenlinna.

In Seoul the past meets with the future

by Professor Jae Chang Lee
Chairman of the Local Program Committee
of the 53rd Session of the ISI

● Are you looking for an adventure to kick off the first year of the new millennium? How about visiting the world's last cold war frontier, Korea – that is south Korea. Don't worry. Camouflaged soldiers won't be lining the streets, but you can seek them out if you want. Instead, Seoul, only an hour's drive from a heavily fortified border, offers the most extraordinary contrast of past and future in one setting.

Seoul, now the capital of South Korea, has been the center of this nation for more than 600 years. And traditions from the last dynasty, Chosun (1392-1910), are still alive in the center of the city – at the Kyongbok Palace, the Secret Garden, and the Chokye Buddhist Temple. Modern, space-age-like skyscrapers nearby push history into the future.

And an area called Insadong mix the two brilliantly. You could lose days wandering through Insadong's back allies filled with traditional tea houses and restaurants, art galleries, antique shops, and pottery shops. On Sundays, a weekly fair takes over the streets of Insadong, and South Koreans sport their traditional clothes, sell traditional candy,



Sukgulam in Kyungju

and you can even participate in traditional games.

If you want excitement while grabbing gifts for friends and family back home, you could visit the all-night markets in Tongdaemun, a wholesale market with bright lights, new skyscrapers and pop music blaring through what should be serene sleep time. Street stalls with Korea's best street snacks can provide an interesting culinary experience – from hand rolled pizzas to fish cakes and spicy rice cakes.

When you start to think you've seen it all, a tour up to

Shilla Dynasty (B.C 57 - A.D 780). The city, renovated and well preserved, is a museum in itself. There you can walk into a hill size tomb of old kings, or visit Bulkooksa, an architecturally stunning temple. Try walking up early before dawn, a stroll up to Sukgulam to watch the sun rise from the East Sea and hit a large Buddha statue in a cave will reward you for the effort.

And if you are looking for a physical challenge, climb the famous Sorak Mountains on the east coast, north from Kyungju and east of Seoul.



The Kyongbok Palace in Seoul

the demilitarized zone will spark your interest in regional politics and Cold War history. South Korean soldiers stand guard 24 hours against the threat of their northern counterparts. You can see propaganda villages set up by North and South Korea, and huge flags posted by both sides – believe it or not, there was actual competition to post larger flags. While you're there, you will also walk through the border peace village of Panmunjom, and if you are lucky you can see North Korean soldiers staring at you through their binoculars.

Have the time to get out of Seoul? Then head down south to Kyungju, the capital of the

Stunning valleys and rocky mountains and hidden temples there are a true delight.

While you discover Korea, you may even challenge yourself to learn a couple phrases and a scientific Korean alphabet, which is phonetic. The alphabet, created by King Sejong in 1443 to avoid using complicated Chinese characters, uses philosophy of man, land, sun and ying and yang (bright and dark). You might be surprised how easy Korean is to read with a phonetic chart.

So jump on a plane and visit Seoul. You will be pleasantly surprised by the experience this city offers you.



ISI-Seoul Venue

Mobile phones

by Aulikki Järvinen

According to the latest estimate, there are well over three million registered mobile telephone subscriber connections in Finland. As the population of Finland is only 5,147,000, it follows that the density of mobile phones is exceptionally high in our country.

● Communication has become possible anywhere, and at any time. This is indicative of the high standard of Finnish information technology.

The story goes that lumberjacks first created the demand for mobile phones. As they worked alone in the middle of the forest they wanted a means by which they could be contacted. Later on, as we know, mobile telephones spread everywhere. They are an innovation propelled by young generations, in particular.

Many older Finns still dislike the idea of a mobile phone and would not rather have one themselves. This despite the

fact that they are very handy gadgets for the elderly, and are always at hand, making summoning help easier for them.

