

International Input-Output Association (IIOA)

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Annual Report 2001

Vienna, May 2002

Presidential Address

Importance of the Structural Analysis

Nobody would be able to deny that the new development of the technology in the information and communication fields during the last few decades had an enormous impact on the structure of the world-wide society. It contributes not only to narrow the distance of the world, but also to change the contents of the linkage among countries and regions. In such a global society, not only commodities and goods, but also all of services like finance and education are tradable among societies. We can receive valuable information through all of stock markets of the world instantaneously. We can get the world-wide educational services without stirring from our home simultaneously. Productivity changes through the new technology also gave rise to the structural changes in labour and capital markets. It will cause the changes of the distribution of factor endowment in each country and region. Consequently, it raises a shift of the capital flow internationally and transforms the position of the international competitiveness by industry in the tradelinkage.

The Input-Output framework provides a tool to analyse such impacts of the structural change among the general interdependency on the economy. In order to clarify them in the global economy, we have to extend the framework into the global circumstance. Construction of the international linked input-output table might be one of possibilities to approach on the direction of research. It might be expected to provide a tool to evaluate the changes of the international linkage in the foreign trade among countries. Also, it might be powerful to analyse the international linkage problems of the environmental influence.

Our next international input-output conference is scheduled on October 10 - 15, 2002 in Montreal. We have to discuss these issues seriously. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at Montreal.

Masahiro Kuroda
President, IIOA

Membership

Membership was rather stable in 2001.

Membership (as of 31 March 2002)

Individual members

Individual members (including members nominated by institutional members) 338

Institutional members

Institutional members 15
Plus one contributing institutional member.

Work of the Secretariat

The usual work of the Secretariat – in close co-operation with the treasurer – comprised as usual the following activities: (a) Membership administration, (b) Recording of payments of Membership Fees, including dispatching reminders, (c) Responding to letters from members and others, (d) Communicating with the Council, (e) Communicating with our Publishing Company (subscription of members, address changes), (f) Communicating with the Editor of the journal *Economic Systems Research*.

The Secretariat was also involved in the preparation and organisation of the 14th International Conference on Input-Output Techniques, 10 – 15 October 2002, Montreal, Canada.

The Secretariat was also active in updating the a website of our Association. The address is: <http://www.iioa.org>.

The 2001 regular General Assembly was held on 29 May 2001 in Vienna.

The 2002 regular General Assembly will be held on 28 May 2002, 5.00 p.m., at the Institute of Econometrics and Operations Research of the Technical University of Vienna, Argentinierstraße 8, A-1040 Vienna. This meeting will be held in German language and all members of the Association can attend.

Preparation of the 14th International Conference on Input-Output Techniques, 10 – 15 October 2002, Montreal, Canada

Another task during 2001 was to proceed with the preparations of the 14th International Conference on Input-Output Techniques to be held at the Universite a Montreal from 10 – 15 October 2002. The main organizing work was done by the Chris de Bresson, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, and by Erik Dietzenbacher, Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee.

The conference programme will include invited keynote speakers, such as Lawrence Klein, Dale Jorgenson and F. Mike Scherer, plenary sessions (based on a paper competitions),

parallel sessions (either invited papers organized around a specific theme or based on individual submissions), thematic workshops (aiming at an in-depth discussion of selected topics) and evening sessions (e. g. courses for young researchers and demonstrations of software).

Further information about the Montreal conference can be found on the conference website: <http://io2002conference.uqam.ca>. Also the registration and the hotel reservation should be done via the conference website.

Norbert Rainer
Secretary, IIOA

Editors Report

As far as editorial work is concerned, 2001 might be characterized by “business as usual”. Volume 13 (2001) had 436 pages, which was somewhat less than our page limit (of 464 pages). Unfortunately, I have not been able to include a special issue in this volume. However, by the end of the year, several guest editors were working on special issues. More specifically, Paola Antonello was editing a special theme on “Input-Output, CGE and Econometrics” containing a set of papers from the Macerata conference, and Bart Los and Bart Verspagen were editing a special issue with the tentative title “Systems of Innovation: Scientific and Technological Interdependencies” based on papers presented at the international conference “The Future of Innovation Studies” held in September 2001 in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. Both specials are scheduled for publication in volume 14 (2002) and work on other special issues is in progress.

Still, I very much would like to encourage the members of the IIOA to organize a special issue. If you feel that there are topics which are not covered so well by ESR, or if you wish to bring together a coherent set of papers on a certain topic, please contact me. Areas that have been covered relatively well over the past years are structural decomposition analysis, energy & environmental issues and accounting. Topics which, in my view, will gain more importance in the future are on R&D, innovations, international technology and knowledge spillovers, TFP growth, and patents and citations analysis, all in an input-output framework (i.e. studies where the data are in an input-output format and/or studies that employ input-output type of techniques for their analysis).

A full account of the number of submissions and their current status is always made on July 1. On that date the manuscripts for issue 4 are sent to the publisher and the editorial year ends, so to speak. A detailed overview for the period July 2001 – June 2002 and a comparison with foregoing periods will be included in the last issue of volume 14 (December 2002). At this stage, my impression is that the number of submissions will be approximately the same as the last two years (i.e. 1999-00 and 2000-01). It should be mentioned, however, that these numbers are substantially lower than they used to be. As I have pointed out in previous editor’s reports, the number of submissions depends strongly on the input-output conferences. Strictly speaking in terms of submissions for the journal, the Macerata conference was not extremely successful.

In my editor’s report for 1999, I expressed my concern about the referees’ behavior. The work of the editorial board and the referees is extremely important for an academic journal.

Typically, the reviewer's reports are of a high quality and contain relevant comments and useful suggestions for a further improvement of the submissions. Two years ago, I noticed a tendency that referees sent their reports only after a considerable time. Sending out reminders became common practice, while some reviewers simply did not respond at all. This behavior implied that the turnaround time of papers increased drastically. It is my pleasure to observe that this has much improved, although an occasional author may still be plagued by the sluggish response of a single referee. I very much would like to continue this trend and therefore would like to urge all members of the IIOA who are asked to review a paper, to send me their referee's report within ten weeks upon receipt of the paper.

Erik Dietzenbacher
Editor, *Economics Systems Research*

Report of the Treasurer

In 2001 we had a nice surplus. In order to guarantee a balance in the medium term it is quite important to have such a surplus in a year in which there is no Conference. The surplus was higher than expected. There are three main reasons:

Again many members used the opportunity to pay their Membership Fees for two or more years. Among them there were some institutional members. This fact increased our revenues from Membership Fees and enabled us to reduce the share of banking charges. The Fee for individuals is still 110 US \$ for two years or US \$ 60 for one year.

Finally the organizers of the New York Conference found a way to refund US \$ 3000. We highly appreciate this solution, which helped to increase our total revenues in this year remarkably.

On the expenditure side we tried hard to keep to costs low. Because of the shift towards new technologies the costs for telecommunication were higher than estimated, the costs for administration and postage lower than expected.

Because of the Montreal Conference we are expecting a considerable deficit for 2002. It will probably exceed the deficit of 2000, the year of the Macerata Conference.

Josef Richter
Treasurer, IIOA