

IASS News September 2017

- **2017 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Small Area Estimation**

The first Award for Outstanding Contribution to Small Area Estimation was given to **J.N.K Rao** at the ISI Satellite Meeting on Small Area Estimation (SAE 2017) in Paris, France on July 11, 2017, during the Banquet. The Award, a Medal of Honor, is in recognition of Professor Rao for his outstanding contribution to the research, application, and education of small area estimation. Professor Rao is a pioneer for small area estimation. His 1990 seminal paper (with Prasad) introduced a linearization method, widely known as the Prasad-Rao method, for estimating mean squared errors of small area predictors. His 1994 review paper on small area estimation (with Ghosh), his 2003 Wiley monograph, *Small Area Estimation*, and its second edition (2015; with Molina) are well known in this field, among many other important contributions of Professor Rao.

The SAE 2017 Award Committee consisted of the Scientific Program Committee and Local Organization Committee of the SAE 2017 and was chaired by Jiming Jiang. The conference was sponsored by the IASS. For more information on the SAE 2017 Conference please visit sae2017.ensai.fr.



J.N.K. Rao (left) and Jiming Jiang
Photos: Valentin Patilea and Daniel Bonn ry

- **IASS is Sponsoring Great Conferences in 2017**

Recent events

Workshop on Survey Statistics Theory and Methodology, 21-25 August, Vilnius, Lithuania Celebrating the 80th Birthday of Carl-Erik Särndal

The 80th birthday of Carl-Erik Särndal was celebrated in connection to the Workshop on Survey Statistics Theory and Methodology, held on 21-25 August in Vilnius, Lithuania.



Carl-Erik Särndal at the Farewell Party (Photo: Andris Fisenko)

The contributions of Professor Carl-Erik Särndal, including his seminal work on calibration and generalized regression estimation methods and the treatment of survey nonresponse, as well as inference in survey sampling, are highly recognized internationally. Good examples are the 1977 Krieger book *Foundations of Inference in Survey Sampling* (with Cassel and Wretman), the 1992 Springer book *Model Assisted Survey Sampling* (with Swensson and Wretman) and the JASA 1992 paper *Calibration estimators in survey sampling* (with Deville), and his Waksberg Award (2007) and Morris Hansen Lecture (2010).

Carl-Erik Särndal has had a substantial impact in the development of education and research on survey statistics in the Baltic and Nordic Region and in the application of the methods in official statistics. For example, he has been the main lecturer in many of the scientific and educational events (a workshop, a summer school or a conference) organized annually by the Baltic-Nordic-Ukrainian (BNU) Network on Survey Statistics in one of the Network countries, starting from the first workshop in 1997 in Tartu, Estonia. The BNU network now includes participants from Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, and Ukraine.

The 2017 Workshop on Survey Statistics Theory and Methodology involved 40 participants coming from nine countries and constituting of university students and teachers and statisticians working at national statistical institutes as well as in other organizations. A total of 39 invited and contributed presentations were given, including keynote lectures of Prof. Särndal. The next workshop will be organized in August 2018 in Latvia. More information: <http://vilniusworkshop2017.vgtu.lt/> and <https://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/BNU/Home>.

European Establishment Statistics Workshop (EESW) 2017, 30 August - 1 September, Southampton (UK)

EESW17, the fifth biennial European Establishment Statistics Workshop, was held from August 30 to September 1, 2017, hosted by the University of Southampton, UK. In 12 sessions, in a workshop format, the 48 participating expert business survey methodologists from official



statistics, academia and the private sector engaged in discussions of the topics such as the unit error in business statistics, measurement and distribution of response burden, communication in data collection and dissemination, new data sources, etc.

Complete programme of the workshop, as well as the papers that have been presented at EESW17, can be found on the workshop website, please follow the link <http://www.enbes.org>. The site will also contain the presentation slides when they become available, as well as the information about the next workshop, and other news in due time.

Future events

4th International Workshop on Surveys for Policy Evaluation and the 5th Brazilian School on Sampling and Survey Methodology – ESAMP V will take place in Cuiabá, Brazil, from October 17 - 20. <http://www.redeabe.org.br/esamp2017/> .

- **IASS Twitter Account**

The IASS now has its own twitter account. Those of you who use Twitter, please follow us @iass_isi