



ISI Committee on Statistics in Business and Industry History and Summary of Activities

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1. Formation of the Committee

An initial meeting was held at the 1989 ISI Biennial Session in Paris to explore interest in starting a group within the ISI to stimulate and foster interactions among people interested in and involved in industrial statistics. The meeting was chaired by Jon Kettenring (representing Ram Gnanadesikan). Soon thereafter, the ISI approved the formation of a Working Group on Industrial Statistics. This group, chaired by Ram Ganadesikan, was very active in organizing and sponsoring various activities described below. Given the wide interests within the ISI and success of the working group, the ISI approved the formation of a standing committee on Statistics in Industry in 1992. The scope of the committee was broadened to include business statistics and the name was changed to Statistics in Business and Industry (SBI) in 1999. The following have served as committee chairs:

- 1992 – 1995 Ram Gnanadesikan
- 1995 – 1999 Vijay Nair
- 1999 – 2003 Nick Fisher
- 2003 – Bovas Abraham

2. Mission/Vision of the SBI Committee:

Mission:

To support the work of statisticians working in business and industry by monitoring their needs on an ongoing basis, promoting research and applications and best current practices, facilitating technology transfer, and fostering communication among members. The SBI Committee seeks to promote (both to statisticians and to industry) the value and importance of Statistics in Business and Industry, and to support suitable activities, particularly in lesser-developed countries.

Vision:

SBI is recognized as a significant force for promoting (both to statisticians and to industry) the value and importance of Statistics in Business and Industry, and for supporting suitable activities, particularly in lesser-developed countries.

Web site: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~sbi/>

3. Past Activities:

Conferences and Workshops:

- ISI Satellite Meeting on Industrial Statistics, Tel Aviv, Israel, August 1991. Organized by David Steinberg and Vijay Nair
- Workshop on Statistical Process Control, ISI Biennial Session, Cairo, 1991, presented by Bovas Abraham.
- Satellite Meeting (CHESM-93, Chemometrics and Environmetrics) in Bologna, August 1993 (prior to the ISI Florence Session). Organized by Nick Fisher, with participation from Chemometrics and Environmetrics groups
- Conference on Statistics in Industry, Science and Technology, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, July 11-13, 1994. Organized by Chihiro Hirotsu.
- Co-sponsored Conference on Statistical Methods and Statistical Computing on Quality and Productivity Improvement, Seoul, S. Korea, August 17-19, 1995 (joint with IASC). Organized by Sung H. Park
- Co-sponsored the Quality part of the scientific program of the Sydney International Statistical Congress, Sydney, Australia, July 8-12, 1996. Organized by Nick Fisher and Ron Sandland.
- Conference on Quality Improvement Through Statistical Methods, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin, India, December 29, 1996 to January 1, 1997. Organized by Bovas Abraham and Unnikrishnan Nair.
- Co-sponsored Satellite Meeting to the ISI Istanbul session on "Industrial Statistics: Aims and Computational Aspects", Athens, August 16-17, 1997. Organized by C. P. Kitsos.
- The First International Symposium on Industrial Statistics (ISIS 1), Linköping, Stockholm, Sweden, August 19-21, 1999. Organized by Bo Bergman.
- Co-sponsored the Second International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability - MMR '2000 in Bordeaux, France, July 4-7, 2000. Organized by Misha Nikouline,
- Co-sponsored Second International Symposium on PLS methods, Naples, October 1st-3rd, 2000. Organized by Carlo Lauro.
- Workshops in Design of Experiments, Buenos Aires and Tucuman, Argentina, March 2001 presented by Bovas Abraham and Vijay Nair (sponsored by IASI and ITBA)

- Co-sponsored VIII Seminar of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), Panama City, 24 -25 July 2001. Scientific program chaired by Vijay Nair.
- Co-sponsored the Third International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability MMR '2002 in Trondheim, Norway, June, 2002. Organized by Bo Lindqvist.
- The Second International Symposium on Industrial Statistics (ISIS 2), Yokohama, Japan, August, 2001. Organized by Chihiro Hirotsu.
- Statistics in Industry, Cochin, India, December, 2002. Organized by Bovas Abraham.
- The Third International Symposium on Industrial Statistics (ISIS 3), Barcelona, Spain, August, 2003 (joint with ENBIS). Organized by David Steinberg.
- The Fourth International Symposium on Industrial Statistics (ISIS 4), Cairns, Australia, April, 2005. To be organized by Nick Fisher.

