

International Symposium on Forecasting (ISF)

Benefits

The International Symposium on Forecasting is your principle opportunity to hear the world's leading forecasting researchers and practitioners. It is large enough that a critical mass of the best in the field are attracted, and small enough that you are likely to interact with them if you attend. Through a combination of academic sessions, workshops, meals, and social programs, participants have opportunities to meet in a variety of settings. Representatives of leading publishers and software producers are on hand to discuss their most recent offerings.

Areas of interest

The conferences cover all aspects of forecasting. For example, the speakers have included leading researchers from such areas such as **economics** (Frank Diebold, David Hendry, Edmond Malinvaud, Geoffrey Moore, Victor Zarnowitz, Arnold Zellner), **finance & accounting** (Eduardo S. Schwartz, Larry D. Brown), **judgmental forecasting** (Robin Dawes, Hillel Einhorn, Baruch Fischhoff, Robin Hogarth, Amos Tversky), **marketing** (Rod Brodie, John Little, Vijay Mahajan, Donald G. Morrison), **statistical time series** (George Box, Robert G. Brown, Chris Chatfield, Estelle Dagum, Clive Granger, Rudolf Kalman, Halbert L. White, Robert Winkler), **simulation** (Jay Forrester), **technology and public policy** (William Ascher, Robert Ayres, Harold A. Linstone, Julian Simon).

They also include **Nobel Laureates in economics** Lawrence R. Klein, Wassily Leontief, Paul A. Samuelson, and Jan Tinbergen.

Publication

The programs publish only abstracts. One of the primary aims of the ISF is to generate papers that might be submitted to the **International Journal of Forecasting**. Access to IJF papers and ISF program abstracts since 1997 can be found at <http://hops.wharton.upenn.edu/forecast>

Delegates

The typical ISF draws about 400 people from about 35 countries, but this varies (from 200 in Wellington to 1,100 in Philadelphia). Typically, there are almost as many practitioners as academics among those attending.

Sponsors

The primary sponsor is the **International Institute of Forecasters**. The annual ISFs are typically co-sponsored by universities in the area. For example, the Boston ISF was run in collaboration with the Sloan School at MIT and the Harvard Graduate School of Business.

Founders

The ISF was founded in 1981 by J. Scott Armstrong, Robert Carbone, Robert Fildes and Spyros Makridakis with initial support from the Wharton School, University of Laval, the Manchester Business School, and INSEAD.

Locations

The first ISF was held in Quebec in 1981 and it attracted over 400 papers. Since then, the ISF has been held annually, usually in June, with the location alternating between North America and outside North America (e.g.,

Amsterdam; Athens; Barbados; Istanbul; London; Paris; Stockholm; Wellington, NZ).

If you are interested in **hosting an annual meeting**, contact the IIF Director in charge of conferences, Lars-Erik Oller, National Institute of Economic Research, Box 3116, S-103 62 Stockholm, Sweden.

To participate in a forthcoming ISF as an exhibitor, panel organizer, speaker, or delegate, go to the link for the forthcoming ISF at

<http://hops.wharton.upenn.edu/forecast/conferences.html>