

Editorial

Special Issue of the *Colombian Journal of Statistics* on Industrial Applications and Industrial Statistics

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During 2010, we wrote several articles in the Juarez Lincoln Marti International Education Project Electronic Bulletins, about the need for having, in Iberoamerica, more publications and more papers dealing with applied statistics, written in Spanish. The Colombian Journal of Statistics (RCE), through its Executive Editor at the time, responded to this call. And this is how the Special Issue on Applications in Industry and Industrial Statistics that we bring today to our readers, was born.

The importance of statistics in the modern world is unquestionable. It is used in agriculture, in industry, in business, and social sciences, among many areas of economic importance that are in need, and which require further development, in our region. For these reasons, to underline the study of applications, in addition to the study of theoretical statistics, is necessary. And this is an area where we still have a large deficit. In addition, many -if not most -of our Latin American students have a low level of English language understanding, which is the language in which most science articles are written today. Thus, they cannot read them, let alone write them.

The objective of this Special Issue of RCE is, precisely, to fill such void, by presenting eight excellent articles in applied statistics, written in Spanish, or with an extended summary in Spanish, for the two articles that are written in English. We received twenty submissions, written by authors from eight Ibero-American countries. Some of them were passed to the regular issue of RCE, given their theoretical slant. The remaining eight were selected for their areas of interest, and for their application techniques to solving practical problems in such areas.

We believe that many applied statistics professors in engineering, business, agriculture and econometrics, among others, may be able to use this material in their classes. And perhaps to encourage their masters students to convert their theses into articles, and to submit them to future issues of RCE.

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We believe that, with the publication of applied papers in Spanish, we will help increase the number of potential authors and readers. And with this, to convince some statistics departments that currently require that their faculty publish in English, to also consider acceptable to have papers published in Spanish.

Finally, this issue would not exist without the constant participation and support of the members of the guest Committee, without the careful and dedicated readings of the reviewers, who went through several versions of each article, and without the help of the Editorial Assistant of this journal. Thank you.