

**Seminar on “Challenges and Opportunities of Statistics of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”  
by the President of the International Statistical Institute held on 31 January 2008**

The Hong Kong Statistical Society (HKSS), the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) and the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of Hong Kong jointly organized a seminar on “Challenges and Opportunity of Statistics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” on 31 January 2008 (Thursday) at Rayson Huang Theatre of the University of Hong Kong. With the President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), Professor Denise Lievesley, as the speaker, the Seminar attracted about 200 participants from various sectors of the community, in particular the academia and statistical practitioners.

“The Hong Kong Statistical Society has always been in phase with the international community by maintaining close contacts with professional statistical practitioners and scholars around the world, exchanging ideas and sharing work achievements amongst stakeholders. It is the privilege for the Hong Kong Statistical Society to co-organize the Seminar and have the President of the ISI, Professor Lievesley, share with us her valuable experience and incisive insights,” said Mr Leslie Tang Wai-kong, President of the Hong Kong Statistical Society.

Introducing Professor Lievesley at the Seminar, Mr Fung Hing-wang, Commissioner for Census and Statistics said, “Established in 1885, the ISI is a prestigious professional association of statisticians which seeks to develop and improve statistical methods and their applications through the promotion of international activities and co-operation. Its membership crosses all borders, representing more than 130 countries worldwide”.

Being the first woman taking up the position of the President of the ISI, Professor Lievesley began her career as an official statistician in the United Kingdom. She took up a number of senior posts at international statistical organizations, national and academic institutions, including President of the Royal Statistical Society, Director of the International Statistical Institute, and Director of Statistics at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

“As the President of a leading international statistical association and with vast experience in statistical research and development work, Professor Lievesley is the most suitable person to address the audience on the topic – Challenges and Opportunities of Statistics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, said Mr Fung Hing-wang.

At the Seminar, Professor Lievesley talked about the power of integrating data from different sources (e.g. surveys, administrative records); the importance of making information more accessible and how this helped strengthen the capacity of informed and evidence-based

decision-making; the benefits of achieving data comparability across different economies; and the nurturing of shared values among statistical professionals.

Professor Li Wai-keung, Chair and Head of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of Hong Kong, remarked that, “I concur with Professor Lievesley that statistics practitioners should make concerted efforts to pursue the common goal of keeping in pace with the ever-changing environment, catching up with the rising aspirations of society and advancing the commitment to producing high-quality, evidence-based information for supporting the socio-economic developments of individual economies and the world as a whole”.

At the dinner after the Seminar arranged by the Hong Kong Statistical Society, Mr Fung Hing-wang took the opportunity to give the audience a brief account about the hosting of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the ISI in Hong Kong in 2013.

The audience noted from Mr Fung’s presentation of the preparation work being undertaken by the C&SD regarding the planning for the 59<sup>th</sup> ISI Session in 2013. They showed interest and support in response to the invitation from Mr Fung to join in planning, organising and participating in the event.

Please visit the website of Hong Kong Statistical Society (<http://www.hkss.org.hk/PressREL.htm>) to obtain the softcopy of the above press release and photos of the event.