

# **PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF STATISTICS, COMPUTER AND APPLICATIONS**

Date: December 13, 2020 at 11.30 A.M.

Venue: The Meeting was conducted in Virtual Mode.

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The Executive Council meeting was attended by the following members.

1. V.K. Gupta - in Chair
2. Rajender Parsad
3. A.C. Kulshreshtha
4. A.K. Nigam
5. Bikas Kumar Sinha
6. R.C. Agrawal
7. A. Dhandapani-Organising Secretary
8. S.D. Sharma
9. V.K. Bhatia
10. D. Roy Choudhury
11. Alope Lahiri
12. Hukum Chandra
13. Shibani Roy Choudhury
14. Ashish Das
15. Manish Kumar Sharma
16. Manisha Pal
17. Sanjeev Panwar
18. V. Srinivasa Rao
19. S. Ravichandran- Co-organising Secretary- Special Invitee.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members present and requested Dr. Dhandapani, Organising Secretary of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of SSCA to start the proceedings. Dr Dhandapani informed in brief the purpose of holding the virtual meeting and requested the Secretary to take up the agenda items.

## **1. Tribute to Prof. Alope Dey, Patron of the Society and Chair-Editor of the journal of SSCA.**

Tributes were paid to Prof. Alope Dey, who left for his heavenly abode on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Secretary expressed his deepest condolence on the sad demise of Prof. Dey. Two-minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul. He informed that a condolence message was sent to his family.

## **2. Confirmation of the proceedings of the EC meeting held during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of SSCA at the Department of Statistics, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.**

The said proceedings were circulated among the members of the Society. It was also hosted at the website of the Society. Since no comments were received on it, the same were confirmed.

## **3. Presentation of the activities of the Society**

A brief outline of the activities of the SSCA during the calendar year 2020 was presented by the Secretary. He informed that two senior members of the Society have earned laurels during the year. They are (i) Dr. A.C. Kulshreshtha for receiving the prestigious P.V. Sukhatme National Award - 2020 in Statistics, and (ii) Dr. Rajender Parsad, on assuming the charge of Director of ICAR-IASRI. President congratulated both the members for their outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the members of the Society, Secretary thanked the members of the Society, who volunteered to work for the Society in its different activities. Special mention was made of

(i) Dr. Jyotirmoy Sarkar, Foreign member for preparation of a template for Latex in connection with the submitted papers for the SSCA journal. Dr. Baidya Nath Mandal also added inputs to the preparation of this Template. Dr. Ashish Das also supported in finalization of the Template. This template is now being used by authors.

(ii) Dr. R. Vishnu Vardhan, for preparation of a leaflet for M.N. Das Memorial Young Scientist Award 2021.

(iii) Dr. S.K. Nath and Dr. S.J. Ambdekar, for donating Rupees One lakh and Rupees Five thousand, respectively.

Further, Dr. R. Vishnu Vardhan and Dr. Vishal Deo have been helping with the activities of the Society and the Journal.

The help received from all the members in any form for the strengthening of the activities of the SSCA and S&A is gratefully acknowledged.

Then, he requested the President to take the proceedings of the meeting further.

## **4. Publication of the journal of the Society**

President apprised that there are 21 new members who have joined SSCA since the last conference and till date {Indian: 16, Foreign: 03; Honorary: 2 (Prof. C.R. Rao and Prof. John Stufken)}. The total strength of SSCA is 384 (Indian: 367; Foreign: 12; Honorary: 05) as on 13.12.2020.

President briefed about Prof. Bikas Kumar Sinha and Arun Kumar Nigam who are always available with SSCA in all difficult situations and go out of the way to help. Their advice,

their support and Prof. Sinha's help especially with the review of papers the papers in short time at short notice cannot be expressed in words. It can only be felt.

