

THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHINESE STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED IN 1987

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HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

In early 1970s, a group of Chinese statisticians got together and started a Chinese statistical organization which was known as the Chinese Statistical Association in America (CSAA). The CSAA was located at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin for a few years and then moved to the area of New Jersey. In late 1970s, as the size of the CSAA became larger and larger, it was moved back to Madison under supervision of Professor George C. Tiao. In mid 1980s, there was a need for a more formal organization to carry out functions and activities among all Chinese statisticians and scientists in the area related to statistics around the world. Subsequently, at the 1986 American Statistical Association (ASA) Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) held in Chicago, it was suggested to change the CSAA to the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) to accurately reflect the nature and scope of the organization.

At the same meeting, it was also decided to establish an internal statistical journal to serve ICSA members. A Formation Committee was then formed. In 1987, the Formation Committee proposed a draft Constitution and By-laws which states the goal and structure of the ICSA. The ICSA was officially founded at the 1987 JSM held in San Francisco. The ICSA was registered in Delaware on the 8th of August in 1988. As a result, the ICSA was qualified for a non-profit organization under the 501(3) status.

Currently, the ICSA has more than 1000 members from all over the world. The geographic distribution of the members is as follows. There are 63% from the United States, 16% from Taiwan, 10% from China, 3% from Canada, 4% from Hong Kong, 2.5% from Singapore and 1.5% from other areas. Shein-Chung Chow of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, is the current President (1997) and Chien-Fu Jeff Wu of University of Michigan is the President-elected (1997). The past Presidents of the ICSA starting 1988 were George C. Tiao (1988), James C. Fu, Jia-Yeong Tsay (1990), Grace L. Yang (1991), Jack Lee (1992), Y. S. Chow (1993), Chiao Yeh (1994), Smiley W. Cheng (1995), and Kung-Fu Cheng (1996). For more information about ICSA or membership, please contact Nancy C.H. Lo, Executive Director of ICSA at 2575 Ardath Road, La Jolla CA 92037, E-mail: NLO@UCSD.EDU, Voice phone: 619-546-7123 and Fax: 619-546-5656.

In 1990, a number of members who are in the area of biostatistics and biopharmaceutical statistics proposed to establish a Biometrics section to meet the increasing needs of biometrics. A committee was formed in 1992 (I) to evaluate and identify the need for the field of biostatistics, (ii) to strengthen interaction among members in this field, and (iii) to discuss plans for establishment of the section. Consequently, Biometrics Section was approved by the Board of Directors in 1993 and was established on January 1, 1994.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The ICSA is a non-profit organization. The Association is organized and will be operated for educational, charitable, and scientific purposes only. Its objectives are: activities, including publication of journals in statistics and probability, scientific meetings, and other educational programs; to promote better understanding and interest by the general public in statistical methodology and related applications; to promote better communication through the development of standards, and common terminology; to foster cooperative efforts among educational, research, industrial, and government personnel in statistical activities. The objectives are pursued without regard to race, creed, color, sex or nationality.

The Association has categories of members, including individuals and organizations. The right to vote, to sign referendum petitions, to hold office and to sign nominating petitions shall be limited to individual members.

The board of directors is the policy-making and legislative body of the Association. The board of directors consists of 16 elected members, the president, president-elect, past president and one member from each Section, and each district. Each elected member serves a three-year term and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office.

The officers of the Association are the president, president-elect, past president, executive director and treasurer. The executive director and treasurer are appointed by the board of directors, and serve a three-year term. Once elected to the position of president-elect, the incumbent shall serve a three-year term. The first year the incumbent serves as president-elect, the second year as president, and the third year as past president.

The purpose of Biometrics Section formed in 1994 is to rigorously pursue the objectives of the ICSA with the special interest in biometrics, to foster in the broadest manner biometrics and its application, and to promote unity and effectiveness of effort among all individuals and groups in the biometric community. The officers of the section consists of the chair, the chair-elect, the secretary, and the treasurer. The section also has a representative, elected by the section members, on the ICSA's board of directors. The terms of the chair and chair-elect/vice-chair is one year and the terms of the secretary and treasurer are two years.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST TEN YEARS

The ICSA has organized three International statistical conferences (ISC) since 1990: one in Hong Kong (1990), one in Taipei, Taiwan (1993), and one in Hsiungshen (Fragrant Hill), Beijing, China (1995). The fourth conference is planned to be held in Kunmin, China in 1998. The following were brief descriptions of the past three conferences.

The first ISC in Hong Kong , December 15 - 17, 1990 attracted 145 attendees: 45 from Hong Kong, 40 from China, 30 from Taiwan, 35 from the United States and other part of the world. A total of 110 papers were delivered. There were five invited sessions, and 18 contributed paper sessions. Topics included both theory and applications: estimation, time series, econometrics and social statistics, distribution theory, regression analysis, biostatistics, non-parametric and ranking selection, general linear model, sampling theory, density estimation and curve fitting, discriminant and data analysis, stochastic process.

