IIF Members Meeting June 17, 2019 Agenda

- Introduction (Mohsen)
- Treasurer’s report (George Athanasopoulos)
- IIF awards (Nuno Crato)
- Forecasting Summer School (Pilar Poncela)
- IIF certifications (Laurent Ferrara)
- IIF workshops (Aris Syntetos)
- Future ISFs (George Athanasopoulos)
- Q&A (All)
### Profit and Loss by Class

January through December 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Foresight</th>
<th>IIF</th>
<th>IJF</th>
<th>ISF18</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>24,952</td>
<td>97,702</td>
<td>93,158</td>
<td>193,535</td>
<td>434,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>102,769</td>
<td>149,649</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>113,209</td>
<td>359,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>-77,817</td>
<td>-51,947</td>
<td>93,058</td>
<td>80,325</td>
<td>75,827</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ISF 2019 – profitable $70K+
- Kept fees low – introduced local registration
- Heavily subsidized Gala event ($20 and $10)
- Excellent sponsorship - total $62K
- Location relatively cheap (venue free of charge)
- ECR Network budget

Other initiatives
- Travel grants
- SAS scholarships (topping up by $5K so $10K each)
- Workshops (increasing to 40K for the next two years)
- Forecasting Summer School
- Democratizing forecasting (11K)
Registration fees in $US

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Full member</th>
<th>Student/Local</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2018/2019 SAS/IIF GRANTS TO PROMOTE RESEARCH IN FORECASTING
For the past 16 years the IIF, in collaboration with SAS®, has made awards totalling $10,000 per year to support research on (a) how to improve forecasting methods and (b) business forecasting practice and applications.

The SAS/IIF grant agreement was established on 4/25/03 for a period of five years. It was renewed on 10/12/08 for five years and again on 1/24/2013 for five years.

Applicants are required to submit a description of the project (at most 4 pages), a letter of support from the home institution, a short c.v., and a budget and work-plan for the project.

Some priority is given to new researchers, and to projects where supplementary funding is likely to be gained. It is also expected that the research supported by the SAS/IIF grant be presented in an International Symposium on Forecasting (ISF), and that a resulting paper be publishable in the International Journal of Forecasting.

The successful candidates were Jian Luo (methodology) and Arnaud Dufays (applications).

2018/2019 IIF STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS
Each year the IIF invites applications for travel awards. These awards are to enable individuals from all over the world to attend the International Symposium on Forecasting. They are primarily for students in the area of forecasting, and only secondarily for non-student forecasting researchers and practitioners. Criteria for acceptance include the quality of the submission, how helpful attending the conference might be to the applicant’s research agenda, and whether or not the paper might be publishable in the International Journal of Forecasting.

There were 26 applications this year.

Applications are accepted only if we receive:

- A copy of the full paper to be presented at the ISF
- A brief account of the applicants’ research agenda and how attendance at the ISF will help
- A budget showing travel and accommodation expenses net of any financial support
- A letter of support from the home institution, confirming student status where relevant.

The precise criteria for awards are as developed in previous years, namely:
- the paper (or its abstract) must have been accepted for presentation at the ISF
- the author(s) cannot have been in receipt of a previous IIF award (Travel Award or SAS Award)
- the applicant is clearly a student or early stage researcher
- the paper is judged of high quality in independent rankings by first two committee members

We provided full travel and accommodation awards to the successful applicants below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name 1</th>
<th>Name 2</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agnieszka</td>
<td>Borowska</td>
<td>University of Glasgow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puwasala</td>
<td>Gamakumara</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bo</td>
<td>Guan</td>
<td>Cardiff Business School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jens</td>
<td>Kley-Holsteg</td>
<td>University of Duisburg-Essen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergei</td>
<td>Kulakov</td>
<td>University of Duisburg-Essen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michal</td>
<td>Narajewski</td>
<td>University of Duisburg-Essen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoang</td>
<td>Nguyen</td>
<td>U. Carlos III de Madrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thiyanga</td>
<td>Talagala</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priyanga D.</td>
<td>Talagala</td>
<td>Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oyebimpe</td>
<td>Adeniji</td>
<td>University of Ibadan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarete</td>
<td>A. Sousa</td>
<td>PUC-Rio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erick</td>
<td>de Oliveira</td>
<td>PUC-Rio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colin</td>
<td>Quinn</td>
<td>Marquette University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlos</td>
<td>Trucios</td>
<td>Sao Paulo School of Econ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konstantia</td>
<td>Litsiou</td>
<td>Salford University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 IIF STUDENT AWARDS