President informed that part of the Volume 18, Number 1\_2020\_July issue was devoted to COVID-19. Total papers in the issue were 21 of which 8 were regular papers and 13 devoted to COVID (6 from USA + 7 from India)

President further informed that the Special Volume of the journal of the society in honour of the twin statisticians (brothers) Profs. Bikas Kumar Sinha and Bimal Kumar Sinha have been released in November 2020 within the scheduled time. The same has been circulated to the members and also hosted at the website of the society. Prof. Bikas Kumar Sinha, who was present in the meeting, thanked all and especially the guest editors and members of the editorial board for this honour. President informed that the said special volume, in addition to having invited research papers from the renowned statisticians across the globe, also has a foreword from a renowned biostatistician and honorary member of the Society, Prof. P.K. Sen. He informed that papers are being received for publication of a special volume of the journal in memory of Late Prof. Aloke Dey.

The President also thanked all the authors, reviewers, Executive Editor, Associate Editors and all others for their timely help and support.

## **5. Arrangements of the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference**

Regarding the forthcoming conference, President informed that about 60 speakers across the globe have been invited and acceptances are pouring in. He mentioned that the key-note address would be delivered by Dr. D.V.V. Ramana, USA. The prestigious M.N. Das Memorial Lecture would be delivered by Dr. B.L.S. Prakasa Rao, India. 9 speakers have been identified for the Aloke Dey Memorial Session. He then proposed the following (in case the conference is organised as virtual conference):

- (i) Since the delegates across the globe will not be in the same time zone during the online sessions, the timings of the conference may be adjusted accordingly so as to avoid inconvenience to every delegate who joins.
- (ii) The total duration of the conference on each day may be about 7 - 8 hours.
- (iii) For the convenience of the delegates of online conference, more than two concurrent sessions may be avoided, if possible.
- (iii) The Inaugural Session, the key-note address and the M.N. Das Memorial Lecture, may be scheduled on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- (iv) For video conferencing through Zoom software platform, license for 300-400 delegates may be taken so that each of them might have secured link to join the conference.

## 6. Presentation by Dr. A. Dhandapani regarding feasibility of organising the conference.

Dr. A. Dhandapani made an elaborate presentation regarding the compulsions of holding an online conference and modalities of organising it.

Based on his presentations, some of the issues raised by the members are as under:

Detailed discussions were held regarding whether the Society should go ahead with online conference or postpone it by a few months. Although there were reservations of few members to postpone the conference to a later date, when the normalcy might prevail, most of the members were of the view that without knowing what the future holds, postponing may mean facing the same decision again in a few months. Postponement was too unsure.

One of the members was of the view that due to exigencies of work in office, concentrating on online presentations might not always be possible. That possibility would be ruled out when somebody is out of office for the in-person conferences. He suggested that most of the important deliberations of the conference might be held on 27 and 28 February since those fall on Saturday and Sunday respectively when most of the delegates are closed on these days.

After deliberations it was agreed to hold the conference online (web-conference), but the duration of the conference may be changed to five days, viz., 24-28 February 2021.

It was suggested that Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the online conference should be prepared for its smooth running and circulated.

Regarding the proposed registration fee for the online conference, one of the members made a query whether there was any concession for participants of the SAARC countries. President informed that there was no such proposal.

Another member was of the view that the video conference app to be used for the annual conference of the Society should be pre-tested with dry run so that delegates do not face any difficulty in viewing the conference.

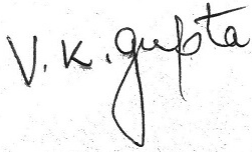
The matter of registration fee was also deliberated at length. It was decided that delegates desirous of presenting their research participating in the conference will pay a nominal registration fee to meet the expenses towards web related conference material.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Registration (Till 31 January 2021)</b>
Indian Delegate	₹ 500
Foreign Delegate	\$ 50 or INR 3,500
Indian Students / Research Scholars*	₹ 250
Foreign Students / Research Scholars*	US \$ 25 or INR 1,800

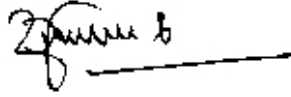
\* Soft copy of the certificate from the Head of the Department/Supervisor should be emailed along with registration fee.

Organising Secretary informed that a revised brochure of the online conference would be released soon and sent to the members/speakers.

The meeting then ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(V.K. Gupta)  
President, SSCA



(Dipak Roy Choudhury)  
Secretary, SSCA

*New Delhi; 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020*