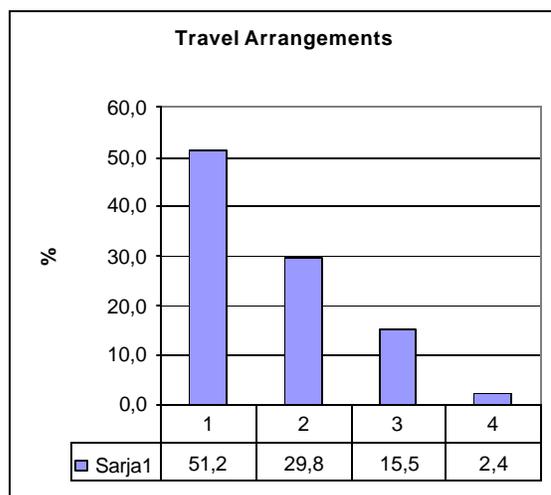


*Report on the Inquiry on the arrangements of the IARIW2006 conference  
20 - 26 August, 2006, Joensuu, Finland*

A questionnaire form was distributed in the registration bag for every delegate. They were distributed 270 in total and were returned 85 so the response rate being 32 %.

(1) Travel arrangements to Finland and to Joensuu



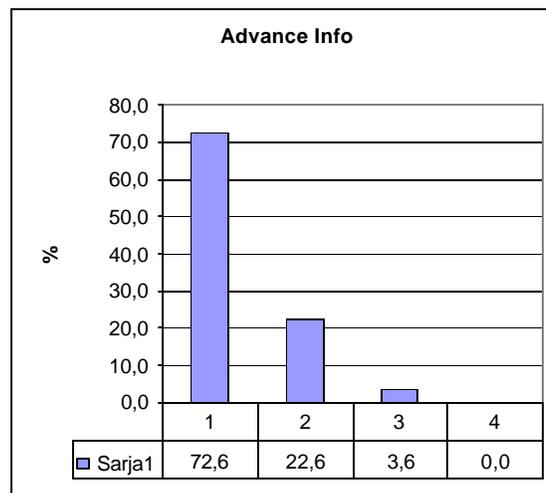
1 Easy  
2 Quite easy  
3 Quite difficult  
4 Very difficult

*Comment:*

- There were not much time between connections and some people missed their flight.
- Difficulty with connection in Frankfurt
- Needed 2 separate tickets to get to Joensuu
- Though the distance was long but connections were OK
- It is a bit difficult to travel to Joensuu, but the town is ideal to such conference.
- some train information on web site early would be good.
- Location was worth it.
- Travel agents seemed to have trouble. But when it investigated Finnair it was quite easy.
- Would have preferred a bus from Helsinki. Travel from Helsinki to Joensuu was relatively expensive compared to getting to Helsinki.
- Needed stopover or entry and way out in Helsinki (OK!)
- 3 flights. Difficulties with the connections.
- Direct flight from Paris - pleasant train journey Helsinki-Joensuu.

- The flight from Helsinki was expensive and the destination remote.
- Very easy. Qantas links with Finnair (New Zealand)
- Long but easy.
- Low cost connections not great. (NB train system is very good.)
- Joensuu not well connected to Helsinki and rest of Europe, especially at weekends (for arrival and departure) Finn conn (connection?) flights not enough published.
- Just late luggage but not in our controlled.
- 3 flights. A whole day journey.
- Finnair didn't understand quite this situation.
- No appropriate air connection to Budapest on Saturday.
- Via London (difficult) Finland -> Joensuu easy

## (2) Advance information about the Conference from the IARIW organisation and from the Host Organiser (Statistics Finland)



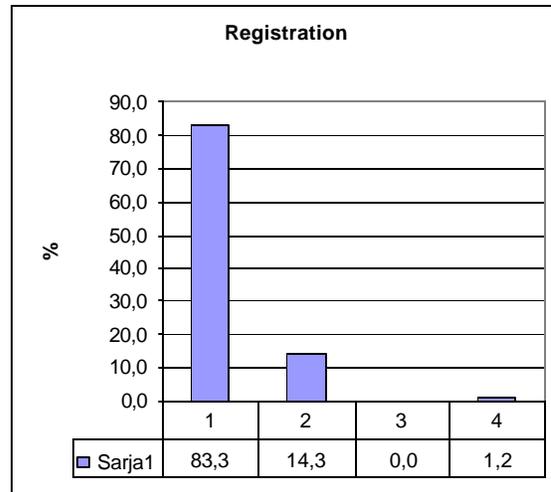
1 Enough  
 2 Quite enough  
 3 Moderate  
 4 Too little

