



## **EDITORIAL PREFACE TO THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ICMI STUDY 18 CONFERENCE AND IASE 2008 ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE**

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While it was a large task, editing the Proceedings of the Joint ICMI/IASE Study Conference has been a privilege for us.

Many people have been involved in the production of these Proceedings, which started in October 2006 with the publication of the Discussion Document and the launching of a Call for Papers. This Document, prepared in collaboration by the International Programme Committee, described the aims, topics and related research questions for this Joint Study. The Discussion Document was published in main mathematics and statistics education journals and also disseminated through statistics and mathematics education conferences and associations.

Preliminary papers were received by October 2007 and reviewed by an external referee process over the next few months. Those selected by the International Programme Committee after the refereeing process were rewritten and received between March and April 2008. We are pleased that the papers received cover a variety of different topics and come from all around the world, including both developed and developing countries. Statistics and mathematics educators from all across the world contributed to the selection and improvement of the papers in the refereeing process. We are most grateful to the dedication, expertise, and professionalism of Topic Convenors and referees.

The conference theme: *Teaching Statistics in School Mathematics: Challenges for Teaching and Teacher Education* has interest and appeal at the same time to mathematicians and statisticians, and it proved that the time was ripe for a collaboration between the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction and the International Association for Statistical Education. We are proud to have been the vehicle for this collaboration, which will not end with this conference but will continue with the production of the Joint ICMI/IASE Study book to be published by Springer. We expect the book to be published in 2010, so that it can be presented in ICOTS-8, the Eighth International Conference on Teaching Statistics, to be held in Slovenia.

We have enjoyed working with our friends in the International Program Committee, with the authors of the papers themselves, and with the referees who reviewed papers. These statistics and mathematics educators represent 33 countries from all parts of the world and from a variety of academic backgrounds and interests who have worked together because of a shared interest in statistics education.

We hope that the papers contained in these Proceedings will prove helpful toward improving the teaching of statistics at school level and increasing statistical literacy and statistical thinking of both teachers and students.