

Preface

PROMS 2015 symposium was held on campus of Kyushu Sangyo University, Fukuoka, Japan from August 20 to 24, 2015 with pre-conference workshops scheduled for August 20–21, 2015. And the present conference proceedings were done ad hoc for the researches, Ph.D. supervisors, educators, practitioners and younger generation who seek to use the Rasch model in their research activities in Pacific Rim countries, regions and beyond.

More than half a century has passed since the Danish mathematician Georg Rasch (1901–1981) published his “Probabilistic Model for Intelligence and Attainment Tests” (Rasch 1960). With this departure, the model has found wide applications in measuring variables ranging from business, counseling, economics, education, health care, language testing, measurement, psychology, quality assurance, statistics to strategic planning field and has been extended from the initial application to the dichotomous data type to the polytomous ones. Today, the model is held as “Rasch Model” among measurement professionals and believed to have instigated the vision of promoting objective measurement and to have contributed greatly to scientific discovery.

To this end, Pacific Rim Objective Measurement Symposium (PROMS) has been devoting all their endeavors over the past decade and PROMS conferences have been successfully hosted in many Pacific Rim countries and regions for such a purpose of promoting the research and contributing to the development of the Rasch Model. PROMS 2015 Fukuoka, Japan is the eleventh symposium and follows highly successful meetings in PROMS 2005 Kuala Lumpur, PROMS 2006 Hong Kong, PROMS 2007 Taiwan, PROMS 2008 Tokyo, PROMS 2009 Hong Kong, PROMS 2010 Kuala Lumpur, PROMS 2011 Singapore, PROMS Jiaying, China Mainland, and PROMS 2013 Kaohsiung, Taiwan, PROMS 2014, Guangzhou, China Mainland, and PROMS 2016 is to be held in Xi'an, China Mainland again. Just as Prof. Rob Cavanagh, the Chair of PROMS, said, there are many good reasons why you should attend PROMS: “The keynote speakers and workshop presenters are all eminent scientists with cutting-edge expertise in Rasch measurement and its applications; students are encouraged to attend and present

their work. The atmosphere is highly collegial and we value the contributions of all; PROMS is highly supportive of early career researchers and the professors who attend are renowned for the support they provide for all participants”. Therefore, anyone seriously interested in research and development of psychometrics or measurement will find such international symposiums and related workshops to be an excellent source of information about the application of the Rasch Model.

The present volume contains 27 articles germane to Rasch-based research work submitted by scholars from PROMS 2015. Each of these articles deals with Rasch measures in their research field, covering a variety of issues ranging from education, psychology, management, language testing to medicine and serving in particular as good resources for researchers and students to be able to conduct their own Rasch model analyses as well as understand and review published Rasch-based research.

Our sincere thanks go to all the contributors for their time and efforts to make this book a reality. And we should thank the Springer for the publication of this book; we also express our sincere gratitude to the MetaMetrics, USA, who has been acting as a great sponsor for PROMS each year over the past years and statistics.com as well.

Apart from this, we also want to thank and appreciate the proofreading carefully done by Rasch peers. While they save us from a number of inaccuracies and infelicities, they can in no way be held responsible for the academic opinions which are expressed and the imperfection which no doubt remains. And in particular, great thanks should go to Dr. Durand, Jeff, the newly appointed deputy chair from Toyo Gakuen University, Japan for all the efforts and time he devoted before and during the editing of the present book.

Copies of the present book will be sent to universities and colleges in Pacific Rim countries and regions as well as Europe and other parts of the world. In doing so, we are confident to claim that the past decade of PROMS has been rewarding. The retrospect is impressive and the prospect is tantalizing. With updated computer technology and development, the time for objective measurement via Rasch has come of age.

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Reference

- Rasch, G. (1960). *Probabilistic models for some intelligence and attainment tests* (Reprint, with Foreword and Afterword by B. Wright, University of Chicago Press, 1980). Copenhagen, Denmark: Danmarks Paedagogiske Institut.

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