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ITC President's Report (March 6, 2008)

Dear ITC Members and Friends,

I am happy to be sending you my six-month report, giving you the latest information about the ITC. The biggest news at the moment is the upcoming 6th ITC Conference in Liverpool (July, 13-16, 2008). If you go to our newly designed website, www.intestcom.org, you will find all the details. I am also happy to announce our General meeting in Berlin during the XXIXth International Congress of Psychology (ICP) (July 20-25, 2008). More details will follow at our website and via email, and the location and date and specific time of the two-hour general meeting will be announced in the ICP program. I will be pleased to meet you on both occasions.

Obituary: John Keats (1921-2008)

Professor Emeritus John Keats died on New Year's Day. He was 86. John Keats was appointed Foundation Professor of Psychology at the University of Newcastle (Australia) in 1965, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. He served the International Test Commission for many years. He was President from 1995 to 1998. During his presidency, Professor Keats worked to promote ITC and to strengthen the links with the International Union of Psychological Science. He was committed too to increasing the interactions among the ITC with developing countries, and especially countries in Asia. At the beginning of the nineties, he actively supported the participation of China, perceiving the high potential of this country in the ITC. Professor Keats was a distinguished psychometrician. He published with Frederic Lord of the Educational Testing Service an influential article ("A theoretical distribution of mental test scores") in the 1960s, often cited, and several other important papers on test theory and scaling. Until recently, he continued to be active, developing an ordinal test theory with Norman Cliff and publishing a book on the topic. The officers of the ITC Council are grateful to Professor Keats for the many contributions he made over the years.

International Journal of Testing

For the past three years, John Hattie has been the editor of the International Journal of Testing. During that time, the Journal has meet every time schedule, has developed a policy for the mission of the Journal re International focus, increased the quality of published papers through expanding the number of submissions, and has worked to include articles in IJT in major index systems. We believe the International Journal of Testing has become an

important part of the international testing literature. We encourage all of you to consider publishing your important ideas and research in the journal.

As part of the transition of the Journal, and to further enhance the quality and focus, two new Associate-editors were appointed in October, 2007: Professor Steve Sireci from the University of Massachusetts in the United States and Professor Rob Meijer from the University of Twente, Netherlands. This new editorial team will have a series of initiatives for the Journal, and along with the Editorial Board, will aim to enhance the value of IJT for all readers and the international measurement community.

ITC Website

Initially developed by Dave Bartram, and then by Iain Coyne, the ITC website was recently revamped. Currently hosted by a server at Erasmus University of Rotterdam in the Netherlands, the new website was developed by Arjen Karel, under the supervision of Marise Born, ITC President-elect. Visit the ITC website to find all the latest information about your organization and its activities on tests and testing practices. You are also invited to send us International News for publication on the website. We suggest you keep the ITC website address among your bookmarks: <<http://www.intestcom.org/>>

ITC 2008 Conference

The ITC Conference will be held from July 14 to 16 in Liverpool, England (with pre-conference workshops on July 13). The main theme of the conference is 'The impact of testing on people and society: Enhancing the value of test use' and specific issues expected to be considered include test-taker perceptions, cheating and deception, advances in testing, score reporting, and ethical testing. The overall goal of the conference is to bring together researchers, educators, psychologists and testing experts from across the world to discuss the impact of testing on people and society (<http://www.itc2008.com/>). The full program is now posted at the website

With this in mind we have devised a scientific program incorporating workshops, plenary keynote presentations, themed keynotes, symposia, individual papers, round-table discussions and posters. Workshop topics include structural equation modelling (Barbara Byrne), DIF (Bruno Zumbo), item response theory (Ron Hambleton and Craig Wells) and communicating test results (Dave Bartram). Confirmed keynote presenters include Neil Anderson, Randy Bennett, Colin Cooper, John Fremer, Kurt Geisinger, Ron Hambleton, John Hattie, Wim van der Linden, and Robert Roe.

To date we have secured sponsorship support from 18 organisations including BPS, SHL, OPP, Hogrefe group, Saville Consulting, Questionmark, ORGA, Buros, American Psychological Association, Cito, Graduate Management Admissions Council, NOA, NZCER, Educational Testing Service, and College Board.

We have had over 160 submissions to the conference including 18 symposia submissions, 26 poster submissions and 4 round-table/discussions. Individuals in a number of different countries (including the US, Canada, UK, Netherlands, New Zealand, China, Israel, Turkey, Sweden, Croatia, Spain, Lithuania, and Belgium) have submitted papers. Given the number of submissions we have had to add two more parallel streams to the scientific program.

On the Need to Secure Psychological Test Materials

Psychologists play a leading role in developing and using psychological tests that serve the public and professions. Psychologists also are committed to maintaining the integrity and security of test materials and other assessment methods, knowing that their unauthorized release to the public jeopardizes test integrity, results in test use by unqualified persons, and thus harms the public. Many professional associations are committed to this principle as reflected in their ethics codes. For example, the International Test Commission Guidelines for Test Use reflect this widely accepted commitment to maintain test security:

Standard 1.4.3. Protect the integrity of the test by not coaching individuals on actual test materials or other practice materials that might unfairly influence their test performance.

Standard 1.4.4. Ensure that test techniques are not described publicly in such a way that their usefulness is impaired.

In contrast to the need to maintain test security, some psychologists are selling tests through unauthorized sources to the general public. For example, the International Test Commission learned recently that tests are being sold on eBay. Such sales jeopardize test integrity, harm the public, and violate accepted practice.

The International Test Commission urges psychologists to become aware of this possible practice in their countries and to take steps to stop such unauthorized sales. We encourage national psychological associations to inform their members of this problem and to take preventative measures, including the revision of their ethics codes to help prevent this and similar unauthorized releases of tests to others. National psychological associations

also are encouraged to develop standards that promote the safe disposal of outdated tests. We also urge eBay and other companies to establish and maintain standards that prevent the unauthorized sale of tests and other professionally protected materials.

Next General Meeting

The next General meeting will be held during the XXIXth International Congress of Psychology in Berlin, July 20-25, 2008 (see the following website for information about the Congress, <http://www.icp2008.de/>). During this meeting, we will hold the election of a new President-elect and several other ITC officers. You are kindly invited to participate in the meeting. More information on the officers' nomination and the meeting will be available on the ITC website very soon.

Jacques Grégoire
ITC President, 2006 to 2008