Phones ringing in concerts

Not everybody likes to listen to other people's chat when travelling by public transport, let alone be disturbed by ringing phones and hushed conversations during concerts, lectures or theatre performances. Everybody knows that mobile phones must be switched off in hospitals and on board

airplanes, but there are other situations, too, when plain good manners would dictate switching them off.

Because mobile phones are so handy, many Finns have given up their conventional, wired telephones altogether. Telephone conversations in Finland used to start with "How are you?" Today's opening phrase is more likely to be "Where are you?"

New ways of transferring data

Mobile telephones will obviously continue to get even more popular. Data from

laptops will be transferred via a connected GSM telephone which, in addition to fast data transmission, will eventually also be able to transmit and receive pictures once the technology gets sufficiently advanced.

Hence, Finland has to be regarded as a super communicative country, already living in the future. How the mobile telephone culture will spread and develop in the new millennium and what changes can be expected remains to be seen, but we believe that, in this respect, Finland will be spearheading the development.

Dictionary of statistical terms

First edited by M.G. Kendall and W.R. Buckland and later by F.H.C. Marriott, this volume is now in preparation as a new publication of the ISI and it is expected to appear in 2001. The Editor-in-Chief is Yadolah Dodge of the Statistics Group, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

The advisory board include David Cox (UK)
Daniel Commenges (France)
Zhi Geng (China)
Jane Gentlemen (USA)
Jana Jureckova (Czech Rep.)
A.N. Shiryaev (Russia)
Patty Solomon (Australia)
Sue Wilson (Australia)

Any comment, correction and suggestion should be addressed to Professor Yadolah Dodge, University of Neuchâtel, Statistics Group, Case Postale 1825, 2002 Neuchâtel,

Switzerland, e-mail: yadolah.dodge@seco.chine.ch or to any members of the advisory board. Your help is greatly appreciated.

WTO-OMT World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism (June 15-18, 1999)

● Travel and Tourism form one of the world's largest "industries". WTO reported 635 million Tourist Arrivals (excluding day-visits) world-wide in 1998, with Receipts from International Tourism totalling US\$439 billion (excluding International Fares, including receipts from Day-Visitors). Domestic Tourism is more important in many countries, but only partial data are reported. Millions of people are employed (directly or indirectly) in hundreds of thousands of enterprises (usually serving tourism and other economic activities) and as self-employed.

WTO organised this Conference of Nice "to develop credible economic statements on the size, scope and net contribution of tourism activity through the use of Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSAs) within the UN System of National Accounts (SNA 1993), in order to guide the policy-making of governments in this area" and "to enhance the economic contribution of tourism by means of a partnership between governments and the private sector, strengthen national tourism administrations (NTAs) and other government bodies concerned and develop

harmonised methodologies for the measurement of physical and financial tourism flows, both internationally and domestically".

There were 68 papers and 650 participants from 120 countries. WTO, in particular, proposed a set of technical standards and an Action Plan for measuring the contribution of tourism to national

economies. The Conference adopted the detailed Action Plan and Resolutions, which will be submitted to the 13th Session of WTO's General Assembly (Santiago, Sep 24 – Oct 1, 1999) and then the UN Statistics Commission. These will then be publicised world-wide: an article will be prepared for members of ISI and its Sections.

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BERNOULLI is the journal of the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability, issued six times per year. It is published by the ISI in co-operation with the Bernoulli Society. The journal provides a comprehensive account of important developments in the fields of statistics and probability, offering an international forum for both theoretical and applied work.

BERNOULLI publishes:

Papers containing original and

significant research contributions with background, derivation and discussion of the results in suitable detail and, where appropriate, with discussion of interesting data sets in relation to the methodology proposed.

Papers of the following two types will also be considered for publication, provided they are judged to enhance the dissemination of research: Review papers which provide an integrated critical survey of some area of probability and statistics and discuss important

recent developments. Scholarly written papers on some historically significant aspect of statistics and probability. In special cases papers may be published with discussion.

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The logo for the Bernoulli Society, featuring the word "Bernoulli" in a stylized, cursive script.