

For further information, please contact the conference organizers at <info@ibs-emr2009.com>.

## **SUSAN 2009 Conference and Short Courses**

23 – 28 August 2009, Kabarak University, Nakuru, Kenya  
**By Henry Mwambi, Vice Co-ordinator, SUSAN**

The Sub-Saharan Africa Network (SUSAN) of the IBS is pleased to announce its 11th Biannual SUSAN conference to take place from 23th to 28th August 2009 at Kabarak University in Nakuru, headquarters of Rift valley province. The local organizing committee (LOC) is composed of members of IBS Group Kenya, the host member of the network. The LOC, with Vincent Onguso Oeba as chair, is working around the clock to ensure a very successful SUSAN 2009. The recently elected SUSAN co-ordinator Dr Thomas Achia of the University of Nairobi, School of Mathematics also is part of the team.

The theme of the conference is Biometry and Diversity: Linking to Climate Change, Agriculture, Health, Forestry and Policy. The aim is to cover broad topics of interest currently and in the future. The conference will be preceded by three pre-conference workshops on 23 – 24 August 2009 on Mixed Models in SAS (by G Milliken, Kansas State University, USA), Advanced Linear Mixed Models with GenStat (by R Payne, VSN International, UK), Infectious Disease Modelling by (Z Shkedy, H Mwambi and K Zuma of the Hasselt University, Belgium; KwaZulu-Natal University, South Africa and the HSRC, Pretoria South Africa respectively).

SUSAN is particularly pleased to note the expected attendance by Thomas Louis, Professor of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University and the immediate past President of the IBS, and Professor Andrew Mead of Warwick University, UK the current President of the IBS. Both will give invited talks on topics to be announced.

Invited talks also will be delivered by three University Vice-Chancellors: Professor Dankit Nassiuma of Kabarak University, Nakuru, Kenya, Professor Sagary Nokoe, University of Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana, and Professor John W Odhiambo, Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya. Most of SUSAN's national IBS groups are expected to be well represented in the meeting. We are looking forward to a highly exciting and interactive SUSAN 2009!

## **Spanish Region XIIth Conference**

23 -25 September 2009, Cádiz, Spain

**By Nuria Porta, Spanish Region Correspondent**

The XIIth Conference of the Spanish Region of the IBS will be held in Cádiz between the 23rd and the 25th of September, 2009. The event will take place in the University of Cádiz, in the campus located in the historical center of the city. The Conference invites all scientists interested in promoting the development and application of mathematical and statistical methods to Life and Social Sciences to participate. More information can be found at <<http://ceb2009.uca.es>>

## **International Conference on Probability Distributions and Related Topics (in conjunction with New Zealand Statistical Association (NZSA) conference)**

**By Chin-Diew Lai (Conference Organizing Committee)**

Massey University (New Zealand) is hosting an international conference in statistical distributions and their applications in conjunction with the NZSA annual conference. The international conference is devoted to all aspects of distribution theory and their applications, including discrete distributions, univariate and multivariate continuous distributions, copulas, extreme values, skewed distributions, conditionally specified distributions and life distributions in reliability engineering and survival analysis. Other related topics are also welcome.

The meeting will be held in Palmerston North, New Zealand, from 29 June-1 July, 2010. Palmerston North has a population of 80,000 located at the southern end of the North Island. It is a central location in New Zealand: two hours drive from Wellington (capital), 3 hours from Taupo (tourist spot) and 4 hours from Rotorua (tourist spot). There are regular domestic flights between Palmerston North and other major cities within New Zealand, including one-hour flights to Auckland and Christchurch. Registration fees: and accommodation information will be announced. For tourist information: visit the website <<http://www.tourism.net.nz/visitor-information/>>, or <[http://nzsa\\_cdl\\_2010.massey.ac.nz](http://nzsa_cdl_2010.massey.ac.nz)>.

**Conference Organizing Committee:**

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## **Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics (JABES) *Continued from p. 4***

Swartz et al in "Bayesian Variable Selection in Clustering High-Dimensional Data With Substructure" examine the problem of variable selection in clustering micro-array data when there is additional structure (such as an experimental design) a priori present. Their method simultaneously determines which expression patterns are important, and which genes contribute to such patterns in light of experimental groupings.

In plant and animal breeding, selection cycles consist of choosing candidate individuals with high genotypic values for traits related to observable phenotypic scores. Selection indices used to select the best individuals for the next breeding cycle, are based on phenotypic observations of traits. The theory of a restrictive selection index

(RSI) attempts to maximize the genetic progress of some characters while leaving others unchanged. Ceron-Rojas et al in "A Restricted Selection Index Method Based on Eigenanalysis" generalize a particular