

THE ECONOMETRIC SOCIETY 2012 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE PRESIDENT

ON DECEMBER 11, 2012, the Econometric Society was incorporated as a Delaware non-stock, non-profit corporation. This had been decided by the Executive Committee in 2011, when we realized that the name of the Society was not protected.

My predecessor Bengt Holmström seized this opportunity to re-examine the governance arrangements of the Society. He appointed a Governance Committee, chaired by Oliver Hart, to review all aspects of the governance of the Society.

In April 2012, the Governance Committee posted a preliminary report for discussion by the Fellows. The report summarized our current governance arrangements and proposed a series of amendments, including a draft of the By-Laws that would replace the Society's Constitution, as needed for incorporation. In August 2012, the Executive Committee discussed the proposed By-Laws and made a few changes, taking into accounts the comments made by the Fellows. The final version of the By-Laws was approved by the Council and ratified by an overwhelming majority of the Fellows in November 2012.

As described by Bengt Holmström in his presidential report (that was published in the November 2012 issue of *Econometrica*), the By-Laws kept intact almost everything that was in the Constitution. The main changes are intended to increase the geographical representation and the engagement of the Council, and the transparency of the Society. For the first time, Society members will be able to participate in the election of Regional Standing Committees, starting in 2014. The Executive Committee is currently working on a revision of our Rules and Procedures that describe more precisely the governance of the Society. A preliminary version of these Rules and Procedures is available on the Society's website. They will be discussed in the next meeting of the Executive Committee in Gothenburg during the next European Summer Meeting.

1. REGIONAL MEETINGS

In 2012, the ES held seven regional meetings around the world:

North American Winter Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, January 6–8, 2012,
North American Summer Meeting, Evanston, Illinois, June 28–July 1, 2012,
Australasian Meeting, Melbourne, Australia, July 3–6, 2012,
European Summer Meeting, Malaga, Spain, August 27–31, 2012,
Latin American Meeting, Lima, Peru, November 1–3, 2012,
European Winter Meeting, Konstanz, Germany, November 9–10, 2012,
Asian Meeting, Delhi, December 20–22, 2012.

I had the opportunity to attend all these regional meetings, with the exception of the American and European Winter Meetings. I was impressed by the high quality of the scientific programs, by the dedication and efficiency of the Regional Committees and by the enthusiasm of the participants. Each and every year (except when a World Meeting is held), regional meetings constitute the highlights of the life of the Society in each region of the world. They testify of the exceptional vitality of our Society and of the very high scientific standards of our Fellows and Members.

These meetings would not be possible without the hard work of the Regional Standing Committees, who select their locations and the Scientific Chairs, of the Scientific Committees, who select the papers and compose the programs, and of the Local Organization Committees. On behalf of the Society, I would like to express my gratitude to all the members of these Committees.

Thanks to the very active implication of our current President, Jim Heckman, our Society is more and more present in Asia. The first China meeting of the ES will take place in Beijing on June 14–16, 2013, where Jim will give his presidential address. In-Koo Cho has also taken the initiative to organize, under the name of the ES, a Summer School of the Econometric Society in Seoul (August 6–10, 2013) whose theme this year is on bounded rationality in economics.

In addition to the Society's regional meetings, the African Econometric Society (AES) organized its 17th Annual Conference in Kampala, Uganda, July 25–27, 2012. The ES and the AES have been discussing for a few years their merger, which would make Africa a seventh region. The Executive Committee of the ES has agreed to accept this merger by 2015, subject to transitional arrangements, so that the differences in governance structures between the two organizations could be resolved. With the approval of the Executive Committee, I have asked Richard Blundell, who was President of the ES in 2006, to liaise with the African Econometric Society in the transition, and Richard has kindly accepted this task.

2. COMMITTEES

As required by the Constitution and the By-Laws, the annual elections of Officers, Council and Fellows are prepared by three Nominating Committees (by 2013, the Nominating Committees for Officers and Councils will be merged). In 2012, I appointed the following committees:

OFFICERS: John Moore (chair), Manuel Arellano, Lars Hansen, Jim Heckman, Bengt Holmström, Eric Maskin, Jean-Charles Rochet, and Bob Wilson.

