



The Statistical Society of Australia News



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Thilaksha
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EXPERIENCES FROM ASC-IMS 2014

Immensely thankful to my department, Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics at Monash University, for funding me to attend the IMS-FPS (Finance, Probability & Statistics) Conference 2014 between 2-5 July at the University of Technology Sydney, in which I presented my PhD research work. This was a satellite conference to the joint Australian Statistical Conference/IMS Annual Meeting held between 7-10 July at the Australian Technology Park, Sydney.

Even only participation in the ASC-IMS 2014 would be a remarkable experience though, I encountered invaluable experiences by attending the conference. There are no words to fully capture and articulate my gratitude to my supervisor, Professor Rob J Hyndman, for offering me funding to attend this conference.

Being an "apprentice researcher" who is aiming to become a fully independent researcher, my participation in conferences opens up doors to the wider world. The ASC-IMS 2014 brought together leading academic experts, practitioners and junior researchers with a great turn up from 35 countries. The keynote speakers and invited sessions from eminent scholars such as Professor Terry Speed, Professor Peter Hall and Professor Alastair Scott highlighted many aspects in the field of Statistics. The conference was well-organized with numerous parallel sessions concentrating important contributions and identifying emerging directions where Statistics will play an essential role in the future. Listening to each presentation obviously enhanced my confidence in being able to present professionally and deal with questions from the audience comfortably.

Besides, the SSAI International Engagement Dinner and the Young Statisticians Dinner held on the first two days of the conference were delightful social events. These spectacular events facilitated me to share research and working experiences with academic and industry professionals. Vitally, the network built with young statisticians from different parts of the world will carry throughout my whole life.

Overall, my fullest participation to the ASC-IMS 2014 was indeed a memorable experience and a terrific learning event. My applause to the conference organizers, SSAI and IMS, for a fruitful and enjoyable event. Yet again, I am truly grateful to my supervisor for funding my participation in the ASC-IMS 2014, which was very beneficial to attend.

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