

Obituary
Professor John AITCHISON



The Hong Kong Statistical Society (HKSS) records with deep sadness the passing of Professor John Aitchison, the founding President of the HKSS, on December 23, 2016 in Glasgow, Scotland after a short illness.

Professor John Aitchison, F.R.S.E., was born in 1926 in East Linton, Scotland. He was a graduate of Edinburgh and Cambridge. He joined University of Glasgow's Department of Mathematics in 1956. He was Titular Professor and Mitchell Lecturer on Methods in Statistics from 1966 to 1977 in Glasgow. He was conferred Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1968. He was seconded from the University of Glasgow to the University of Hong Kong as Head of the then Department of Statistics in 1976 and stayed on as Head until his retirement in 1989.

The HKSS was founded by Professor Aitchison in 1977 with the aim of promoting the development of statistics in Hong Kong. He was the President of the HKSS during 1977 to 1979 and was one of the Honorary Members. The HKSS provides a medium for advancing knowledge and enhancing appreciation of the theory and application of statistics. Thanks to the efforts made by Professor Aitchison, an active, professional forum has been established for practising statisticians in Hong Kong to exchange research findings and opinions. At the same time, the statistical literacy in the community has been greatly enhanced through the continuous promotion of correct use and interpretation of statistics by the HKSS.

The passing of Professor Aitchison is a great loss to both the academic and the professional community. We express our sincere condolences to his family.