The Second ISC was cosponsored with Taipei International Statistical Symposium, and Institute of Statistical Science, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, in Taipei, Taiwan, December 16 - 19, 1993. The theme of the conference was 'New expectation of statistical theory and application'. A total of 240 papers were delivered and topics covered biostatistics, econometrics, educational statistics, environmental statistics, experimental design, industrial statistics, limit theory and applied probability, official statistics, sample survey, social statistics, statistical inference, and time series. The number of attendees reached 500.

The third ICS was held in Hsiungshen (Fragrant Hill), Beijing. 200 people came from Japan, USA, Canada, Australia, Sweden and Austria. 192 paper were delivered. This 3-day conference also included four invited keynote speakers from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the United States and a panel discussion on the Nuts and Bolts of Statistical Research which attracted a full house.

In 1990 the ICSA began to have its annual event of Applied Statistics Symposium on the east coast of the United States where most biometricians are located. The symposium is normally held in the spring. The purpose of the symposium are to enhance the communication among members, to promote interests, exchange ideas, and encourage cooperation in statistical theory and application. The scope of each symposium covers areas in biomedical statistics, mathematical statistics, industrial management, econometrics and government statistics.

The ICSA held its first Applied Statistics Symposium on April 21, 1990, at National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. Five interesting sessions such as Drug Stability and How to prepare to be a manager in the pharmaceutical industry

were included. In 1992, the second ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium was held at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. There were 2 concurrent sessions, with a total of 25 sessions. Topics included drug efficacy and safety, statistical applications in industry, clinical trials, statistical career opportunity in the pharmaceutical industry and financial statistics. Attendees were over 120. The following symposia were held at Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania (1993), Food and Drug Administration, Rockville, Maryland (1994), Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey (1995).

In 1996, the symposium held at The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland on June 8-9. In addition to 19 sessions (one keynote session, 16 invited sessions and two contributed sessions), there was a half-day short course. The topics of sessions covered medicine, public health, engineering and economics. In order to meet the needs of newly graduates, the future symposium will add sessions on career preparation. In addition, the ICSA also plans to have a symposium in the western region of the United States and possibly in other countries in the future. Moreover, a proceeding will be published after the symposium starting in 1997.

ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS.

ICSA has collaborated with various professional societies in the past five years and is continuing seeking opportunities to extend its activities to promote statistical technologies useful in every profession. For example, the President of ICSA has been invited by Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies(COPSS) to participate its annual meeting and activities.

In the past few years, the ICSA has actively involved with the activities with other non-statistical organizations. For example, In 1992, ICSA co-sponsored a statistical science and technique conference with the New York Chapter of the Chinese Engineer Association. In 1994 and 1995, the ICSA has established working relationship with the Bio/Pharmaceutical Science Division of the Society of Chinese Bioscience Association (SCBA) by organizing conferences on various topics in drug development and public health care. In 1994, the ICSA also co-sponsored a joint program at the Third Southern New England Science and Technique Exchange Conference at Hartford, Connecticut. Most recently, the ICSA has worked with a number of Chinese non-statistical organizations to establish a network to provide a better services to the Chinese community (both statistics and non-statistics). The organizations involved include the American Chinese Pharmaceutical Association (ACPA), SCBA, the Department of Health of Taiwan, and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association In Taiwan.

PUBLICATIONS OF ICSA

The Association publishes *Statistica Sinica* (SS), *Bulletin*, *Directory*, and

Biometrics Newsletter.

The Statistica Sinica (SS) is a statistical journal co-sponsored by ICSA and the Institute of Statistical Science, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C. SS was first published In 1991, with two issues a year. Since 1996, the journal has published four issues a year In January, April, July and October. Statistica Sinica publishes original work In all areas of statistics and probability, including theory, methods, and applications.

The Bulletin and Directory was first published In 1986. Starting In 1991, due to increase of members, The Bulletin and Directory were published separately. The Directory is published every two or three years depending upon the need of the members. The most recent issue was published In 1996.

The purpose of the bulletin is to provide information about the activities of the association and ICSA members: Meeting minute of general business meeting, list of executive and members of committees, activities of members, meeting announcement, report of conferences and meetings, job announcements, financial reports, list of new members and non-technical articles In either Chinese or English. The Bulletin is published twice a year.

Biometrics Newsletter is published periodically beginning In 1995. The newsletter reports meeting announcement, activities of members and other important events within the Biometrics section.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF ICSA

1997 will be the tenth anniversary of ICSA. During the past ten years, ICSA has grown steadily and served members around the world. Statistica Sinica has become one of the most cited journals In statistics and probability. The future directions of the ICSA will focus on the following to expand its horizon and become a society that serves not only statistics profession, but also the society as a whole.

1. To publicize its activities.
2. To extend its services to China and Europe.
3. To offer more statistical conferences
4. To publish an additional journal In applied statistics.
5. To enhance communications with other statistical societies.
6. To involve activities with non-statistics organizations

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