



## **2014 TIES Election Committee Report**

*Bronwyn Harch (Chair – as outgoing President)*

### **Activity and Focus Since Last Meeting**

- Chair has issued invitations to join the Election Committee
  - Abdel El-Shaarawi (Egypt), Daniela Cocchi (Italy) and Brent Henderson (Australia) have accepted.

### **Planned Activity and Focus Going Forward**

- In February 2015 – the main work of the committee with commence.  
The following roles will be available for election:
  - President-Elect (1)
  - Treasurer (1)
  - Secretary (1)
  - Publications Officer (1)
  - North America region (1 of 2 available roles)
  - Europe region (1 of 2 available roles)
  - Other region (1 of 2 available roles)
- Nominations for each role will be collated (seeking permission and willingness of individuals to stand in the roles)
- Elections will be held at the AGM of TIES2015 in Australia



## 2014 TIES Program Committee Regional Report

*Committee Members: Krishna Jandhyala (Chair), Sylvia Esterby, Lleyls Guenni*

### Activity and Focus Since Last Meeting

Beginning July 1, 2014, Krishna Jandhyala, Chair of the TIES Program Committee, Quanxi Shao, Conference Chair; and Bronwyn Harch, TIES President and have been meeting via Skype on a regular. These meetings enabled them to ensure that preparations for TIES 2014 progressed at a steady pace and in an effective manner. For example, the conference registration procedures were streamlined so that registration was easily accessible to all potential participants. Ideas were generated in order to increase Invited Sessions. Many other finer details of the conference preparations were also discussed as the conference date neared. By now, there is confidence that preparations for TIES 2014 are all well in place and hopefully all participants will find the conference to be productive and enjoyable.

What follows below is a brief summary of preparations in place for the conference.

1. **Website:** The Conference Website Home Page can be accessed at <http://maths.gzhu.edu.cn/TIES2014/default.asp>
2. **Registration:** Easily accessible Conference Registration Form is available online (visit via Home Page), which contains all information about Registration. Registration amount can be paid online.
3. **Abstracts:** Deadline for abstract submission has been extended to October 31, 2014. The conference organizers will continue to accept abstracts for some more time. All potential speakers have been requested to submit the titles and abstracts of their talks ASAP.
4. **VISA to China:** VISA is necessary for all internationals. Information about how to get VISA is available online. Reminders are being sent via E-mail to all conference Registrants and to all session organizers.
5. **Keynote Speakers:**  
The Stuart Hunter Lecturer - Prof Tata Subba Rao, University of Manchester  
The President's Invited Lecturer - Prof Jixian Zhang, President, Chinese Academy of Surveying & Mapping
6. **Invited Sessions:** Currently, there are 19 Invited TIES Sessions and 12 are expected to be organized by Division of Resource and Environment Statistics, Chinese Association for Applied Statistics.
7. **Contributed Sessions:** The final number is not yet known because the local organizing committee is communicating with all the registrants to ensure that there are no talks missing. Currently there are 15 contributed abstracts from TIES members.
8. **Poster Presentations:** The final number is yet unknown. Currently 6 are confirmed from TIES members.
9. **Financial Status and Outlook:** So far 43 registrations from TIES members. The final numbers from TIES side may be slightly less than planned. If it is the case, we will reduce the number of parallel sessions to reduce the cost. The financial outlook is healthy.
10. **Organizational Logistics:** The local organizing committee will start the logistics implementation and communication from mid-November, covering registration, bus transfers on Days 1 and 2 and the Conference Tour.
11. **AGM and Board Meeting Logistics:** The WIFI signal was tested and it works fine.
12. **Overall Outlook:** Although there were some problems with the online registration, we have worked hard to ensure registration is now working smoothly. The number of participants may be smaller than the planned 220. The financial status is healthy because the majority of registrants are from developed countries.



## October 2014 Publications Committee Report

*Committee Members: Ayesha Ali (Publications Officer), Yulia Gel (Board Member), Rosalba Ignaccolo (Newsletter Board Member), Meliisa Dobbie (Board Member), Leticia Ramirez (Webmaster), Walter Piegorsch (Environmetrics Editor)*

### Activity and Focus Since Last Meeting

- TIES Partnerships with Journals
  - TIES conference proceedings in *Journal of Environmental Statistics*
    - Committee reconfirmed this as an option for conference organisers to avail themselves of this for their meetings. Was first used for TIES2012 in India. TIES2013 and TIES2014 did not avail themselves of this opportunity
  - TIES conference proceedings in *Environmetrics*
    - Support TIES Award winners to publish papers in *Environmetrics Journal*
    - Agreement with Editor to identify high calibre papers through conferences and work to fast track them for submission to the *Environmetrics Journal*
    - Agreement in principle received from Editor to consider a Special Issue of journal for TIES 25th conference anniversary (Need to work out implementation details)
  - Progressing a potential new award that showcases the best *Environmetrics Journal* paper and that author(s) is(are) invited to the following TIES meeting to present the paper. The idea is that we approach Wiley about funding this award.
- TIES Newsletter
  - Editor of *Environmetrics Journal*, now allotted space for brief article to update TIES members on journal activities
  - Identified that book reviews are now longer include in *Environmetrics Journal* – an opportunity to handle these through the TIES newsletter
- Website
  - Regular updates have been made to website, as needed.
  - Established “strengthening-TIES” email list. Anyone can self subscribe and post to this list. TIES Secretary is vetting it for content prior to postings being sent.
    - “strengthening\_TIES” is a mailing list which reaches people globally, who have an interest in statistical and other quantitative methods in the environmental sciences, environmental engineering and environmental monitoring and protection. Membership of the list is open to any interested person who chooses to subscribe. List members include stakeholders from universities, government and private enterprise. The list has been in operation since October 2014.

## Planned Activity and Focus Going Forward

- Journal publications
  - *Environmetrics Journal*: Meet with Pub. Committee to further discussions with Environmetrics re: publishing Special Issue for 25<sup>th</sup> conference anniversary (2015 conference proceedings)
  - TIES conference proceedings in *Journal of Environmental Statistics* (*discuss with conference organisers of TIES 2016 in Glasgow*)
  - Progress idea of an *Environmetrics Journal* best paper award with Wiley
- Newsletter
  - Now collecting information for next newsletter to appear in Jan 2015
  - Articles from meetings/workshops, along with photos
  - Considering mechanism to include videos or interactive material
- News Items
  - Submit news items you want posted in ISI monthly news or announcements for TIES website and/or newsletter