### *Comment*

- People we spoke to ahead of time were knowledgeable and very personable and friendly.
- Some difficulty obtaining information about "non-standard" arrangements, such as package without accommodation.
- Papers were posted much too late on the web for small delegations impossible to distribute/discuss papers beforehand at home in order to ? specialists remarks and questions along
- Thanks to Dr Andrew Sharpe in particular for advance information about the conference. He was very kind and friendly to answer questions.
- Easy contact by email with the organisers. Splendid and complete.
- Excellent regarding what was presented but would have appreciated details about the roles and guidelines the following on the IARIW conference web site: presenters, discussants, authors, chairpersons.
- Well documented.

- I do not recall any information about the closing dinner on Friday when I registered in June. I arranged to leave on Friday evening so missed the dinner.
- Detailed info could have been released to web sooner.
- Some practical information that would have changed my option of accommodation came too late (after the work and payment was made)
- Well done
- For new participants it would have been better if we had been informed about format and length of time for presentations, long in advance, rather than very close to the date.

### (3) Registration for the Conference

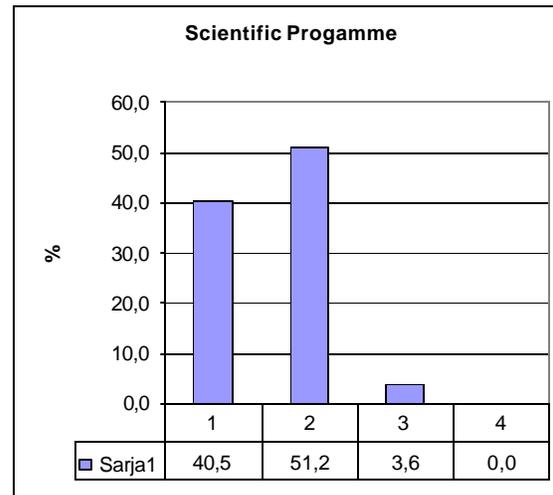


1 Easy  
 2 Quite easy  
 3 Quite difficult  
 4 Very difficult

#### *Comment:*

- Registration officials were very helpful and friendly.
- Perhaps because it was my first conference it was confused. But in the end all was well.
- Different credit cards would not work and this was very frustrating, but all worked good in the end.
- Very straightforward
- Good!
- Rigid web procedure.
- Registration at the hotel Kimmel was very slow. Problem when everyone arrived together on the bus from the airport- even so, registration for the conference very easy, but not at the hotel.

#### (4) Content of the Scientific Programme

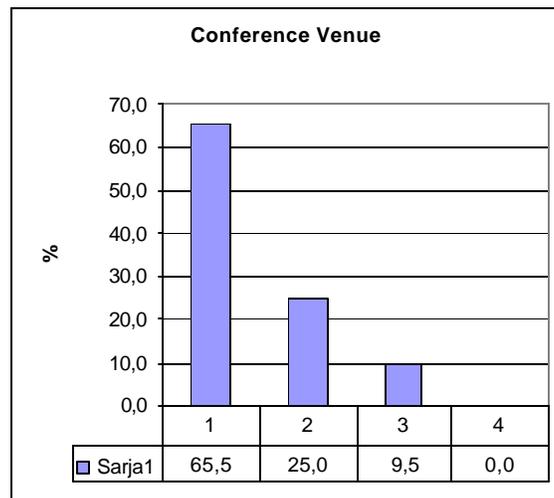


1 Excellent
2 Good
3 Average
4 Quite poor

#### *Comment*

- Too many sessions and papers, quality very different, session chairs sometimes not well ?? no goals set and discussion time too short.
- Better time management would have helped in the plenary session on Tuesday. We spent an hour on the 1st paper, in a session featuring 6 papers plus concluding talk by Tony Atkinson.
- Well arranged.
- Too much on income/wealth distribution.
- Some overlaps in the programme made it difficult to catch all that I wanted to hear.
- Tuesday morning session was too long and not very good.
- I expected more on the discussions the revision of the SNA
- Same persons too many times on stage.
- Too few papers about NA, too many papers about ... (79)
- Over weighted with income distribution issues.