Other Activities:

- **Special issue of *International Statistical Review***, co-edited by Vijay Nair & Jeff Wu (1993)
- **Invited Sessions at the last six ISI Sessions**

4. Activities – organizational

Summarized in the Annual Reports to ISI below (Appendix A).

APPENDIX A: Annual reports to ISI

Annual Report of the ISI Committee on Statistics in Industry 1995-96

This committee was created in 1992 to stimulate and foster interactions, at an international level, among people interested and involved in industrial statistics. In order to achieve these goals, our committee has sponsored several international conferences over the last few years.

A three-day conference on Statistics in Industry, Science and Technology was held in Tokyo, Japan on July 11-13, 1994. This conference was organized by Professor Chihiro Hirotsu of the University of Tokyo. It was very successful in attracting both international and local participation with a total of more than 120 participants. There was a scientific tour of Fuji-Xerox and Nissan plants at the end of the conference.

We also cosponsored a satellite meeting in Seoul, Korea before the 50th biennial session in Beijing. The International Conference on Statistical Methods and Statistical Computing on Quality and Productivity Improvement, organized by Professor Sung H. Park of the Seoul National University, was held in Seoul from August 17-19, 1995. This conference, cosponsored with IASC, attracted more than 400 participants and more than 120 papers were presented. There was also a Quality Engineering Workshop the day before the conference and a scientific tour of Daewoo Automobile Company during the conference.

The committee is also exploring other ways to serve the international community, especially those interested in industrial statistics in developing countries. Ideas being explored include starting a newsletter to exchange news and information and also conducting regional workshops. Anyone with specific suggestions is encouraged to contact me or the other members of the committee.

ISI Committee on Statistics in Industry
Vijay Nair

List of Committee Members
1996

Vijay Nair, Chair (Malaysia/USA)
Nick Fisher, Vice-Chair (Australia)
Bovas Abraham (Canada)
Bo Bergman (Sweden)
Michele Boulanger (France)
Ronald Does (Netherlands)
Luis Escobar (Colombia)
Chihiro Hirotsu (Japan)
Bill Meeker (USA)
S.P. Mukherjee (India)
Sung H. Park (S.Korea)
David Steinberg (Israel)
S. T. Tseng (Taiwan)
Jeff Wu (USA)

Report from
ISI Committee on Statistics in Industry
1996-97

The committee co-sponsored two international conferences over the last year.

We cosponsored the Quality part of the scientific program of the Sydney International Statistical Congress, held in Sydney from July 8-12, 1996. This part of the program, organized by Ron Sandland and Nick Fisher of CSIRO, attracted a lot of local and international participation.

We also cosponsored the conference on *Quality Improvement Through Statistical Methods* in Cochin, India from December 29, 1996 to January 1, 1997. This conference was organized by Bovas Abraham and Unnikrishnan Nair and hosted by the Cochin University of Science and Technology. About one hundred and twenty-five people attended the conference from 10 countries, representing 4 continents. The three-day conference was followed by a one-day workshop on International Statistical Standards.

For the coming year, we are cosponsoring a satellite meeting in Athens, Greece on "Industrial Statistics: Aims and Computational Aspects" from August 16-17, 1997. This conference is being organized by C. P. Kitsos.

We are continuing to explore other regional conferences/workshops as well as other ways of serving the needs of the international community. Anyone with specific suggestions is encouraged to contact me or the other members of the committee.

Vijay Nair
For the ISI Committee on Statistics in Industry

Report from
ISI Committee on Statistics in Industry
1997-98

This committee was created in 1992 to stimulate and foster interactions, at an international level, among people interested and involved in industrial statistics. The committee currently consists of fourteen members, representing different parts of the world and industry as well as academia.

The committee has sponsored several international meetings and workshops over the last few years to bring together practitioners and researchers and to promote discussion on practice and research in industrial statistics. This past year, we cosponsored a very successful satellite meeting in Athens, right before the ISI biennial session in Istanbul. This meeting was organized by Dr. Christos Kitsos from Athens. The talks covered a broad range of topics in quality and reliability, design of experiments, pharmaceutical statistics, and computing. The meeting attracted a large number of participants from overseas.

Plans are underway currently to hold the next meeting in Stockholm right after the next ISI biennial session in Helsinki. Professor Bo Bergman of Linköping University is the Chair of the Organizing Committee. Discussions are also underway to hold a meeting in Mexico City in conjunction with the Bernoulli Congress in 2000.

