

## The International Environmetrics Society (TIES) - President's Report (December 2014)

*Professor Bronwyn Harch (Qld University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia)*

The President Report outlines the activities of the Society over the period October 2013 to November 2014. The first year of the "2013-2015" presidency.

### TIES ACTIVITIES

#### **Strategy**

The TIES Board has developed a "draft" strategy for the Society. It is a three-pillar strategy. This draft strategy is being progressed by the current Board and its Committees and is already influencing and informing TIES operations. In the past TIES has focused on pillars 1) and 2). Moving forward a focus to include 3) is envisaged as critical for the Society's impact and benefit to members.

- 1) Creating and maintaining connections** – connections amongst environmetricians; connections to stakeholders of environmetrics capability (collaborators in environmental endeavours).
- 2) Developing capability** – capability for environmetricians (quantitative skill development relevant to environmental endeavours, progressing careers in environmetrics along the spectrum of application - method development).
- 3) Being a trusted advisor** – catalysing and engaging in critical dialogues globally – providing trusted advice to environmental scientists, government and industry on critical and emerging issues that need critical environmetrics insight. Influencing key decision makers.

**Committees of the Society** (TIES) Standing and Other Committees have been active – particularly Membership, Liaison and Outreach, Publications, and Program (conferences). Regional committees have been active (regional conferences in Europe; annual meetings in China and planning for an annual meeting and short courses in Australia during 2015; activities in North America have not been organized noting the 2013 activity was focused in this region). The Election Committee is currently being formed to usher in next Board Executive from September 2015 (noting half of regional reps stay on Board for the crossover period).

#### **TIES Membership Fees**

The Board endorsed an increase in ISI-Association (TIES) fees for 2015 (Board meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014). *This fee increase was negotiated in 2012 but was not implemented.* This increase has been communicated to the ISI PO and used in membership renewals that have gone out to TIES members.

TIES has also advised the ISI Permanent Office that TIES will manage student members – to avoid the charge of €5; noting that currently TIES does not charge a membership fee for students.

Note: an ISI proposal for 2016 is having ISI-Elected members not receiving a FREE association as part of their membership fee, but receiving a discount on the Association fee (this discount being varied as stated by the Association), with a lower limit of fees at €10. **TIES Board (Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>) endorsed general principles outlined and will continue dialogue re membership with ISI.**

	in € (Euros)	2014	2015
ISI Mode of Membership	Membership Type	Fees	Fees
ISI-Association TIES	Developed Countries	25	30
ISI-Association TIES	Developed Countries - 3 years	75	90
ISI-Association TIES	Developed Countries Retired	15	20
ISI-Association TIES	Less Developed Countries	8	15
ISI-Association TIES	Student	0	0

### **TIES Meetings and Events**

- The 2014 TIES Conference will be held in Guangzhou, China over December 15-18th, 2014 <http://maths.gzhu.edu.cn/TIES2014/>
- A meeting of the “European Region” (in partnership with GRASPA) will be held in Bari, Italy over June 15-16th, 2015. <http://meetings.sis-statistica.org/index.php/graspa2015/graspa2015>
- 3-day short courses in “Advanced R” (Venables) and “Bayesian Belief Networks” (Mengersen) are being organized in Australia (Brisbane) over 2-4 February 2015.
- TIES2015 [June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>; (plus a day of short courses on June 29<sup>th</sup>) is being planned for Australia (Brisbane). This will be the 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of TIES – so a major celebration is being planned for this conference. Sponsorship – via funds, student scholarships and inkind contributions are being provided by supporters of TIES and its activities.
- TIES 2016 (plus a day of short courses) is being planned for Scotland (Scotland).

### **Financial Position**

In summary:

- At the end of calendar year 2013 - **TIES is solvent** – with approximately USD\$23,000 cash.
- **Issues related to our small size** and inability to avail ourselves of all the ISI services are evident – and highlight that critical action is needed to build membership, membership benefits and consequently revenues - as currently the expenses of the society are not covered by our revenue. TIES is spending its reserves at a fast rate. The previous strategies in relation to ISI and its activities (2009 to 2011; 2011 to 2013) are **not** sustainable. The current Board (2013 to 2015) is taking action to reverse this situation (membership fee increases, short courses, sponsorship for conferences, other revenue raising opportunities are being actively explored)
- **TIES liabilities total €12,053 [2010 to 2013]**. Request to ISI - tabled at their November Executive Committee: TIES has asked to negotiate down the final liability bill for 2010 across 2014. The TIES Board is committed to paying our liabilities ASAP - but acknowledging the current liability bill is a major point of concern for TIES members. **Post the recent meeting, ISI has agreed to negotiate on current liabilities owing.**