## (5) Venue and its facilities

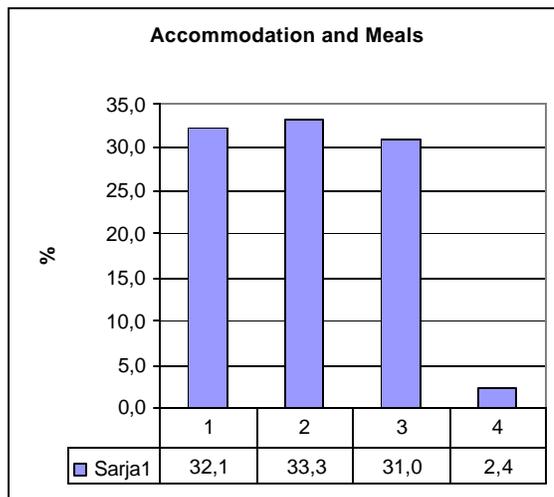


1	Excellent
2	Good
3	Average
4	Quite poor

### *Comment*

- The hosts at the registration table through the week were so very nice and helpful.
- I liked the computer room and all the lecture halls were spacious and nice. Maybe it would have been nice to have directions to the campus bookstore though for folks who might want to buy bottled water during the breaks or postcards or souvenirs.
- I very much love Joensuu, very beautiful. University and facilities are excellent.
- Classrooms were fine. Support for technology was outstanding! Loved that everyone used power point for their presentations and discussions - provided ... information (32)
- Really supportive and helpful people from Statistics Finland and young ladies in blue white striped jackets.
- Lack of public transportation.
- The rooms, the audio visual arrangements and computer access were remarkable good.
- Good access to computers ++
- There should have been a possibility to show your own PPT-presentation without an assistant.
- The distance between University and hotels and also hotel Kimmel where the dinners were was a little bit too large
- Lunch services; capacity of the restaurant was not high enough.
- It was a bit annoying that the name badges made a ringing noise whenever you moved around. Adequate yes, but still irritating.
- Excellent, but not enough legroom in the main venue for plenary sessions.

## (6) Accommodation and meals



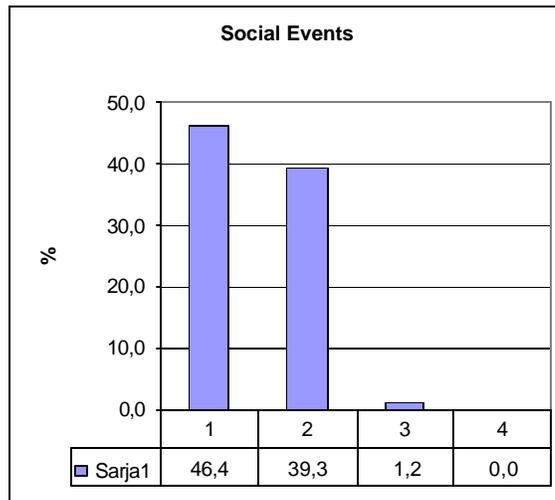
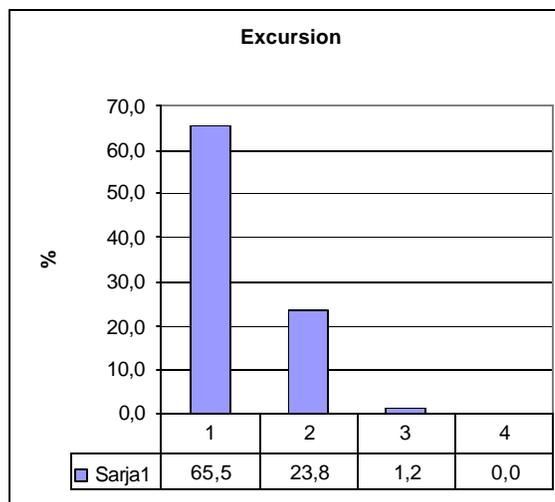
1 Excellent  
2 Good  
3 Average  
4 Quite poor

