7. Reports on Recent Activities

International Conference on Probability Theory and Its Applications
February 24–26, 1998
Taejon (Korea)

The International Conference on Probability Theory and Its Applications took place from February 24 to 26, 1998 at the the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Taejon, Korea. It was organized by the Center for Applied Mathematics of KAIST, in conjunction with the Korean Mathematical Society, and was supported by the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation. It was held under the auspices of the East Asian and Pacific Regional Committee (EAPRC) of Bernoulli Society.

The Conference was the first to be organized under EAPRC since the latter's revival. It was attended by about 100 participants from 13 countries. It covered a wide spectrum of topics, ranging from subjects in pure probability to problems related to statistics. There were 10 invited lectures and 56 contributed talks. The invited speakers were J. R. Artalejo (Spain), D. M. Chung (Korea), T. Hida (Japan), T. Hsing (Singapore), N. Jain (USA), Y. J. Lee (Taiwan), Y. M. Park (Korea), P. Pollett (Australia), S. Watanabe (Japan), J. A. Yan (China).

There was a welcome reception on the first day of the Conference and an excursion followed by a conference dinner on the second day. As the size of the Conference was relatively small, the theme focused and the social events well organized, there was a feeling of oneness and a spirit of comradship among the participants. There was active participation on their part and frequent interaction among them.

A meeting of EAPRC was held after the closing of the Conference. It noted the absence of participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines and agreed to make efforts in involving these countries in future activities. It also noted that despite this the Conference was a great success and that many participants, encouraged by the opportunity for interaction, looked forward to continuing activities of EAPRC in the region.

Bong Dae Choi, Taejon
Louis Chen, Singapore

"Chance" (Der Zufall)
Meeting of the German Academy of Natural Scientists (LEOPOLDINA)
April 17–18, 1998
Halle (Germany)

Organizing Committee
H. Bauer, H. Föllmer, J. Moser, V. Strassen, K. Krickeberg (chair).

Which random phenomena play a basic role in nature and are currently the subject of interest in the natural sciences (including economics)? To which extent are natural scientists aware of this role? Which stochastic methods do they use? What are the recent important results in this direction? These questions were treated in 10 lectures and in animated discussions. The lectures covered special topics from various fields: Earth sciences (evolution of the earth); Astronomy (cosmology); Physics (statistical mechanics, quantum mechanics); Chemistry (polymeres); Biology (molecular evolution); Biology (human genetics); Medicine (epidemiology); Economics (financial and insurance markets); Computer sciences (algorithms); Statistics (resampling).

It turned out that the answers to the questions above were much less obvious and simple than expected, and the time allotted to the discussions, although ample (125 minutes) did finally not suffice.

All lectures will be published in Nova Acta Leopoldina (in German).

Klaus Krickeberg, Paris