We are continuing to explore other regional conferences/workshops as well as other ways of serving the needs of the international community. Anyone with specific suggestions is encouraged to contact me or the other members of the committee. We are especially interested hearing from members residing in developing countries on their needs and from younger people who are interested in getting involved in the committee's activities.

Vijay Nair
For the ISI Committee on Statistics in Industry

Report from
ISI Committee on Statistics in Industry
1998-99

In recent years, there has been a recognition that the scope of the committee should be broadened to include the area of business statistics. The ISI Executive Committee formally discussed and approved this change last year. The membership of the committee is being expanded to include new members with interests in business statistics.

Over the past few years, the committee has organized or co-sponsored very successful conferences and workshops to bring together practitioners and researchers from around the world. These meetings have served to promote discussion on practical and research issues in industrial statistics. In order to give an identity to these meetings, the committee has decided to give an official name to its meetings. Thus, the First International Symposium on Industrial Statistics (ISIS) will be held in Linköping, Sweden August 19-21, 1999, right after the 52nd ISI biennial session in Helsinki. Professor Bo Bergman of Linköping University is the Chair of the Organizing Committee. Information about the symposium is available from the ISIS homepage at <http://www.ikp.liu.se/>.

The committee is also cosponsoring the Second International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability - MMR '2000 in Bordeaux, France, July 4-7, 2000. We have also been exploring the possibility of organizing other conferences in the future. There are some preliminary discussions to hold a workshop or a conference in South America. We also hope to organize a cutting-edge conference in the area of business statistics.

The committee has been functioning as an "informal" section for people with interests in the general area of industrial statistics. There has been some discussion recently about whether we should consider becoming a separate section of the ISI. The committee will begin careful discussions on this important topic and, if appropriate, make a recommendation to the ISI Executive Committee and Council in the near future.

Vijay Nair
For the ISI Committee on Statistics in Industry

Annual report on activities, October 2000

1. **Name change** Following discussions held at the Helsinki ISI Session, the name of the Committee was changed to reflect the needs of the statistical community in the general areas of Business and Industry.
2. **Mission** To provide international support for the work of statisticians working in business and industry by monitoring their needs on an ongoing basis, promoting research and applications and best current practices, facilitating technology transfer, and fostering communication among members. The SBI Committee seeks to promote (both to statisticians and to industry) the value and importance of Statistics in Business and Industry, and to support suitable activities, particularly in lesser-developed countries.
3. **Action plan** To pursue this mission, the Committee has planned a number of steps:
 - (a) *Establish a Web site*
This has been set up by a Committee member, Bill Meeker:
<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~sbi>
 - (b) *Establish an electronic news group*
This has also been set up by Bill Meeker: sbi-net@iastate.edu. (See the web site for details on how to join.) It was advertised to as many Statistical Societies and other potentially interested groups as we could manage to contact.
 - (c) *Survey needs of statisticians working in the area, and respond appropriately*
Survey in planning stage.
 - (d) *Continue participation in conferences and workshops*
See next item.
4. **Conference activities**
 - (a) *First International Symposium on Industrial Statistic (ISIS), Linköping 19--21 August 1999*
This was organised by a Committee member, Bo Bergman. There were 67 paying participants.
 - (b) *Second International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability Methodology, Practice and Inference, Bordeaux July 4-7, 2000.*
The Committee co-sponsored this conference.
 - (c) *Second International Symposium on Industrial Statistic (ISIS2), Hiyoshi, 20-21 August 2001.*
The Committee is sponsoring this satellite meeting for the Seoul ISI; it is being organised by Chihiro Hirotsu. (An earlier proposal to stage it in Taiwan proved not to be feasible.)
 - (d) *Second International Symposium on PLS methods, Naples, October 1st-3rd, 2001*
The Committee is co-sponsoring this conference, which is being organised by a Committee member, Carlo Lauro.
5. **Other**
The Committee is seeking to liaise with ENBIS (European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics), a recently-established European initiative in Industrial Statistics. An SBI Committee member, Ronald Does, is on the ENBIS committee.

ISI Committee on Statistics in Business and Industry

Report on activities, 1999 - 2001

6. Mission To provide international support for the work of statisticians working in business and industry by monitoring their needs on an ongoing basis, promoting research and applications and best current practices, facilitating technology transfer, and fostering communication among members. The SBI Committee seeks to promote (both to statisticians and to industry) the value and importance of Statistics in Business and Industry, and to support suitable activities, particularly in lesser-developed countries.