At the 2014 Board Meeting, the IIF agreed to fund up to 20 prizes to top-performing students in undergraduate and graduate-level forecasting courses. Star students receive US$100, a Certificate of Achievement from the IIF, and one year’s free membership of the Institute, with all its attendant benefits.

To qualify for the award, the course must be taught by an IIF member at a recognized and reputable university, have a substantial forecasting content, and be a substantial course in terms of contact time. Our target is to make 20 awards.
IIF certification programs

By Laurent Ferrara
IIF Member Meeting
Thessaloniki, 17 June 2019
Johns Hopkins University

Contact: Ahmed Mahmud (formerly Franck Weiss)
First agreement signed in December 2007 for 3 years
1 session in March 2019: (4 students)
Demand Driven Information Technology

Contact: Ivy Zhao and David Cui based in Shanghai
A certification agreement has been signed in December 2012
4 Sessions have been organized in 2018-19:
  - Spring 2018 (6 students)
  - Summer 2018 (23 students)
  - Autumn 2018 (8 students)
  - Spring 2019 (15 students)
Lancaster Center for Forecasting

Program launched in 2015: The Fundamentals of Forecasting
Contact: Nikos Kourentzes
1 session in November 2018: 17 students
Contact: Dan Hamilton, Director of Economics
A certification agreement has been signed in 2016
1 session has in 2018 (3 students)
8 students in 2016, 7 in 2017
A certification agreement has been signed in 2017 for 3 years.

1 session in March 2019 (23 students)

2018: 35 students, 2017: 18 students
New: University of Southern California

Contact: Robertas Gabrys
A certification agreement has been signed in May 2019
Contacts have been taken with some training programs: Warwick Business School, Texas A&M, ESSEC Business School and SKEMA Business School

I’m open to your suggestions
Summer schools

Already the 2\textsuperscript{nd} FSS:

1) Econometrics &gt; David Hendry

2) Probabilistic forecasting &gt; Tilmann Gneiting: Group Leader and Professor of Computational Statistics, Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Statistics
2\textsuperscript{nd} instructor: Johannes Reis
Overview

**Saturday & Sunday**
9:30–5:30pm
Coffee breaks: 11:00am and 3:30pm; Lunch: 1:00pm

Lecture 1: Introduction to probabilistic forecasting
Lecture 2: Case studies
Lecture 3: Calibration and sharpness
Lecture 4: Evaluating probabilistic forecasts: Proper scoring rules
Lecture 5: Evaluating point forecasts: Consistent scoring functions
Lecture 6: Regression: A predictive perspective
Lecture 7: Combining predictive distributions

Exercises in R
Overview

Our advantages

1. Diversify the topic
2. Diversify the instructor (top instructors)
3. Cover broader audiences
4. More concentrated -> 2 days
5. Attached to the ISFs
6. Subsidized
Proposals

1. FSS 2020 \(\rightarrow\) Energy?

2. Suggestions?
Conclusions

I think it is a clear success!!

It is running smooth.

Comments?

pilar.poncela@uam.es
Forecasting Workshops
An initiative supported by:

International Institute of Forecasters

Aris A. Syntetos
Cardiff University

39th International Symposium on Forecasting, June 16-19, 2019, Thessaloniki, Greece
IIF workshops

- The International Institute of Forecasters sponsors workshops, each of which focuses on a specific forecasting theme.

- The purpose of these workshops is to hold smaller, informal meetings where experts in a particular field of forecasting can discuss forecasting problems, research, and solutions.