72% of  
respondent  
preferred the  
6 day's full  
board  
package

### *Comment*

- It would be more interesting to try some the local restaurants.
- Some flexibility needed for accompanying persons. For example, pricing per person is expensive for hotels. Also, it would be interesting to attend local restaurants.
- But allow 1 day participants.
- The programme for every day must be known in advance.
- Perhaps the idea was OK. But the fact that some of us had to walk a distance for dinner was not OK.
- It is better if at least dinners are excluded.
- Hostel accommodation with toilet and bathroom shared arrangements at Aaro hostel was a bit uncomfortable.
- Meals were good but dinner shouldn't have been in the package. Other optional arrangements should have been made so that participants purchase their own dinner else where from other restaurants.
- If the cost is lower yes (i.e. full board package). Some more flexibility on accompanying person will be welcomed.
- Dinners excellent, lunches average.
- Are cookies and cake during the morning coffee breaks a Finnish tradition? If not, can we something more like fruit rest time? It is hard to eat cookies at 10 a.m. (Not very nutritious.)
- I would prefer supper to be separate. Three meals a day buffet style is too much.
- And you are kind enough to extra days, which I was very pleased to have "for relaxed".
- Kimmel hotel could not provide normal internet services for the entire period.
- It would be better if there is some flexibility for food options.
- Good for me (i.e. full board package)
- Excellent meals. Nice room accommodation. Excellent that there were non-smoking rooms & offers for diet concerns.
- Nobody was in the reception when I arrived (in hotel?)

- Well, for 2 days (first evening, sauna evening) some of us did not eat in the hotel. The food was more than adequate but lacking in imagination and repetitive.
- Was not good for me (2 days - other yes) (i.e. full board package)
- There are problems with it in same organisation. It is better to pay separately (i.e. full board package)
- Meals were very good, rooms adequate, hotel staff was excellent.
- Accommodation average, food very poor. The failure to cater adequately for vegetarians was a major omission.
- Meals excellent, accommodation good.
- Meals average: Adequate number of tables for lunch and dinner sometimes.
- Finnhostel was a bad choice for the participants of the conference. Staff is also not quite qualified. There was not the right information about Finnhostel on the web; (and pictures, the room was wrong one) because of that we expected something more. For what we have got, hotel was very expensive.
- An option to pay at the reception desk would be desirable, as some countries might face problems to use credit cards (or cheques) or e-pay due to shortcuts in the network.
- lunch room poorly organised.
- But it was good to have explicit partialisation options (i.e. full board package)
- Room 364 of the Kimmel hotel was a dump I thought. No conditioner, moisturiser, or kettle + the bathroom stank.
- Vegetarians options sometimes limited or unavailable.
- Yes, if one stays the full period (i.e. full board package). Procedure rigid, required manual intervention to customisation.
- Definitely yes for “full-board” but it would be good to have different package of different staying length.
- I do not know (i.e. full board package)
- Subject to flexibility for those wishing to stay for less than 6 days (as there was)

**(7) Social events****(8) Excursion**

1 Excellent  
2 Good  
4 Average  
5 quite poor

*Comment:*

- The guides were wonderful! The opening reception was just beautiful. I liked the setting of the art museum and being greeted by the mayor, who seems to love Joensuu and Finland very much. The cold meal was a wonderful way to present Finnish food and hospitality.
- Great weather, nice planning, very nice trip.
- Excursion and boat cruise was very good.
- Koli was wonderful. My family liked the Tuesday excursion to the convent very much.
- We could enjoy much together with our participants.
- Well done!
- Thanks!
- Went on "easy trip" - would have liked some additional activity, like going to an art museum for example.
- On the "easy" tour, the guide appeared to have no knowledge of the time schedule.
- The excursion was excellent.