COUNCIL: Bengt Holmström (chair), Aloisio Araujo, Manuel Arellano, Jacques Crémer, Ernst Fehr, Jim Heckman, Michihiro Kandori, Chuck Manski, Jean-Charles Rochet, and Larry Samuelson.

FELLOWS: Xiaohong Chen (chair), Hide Ichimura, Michael Keane, Meg Meyer, Juan Pablo Nicolini, Tom Palfrey, José Scheinkman, and Joel Sobel.

I am particularly grateful to José Scheinkman, who has already served in many Committees of the ES, and has kindly accepted to replace Rafael Rappullo for a three year term in the Society's Investment Committee, where he will work with Darrell Duffie and Hyun Shin.

More generally, I am very grateful to all the members of these Committees for their dedication to the Society.

3. EDITORIAL CHANGES

Two new Co-Editors of *Econometrica* have been appointed: Elie Tamer, who replaces Jim Stock, and Liran Einav, who will replace Jean-Marc Robin as of July 1st, 2013.

Important changes will also occur in the Editorial Boards of the Society's two other journals, namely *Theoretical Economics* and *Quantitative Economics*, as their founding Editors, respectively Martin Osborne and Orazio Attanasio, will step down in 2013. They will be replaced respectively by George Mailath and Rosa Matzkin. The number of Co-Editors of *Quantitative Economics* will be increased from three to four, so as to expand the scope of coverage of the journal. Petra Todd and Karl Schmedders will be the two new Co-editors. Finally, Don Andrews and Jeff Ely will replace Rosa Matzkin and George Mailath as Editors of the Society's Monograph Series.

On behalf of the Econometric Society, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the Editors, Co-Editors and Associate Editors of our journals for the time and energy they spend to the service of our Society. Special thanks are due this year to Martin Osborne and Orazio Attanasio, who will step down this year as Editors of our two more recent journals, *Theoretical Economics* and *Quantitative Economics*. Martin and Orazio have created and developed these journals. Together with our flagship journal, *Econometrica* (masterfully managed by its Editor, Daron Acemoglu) *Theoretical Economics* and *Quantitative Economics* contribute in an important way to the scientific impact and international recognition of our Society.

4. WORLD CONGRESS

Three excellent bids were received for the next World Congress, which will be held in 2015: Geneva, Montréal, and Rio de Janeiro. This was a tough choice, because the leaders of the three projects, namely Stefan Sperlich for Geneva, Aloisio Araujo for Rio and Jean-Marie Dufour for Montréal, had worked a lot to prepare very good bids. After a long debate within the Executive Committee, it was decided to accept the bid from Montréal. As specified by our Rules and Procedures, the Second Vice-President, Rob Porter, will chair the Organization Committee of this very important event.

5. ELECTION OF NEW FELLOWS

The election of new Fellows is a major event in our Society's life. In 2012, 77 candidates (the highest number ever) have been nominated by the Fellows and the Nominating Committee for Fellows. Of these nominees, 22 have been elected by the Fellows, including 5 from other regions than North America and Europe. The participation rate of Fellows was 77%, the highest rate since the adoption of the electronic voting system in 2006. The success of this election also testifies of the vitality of our Society. Being elected a Fellow of the Econometric Society is highly praised in our profession, as an international recognition for the quality and impact of one's work.

6. CLOSING REMARKS

Serving as the President of the Econometric Society is an immense honor. I greatly appreciated the privilege of working with great scholars in service to our profession. I learned a lot from serving in the Executive Committee under Roger Myerson, John Moore, Bengt Holmström and Jim Heckman. I specially benefited from the constant advice and support of Manuel Arellano.

It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the steady support of Claire Sashi, the Society's General Manager. But I would like to conclude by stressing that the most important person in our Society is undoubtedly the Executive Vice President, who accomplishes an enormous amount of work, mostly in the shade. I had the privilege of working with two EVPs, first Rafael Repullo, and then Hyun Song Shin. Both are great scholars, fantastic organizers and wonderful human beings. Without their dedication and their support, my task as President would have been impossible to conduct properly. Let me express my deep gratitude to both Rafael and Hyun.

Jean-Charles Rochet
PRESIDENT IN 2012