- Following the usual refereeing process, papers from the workshops can be included in a special issue of the *International Journal of Forecasting*.

- Workshop guidelines are available in the IIF website and feel free to contact Aris Syntetos ([aris@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:aris@cardiff.ac.uk)) for any further information.
IIF workshops

- A budget of $40,000 has been allocated to workshops for 2019-20.

- So far, support for workshops was capped to $5,000.

- Workshop organisers may now apply for up to $20,000 to support the organisation of an event,

- anywhere in the world.
Some recent examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Cambridge, UK</td>
<td><em>Predictive Analytics: Theory, Applications and Algorithms</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Cardiff, UK</td>
<td><em>Forecasting for Social Good</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Munich, Germany</td>
<td><em>Predictive Analytics and Forecasting Research and Applications</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Cairns, Australia</td>
<td><em>Predictive Energy Analytics in the Big Data World</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Washington DC, USA</td>
<td><em>Forecasting Issues in Developing Economies</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>New York, USA</td>
<td><em>Forecasting with Massive Data in Real Time</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Lancaster, UK</td>
<td><em>Supply Chain Forecasting for Operations</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Milan, Italy</td>
<td><em>Forecasting New Products and Services</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the initiative? 3 days free training in developing countries
- Promote the importance of forecasting
- Distribute and use of knowledge on forecasting

Who are participants? University students, academic staff and professionals

What is the target? Train 400 individuals, over 5 years in 20 countries

How countries are selected? Countries are mainly selected based on DAC List of ODA Recipients, using World Bank data
Contributions from Organisations

1. Mr. Peter Smeeth, analytical manager, delivery Unit, NHS Wales, UK
2. Dr. LIyod Evan, Public Health Intelligence Analyst, NHS Wales, UK
3. Mr. Mohsen Hashemi, Supply Chain Coordinator, International Committee of the Red Cross, Switzerland.
5. Dr. Roland Martin, Research Expert, SAP, Switzerland
What has been done so far?

- Training already delivered in **6 countries**:
  1) Tunisia
  2) Senegal
  3) Iraq
  4) Turkey
  5) Nigeria
  6) Uganda

- 147 people trained

- Six more workshops will be delivered in Georgia in 2019 - 2020
Extremely positive feedback received

“I want to thank you for the workshop you animated for us in ENSTAB, Tunisia. It was at the same time very interesting and informative and also very enjoyable.”

*Participant from Tunisia*

“I really appreciate the effort and I can see the importance of all the delivered information.”

*Participant from Iraq*

“The workshop was very interesting and I learn how to use forecasting method using R which helps me to apply it in my PhD.”

*Participant from Uganda*

“Honestly, this workshop made me reset some of my priorities. In fact, I thought that I was determined and that I already chose the next steps in my career. Then after this training, I found myself really interested in "Forecasting" and especially *Forecasting for social good.* “

*Participant from Tunisia*

“What I liked the most in the workshop is the information that are provided: they are clear and well chosen. Besides, I liked the fact that we can interrupt, even though it may be frustrating, and ask questions during the workshop, not at the end.”

*Participant from Turkey*
Forecasting Workshops
An initiative supported by:

Thank you

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS?

39th International Symposium on Forecasting, June 16-19, 2019, Thessaloniki, Greece
IIF Communities

• SWEET: Section on Water, Energy and Environment
• ECR: Early Career Researchers Network
• Potential future groups
  • Supply chain
  • Macro economy forecasting
  • Regional chapters
  • ...

• Potential future groups
  • Supply chain
  • Macro economy forecasting
  • Regional chapters
  • …
Future ISFs

• 2020 Rio, Brazil, July 5-8.
• 2021 Oxford, July 4-7.
• 2022 Washington DC, US. (June 19-22, July 10-13).
• 2023 Beijing, China.
• 2024
  • Brussels, Rotterdam, Gent, Berlin, Rome, Milan, Copenhagen, Leuven.
• 2025
  • Back in the US. Please come forward.