# 5. The Georgian Statistical Association

Since the foundation of Tbilisi State University in 1918 Georgian mathematicians have been taking great care to maintain a high level in teaching probability theory and mathematical statistics. In particular, the well-known mathematician A. Razmadze, one of the founders of our university, was concerned with this matter (see [1]). The organized research in this field began in the late fifties.

Quite a large community of mathematicians has gathered around G. Mania, A. Toronjadze and N. Vakhania in the 70–80ies, who work in various areas of probability theory and mathematical statistics (limit theorems, probability distributions in functional (and other general) spaces, stochastic analysis and control, parametric and nonparametric inference, statistics of random processes, etc.). This community also includes researchers who jointly with these mathematicians work on applications of stochastic methods in national economy, demography, biology, medicine, hydrology, lingustics, etc. Many representatives of this community were students of the leading Russian scientists and collaborated fruitfully with researchers in Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union. As vivid token of this collaboration, Colloquia on Probability Theory and Mathematical Statistics were held in the picturesque Georgian ski-resort of Bakuriani (see [2] for proceedings of the 23rd and last one). Georgian specialists regularly participated in the Vilnius conferences, they took also part in the First World Congress of BS in Tashkent.

The idea to legalize this community arose long ago, but it became possible only after the democratization process had started in Georgia. The nongovernmental organization *Georgian Statistical Association (GSA)* was registered on May 30, 1991. Its aim is to promote mathematical statistics and probability theory and their applications. A. Toronjadze was elected President of the GSA. Its founders include the well-known scientists R. Chitashvili (see[3]), E. Khmaladze, E. Nadaraya, N. Vakhania.

The prominent Russian scientists Professors Yu. V. Prokhorov and A. N. Shiryaev are honorary members of the GSA.

Continuing the activities that had been going on for years, the GSA has played a significant role in the training of specialists in market economy and privatization procedures. It has also helped to send several young specialists as PhD students to other countries.

The GSA organises seminars on theoretical, educational and applied problems. The GSA's sociological research bureau, bureau on securities and insurance, and econometry bureau are also engaged in practical activities.

In 1995, as an attempt to re-establish traditional Colloquia, a GSA Colloquium on Probability and Statistics was held in Tbilisi attended by one foreign visitor (Nils L. Hjort from Norway).

In recent time, the Eurasia Foundation has twice supported the GSA in the realization of projects connected with financial analysis.

The GSA has prepared a collection of papers on probability theory and mathematical statistics which is dedicated to the memory of R. Chitashvili and which will form vol. 115 of the Proceedings of the A. Razmadze Mathematical Institute to be published in 1997. In 1998 we plan a conference dedicated to the 80 birthday anniversary of Professor Gvanji Mania (1918–1985).

*References*

[1] A. Razmadze's Lectures in Probability Theory (in Georgian, with Russian and English Summaries). Tbilisi, Metsniereba, 1991.

[2] Proc. Bakuriani Colloquium in Honor of Yu.V. Prokhorov. New Trends in Probability and Statistics, vol.1. Mokslas, Vilnius and VSP, Utrecht, 1991.

[3] R. Chitashvili (obituary note). ISI Newsletter, vol.20 (1997), No.1, p.8.

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