

**Welcoming Speech by the President of the Society
for the Academic Seminar Organised by
Hong Kong Statistical Society
in Commemoration of the First World Statistics Day
(20.10.2010)**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Today is a historical occasion for the HK Statistical Society. To recognize the importance of the statistics in policy decision making, the United Nations designated October 20 as the World Statistic Day and today is the first one. The academic seminar this evening is one of the most important activities for this first celebration and I wish the Society would continue the practice to hold it in each future celebration in the years to come.

Our speaker today is no stranger to the local statistical community and needs no introduction by me. But I notice that there are overseas participants here, so let me briefly introduce him to you. Professor Ng finished his first degree in 1967 in the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He received his MSc degree from the University of Alberta in 1969 and PhD degree from the University of Toronto in 1975. He is now the Head of Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, the University of Hong Kong, for the 4th time. He has published 5 books and 80 articles. His latest co-authored book on Bayesian Missing Data Problem was published in 2009 by Chapman & Hall. The methods introduced in that book are based on particular forms of the Converse of Bayes' Theorem – the subject of this seminar.

I'm sure most of us know about Bayes' Theorem. But maybe only a few have heard about its Converse. And perhaps not too many know the fact that Bayes' paper on the theorem was not offered for publication during his lifetime. There have been interesting conjectures on the mystery why Bayes did not communicate his paper. Professor Ng has added a new one. The Society is honoured to have him here in this occasion to share with us his amazing journey to the discovery of the Converse of Bayes' Theorem – the main reason behind the new conjecture.

Now, let me pass the forum to today's speaker, Professor Ng.