

## NEWS OF THE SECTION BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (SSS-BI)

*Dr. Diego Kuonen, President of the SSS-BI*

Dear colleagues,

Hope that you all had a good start into the New Year and that everything is fine.

On October 30, 2003, the SSS-BI was officially created during the general assembly of the SSS in Montreux, Switzerland. Thanks to all those who joined us. The first official general assembly of the SSS-BI, to which you are all kindly invited, will be on November 18, 2004, in the context of the Swiss Statistics Meeting in Aarau, Switzerland, which will be held on November 17–19, 2004; see separate announcement within this bulletin and find further information at [www.statoo.ch/sst04/](http://www.statoo.ch/sst04/).

October 2003 was not only the official birth of two new sections within the SSS but also the month where work on statistical methods for economic time series has been recognised by a Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. Indeed, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded on October 8, 2003, the «Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Noble, 2003» jointly to our colleagues Robert F. Engle and Clive W.J. Granger. Economist Clive Granger received the prize «for methods of analysing economic time series with common trends (cointegration)», and Robert Engle was honoured «for methods of analysing economic time series with time-varying volatility (ARCH)». You will find additional information at [www.nobel.se/](http://www.nobel.se/).

It is a great pleasure for me to announce in the name of the Committee of the SSS-BI that the SSS-BI will co-organise ISBIS 4 – the fourth International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics. This international symposium will be held April 13–16, 2005, in Cairns, Australia; see separate announcement within this bulletin for further information. ISBIS 4 is organised by the Statistics in Business and Industry (SBI) Committee of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) – a group of statisticians, from many parts of the world, who are working toward starting a section of the ISI devoted to Statistics in Business and Industry; see [www.public.iastate.edu/~sbi](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~sbi) for more information.

At the moment the SBI Committee is contacting individuals and groups around the world who are interested in business and industrial statistics to see whether they would consider being part of an international group devoted to SBI in the future. The SSS-BI already confirmed their interest as a group in participating in this initiative – the co-organisation of ISBIS 4 being a first step in this direction. Furthermore, they

are seeking to identify individuals who might be interested in joining such a section, whether or not they are current ISI members or members of an ISI Section. If you are interested, please contact me ([kuonen@statoo.com](mailto:kuonen@statoo.com)) or Dr. Yves-Laurent Grize ([yves-laurent.grize@baloise.ch](mailto:yves-laurent.grize@baloise.ch)) to receive further information. This is by no means a commitment to join. They are just trying to see how many people would be interested.

The SSS-BI is promoting the contact with the Basel Biometric Society (BBS) as well. The spring seminar of the BBS on «Epidemiology and Health Economics» will be held on May 7, 2004, in Basel. Speakers from academia and industry will present their perspective of this topic. Further information will be sent by email to the SSS-BI members in due course.

In the November 2003 issue of AMSTAT News – the monthly magazine of the American Statistical Association (ASA) – there was an interesting President's Corner column that addressed some of the future key challenges facing industrial statisticians. At the end of the article there was a list of comments of what the ASA should be doing to help industrial statisticians. You will find the entire article, including the suggestions at [www.amstat.org/publications/amstat\\_news/2003/pres11.html](http://www.amstat.org/publications/amstat_news/2003/pres11.html). Each of us might want to consider how we can help implement these ASA relevant suggestions to the SSS ...

Finally, on the Section's homepage at [www.stat.ch/sssbil/](http://www.stat.ch/sssbil/) you will find further information about the SSS-BI and updated promotion material for the SSS-BI in English, French and German. Feel free to use the SSS-BI presentation and/or the SSS-BI flyer to pass the word about the SSS-BI to your friends and colleagues. Thanks in advance for your help.

Note that at current, if you are a SSS member the membership is free of charge. So, if you are a SSS member and if you want to join us, please send an email to the treasurer (Dr. Bernhard Brabec, [bernhard.brabec@insightful.com](mailto:bernhard.brabec@insightful.com)). If you are not a SSS member you can fill in the SSS application form at the end of this bulletin or at [www.stat.ch](http://www.stat.ch) by indicating that you would like to join our Section.

If you have any suggestions or inquiries concerning the Section SSS-BI, please contact one of the Committee members. You will find further information at [www.stat.ch/sssbil/](http://www.stat.ch/sssbil/).