7. Actions over last 2 years

- A Web site been set up by a Committee member, Bill Meeker:
<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~sbi>
- An electronic news group has also been set up by Bill Meeker: sbi-net@iastate.edu.
- The SBI Committee co-sponsored the Second International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability Methodology, Practice and Inference, Bordeaux July 4-7, 2000.
- The SBI Committee co-sponsored the VIII Seminar on Applied Statistics of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), Panama City, 24 -25 July 2001.
- Just prior to the Seoul ISI, the Committee will run the Second International Symposium on Industrial Statistics (ISIS2), in Yokohama, Japan, 20-21 August 2001. (An earlier proposal to stage it in Taiwan proved not to be feasible.)
- On behalf of the Committee, Ronald Does has organised Invited Paper topic 33, "Contemporary Methods in Quality Management", for the Seoul ISI.
- The SBI Committee is co-sponsoring the Second International Symposium on PLS methods, Naples, October 1st-3rd, 2001. It is being organised by a Committee member, Carlo Lauro.
- SBI is co-sponsoring MMR 2002 (Third International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability) to be held in Trondheim Norway, June 17-20, 2002. Information can be found at <http://www.math.ntnu.no/mmr2002>. (Bo Linqvist and Kjell Doksum are the organizers of MMR 2002.)

8. Future activities

The Committee hopes to carry out a survey of the needs of statisticians working in the business and industry. However, this needs to be discussed in Seoul at the Committee meeting.

We are in the early stages of planning ISIS3, a satellite meeting in association with the Berlin ISI Session. Our intention is to approach ENBIS (European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics), a recently-established European initiative in Industrial Statistics, to co-sponsor the meeting.

N.I. Fisher
For the SBI Committee

ISI Committee on Statistics in Business and Industry

Report on activities, September 2001 – May 2002

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Activities since Seoul Session

The SBI Committee co-sponsored and participated in the Second International Symposium on PLS methods, Naples, October 1st-3rd, 2001. It was being organised by a Committee member, Carlo Lauro.

Future activities

- SBI is co-sponsoring MMR 2002 (Third International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability) to be held in Trondheim Norway, June 17-20, 2002. Information can be found at <http://www.math.ntnu.no/mmr2002>. (Bo Linqvist and Kjell Doksum are the organizers of MMR 2002.)
- SBI will be holding ISIS3, a satellite meeting in association with the Berlin ISI Session, in Barcelona in collaboration with ENBIS (European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics), a recently-established European initiative in Industrial Statistics.
- SBI is in the early stages of planning a satellite meeting in association with the Sydney ISI Session, in collaboration with the Statistical Society of Australia Inc. This will be held in Cairns, on the Great Barrier Reef.

Planning

The SBI Committee has been developing a plan to achieve Section Status. To date, a broadly-based Consultative Committee has been established, representing various regions and academic, business and industrial interests. The Committee is in the process of obtaining input from this group about its priorities for Products and Services that the Committee, or a subsequent Section, might provide.

N.I. Fisher
For the SBI Committee

ISI Committee on Statistics in Business and Industry

Report on activities, June 2002 – June 2003

Mission To provide international support for the work of statisticians working in business and industry by monitoring their needs on an ongoing basis, promoting research and applications and best current practices, facilitating technology transfer, and fostering communication among members. The SBI Committee seeks to promote (both to statisticians and to industry) the value and importance of Statistics in Business and Industry, and to support suitable activities, particularly in lesser-developed countries.

Activities since Seoul Session

The SBI Committee co-sponsored and participated in MMR 2002 (Third International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability) to be held in Trondheim Norway, June 17-20, 2002.

Future activities

- Invited Paper session on “Statistics in engineering and advanced technology” organised for Berlin ISI
- Immediately following the Berlin ISI Session, SBI will be holding its third International Symposium on Industrial Statistics (ISIS3) as an official ISI satellite meeting in Barcelona, in collaboration with ENBIS (European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics).
- SBI is in the early stages of planning a satellite meeting in association with the Sydney ISI Session, in collaboration with the Statistical Society of Australia Inc. This will be held in Cairns, on the Great Barrier Reef.

Planning

The SBI Committee has developed the basis for a Strategic Plan, with key opportunities to pursue its Mission identified by surveying a wide range of industrial statisticians in all continents except Europe (where ENBIS appears to be responding well to the needs of the European statistical community).

This information should provide the basis for the next Committee Chair to move the Committee forward, not only in terms of its charter, but also to Section status. It is not unreasonable to suppose that an application for Section status would be filed well before the ISI Session in Sydney.

N.I. Fisher
For the SBI Committee