- Excellent ++
- Bus hostess - not professional (no name, no welcome words), waiting for the ferry too long: instead there could have been a visit to souvenir shops (half an hour)
- We learned a lot of interesting things about North Carelia and Finland, saw splendid nature, travelled comfortable.
- The Koli restaurant was very good. The countryside, particularly the view from the top of Koli is really beautiful.
- Absolutely a wonderful excursion - well done!
- I enjoyed the excursion, the sights were beautiful, the guiding women were great, but I think that we could have something else included in the day. It was a little too much of the same. Maybe the monastery that was proposed in a tour for accompanying persons could have been a half a day destination.
- I do not know yet (social event), but guess the farewell dinner will be excellent as the rest of conference!

### **(9) Other comment and greetings to the Organisers:**

- I think it would have been nice to have a more complete map of town - like a walking tour - to point out schools and more information about things.
- Staff and guides were very helpful and quite pleasant.
- Very well organised!
- The support staff were very helpful and friendly. Thank you for all the effort which must have gone into the organisation of the conference.
- I would have loved if all the participant were staying at the same place so that both accommodation and meal arrangements would be the same for all. In this case some people had to walk to the university and for dinner while others had transport to the university though they had to walk back.
- Very professionally managed. The conference organiser and the IARIW deserve special commendation.
- On the whole the conference organisers deal an excellent work and I personally thank them so much for the several success of the conference.
- Some photos and/or short film during scientific and social events putting together in a post-conference CD or/and web with the final papers. - Memorable days in Joensuu! (Thanks for all "blue white shirts" = perfect team!!!). Excellent working conditions (during and after sessions)
- Some discussants gave rather free interpretation of papers, with all consequences for the debate.
- Abandoning the evening sessions was a great idea. The Cork conference was hard - with 3 sessions a day - it made the day too long. The set up for this conference with only morning and afternoon sessions, plus a cocktail party poster session was much better.
- Thank you very much for a wonderful conference in a perfect location.
- We deeply appreciate for your efforts for two years. I feel cheerful.
- You have set the standards!
- A marvellous conference. Thanks!
- Lovely people helping - so patient with me and my special needs. Lovely and very helpful in conference rooms, the coffee time, etc.
- I did not like paying for my hotel, in full, two months before the meeting. I do not like conference registration fee and hotel booking done at the same time with unclear guidelines on penalties (2 months in advance cut-off) or fees. - VERY WELL ORGANISED!
- I have to say that this conference has been a marvellous opportunity for me to learn more about a lot of interesting themes related with poverty.
- Excellent-organised. Thank you!
- Thank you for a well-organised conference in a beautiful part of Finland. No complains.
- Thank you!
- Thank you very much for everything! Everything was great!
- A very enjoyable conference - only by the appallingly low standard of catering.
- Including the notepad in the package would be nice.
- Overall a very worthwhile new conference.
- The conference should be shorter: arrival (starting) on Saturday, excursion on Sunday, scientific programme Monday - Wednesday.
- You should put also the presentation of the discussants on the web.

- I don't see the point, why we had to write down what we are allergic of. Since I am allergic to eggs I always had to ask what food contains them (pasta, cookies, sauces,...) so it was the same as if I wouldn't inform you about that.
- Thanks for your hospitality and kindness in hosting and facilitating the scientific and public-private life of all participants/accompanying persons!
- OUTSTANDING job. Very thoughtful about details!
- Excellent and very nice the Sauna evening! Very helpful staff!
- A very good conference - and VERY well organised. THANK YOU!
- You did a fabulous job I thought - congratulations!
- Very well organised conference. Good rooms at University. Great that had PC and wireless internet connection available.
- You can tell that the organisers made a huge effort to make easy for the participants. Well done.
- Thank you so much for the organisation of 29th IARIW Conference.
- An enjoyable conference. This was my first time at IARIW and hopefully not my last!
- Well done, especially liked the format of presenter/discussant and discussion afterwards.
- In general I think that it was very interesting to attend the conference and that it was well organised.
- Warm thanks to all!
- The organisers made a very good job in organising the conference.
- Thank you for hosting a very well organised conference. I enjoyed the social programme the most!
- Many thanks for the welcome + excellent organisation (including "organizing very good weather!")
- I like the format (discussants present) but some discussants did not put a lot effort into their presentations. For example, power point presentations is a MUST esp. in the plenary sessions. It would (if possible) have been very helpful to include in the list of participants pictures of each participant.
- Thank you for welcoming us to Finland.