

ELAVIO 2009 ... CONTINUES >>

Justo Puerto Albandoz ("Location Problems: Models and Algorithms"), Héctor Cancela ("Recent Advances in Monte Carlo Evaluation of Static Network Reliability Measures"), Carlos Coello Coello ("Meta-Heuristics For Multi-Objective Optimization") and Roger Ríos Mercado ("Modeling and Solving Territorial Planning Problems"). The topics were clearly and precisely developed. In addition, the presentation of the students' research results and the ensuing discussions complemented the material presented in the courses and tutorials.

Upon my return to Argentina I am further pursuing some of the topics which I now see in a new light after the courses and presentations. Many exciting exchanges with professors and students provided a lot of food for thought and enriched my research work. Thanks to this, I gained a wider and deeper perspective on the goals I want to achieve in my doctoral thesis.

As a final word, let me thank the organizers of ELAVIO and the authorities of ALIO (Latin-Iberian-American Association of Operations Research) for granting me the opportunity to participate in the School. I would also like to thank the support of IFORS (International Federation of Operations Research Societies) without which I could not have attended this prestigious event.

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▲ Mg. Mariano Frutos

New Survey of OR Practice Around the World

IFORS have commissioned a survey of OR practice in member countries, updating an earlier one carried out in 1996. The aim is to enable a better understanding of the usage of quantitative tools, techniques and approaches and their impact on decision-making in organisations, as well as the background of the OR analysts involved. It is expected that the results will enable IFORS to improve their support to and promotion of OR in member countries.

The survey will be led by Dr John Ranyard, Senior Research Fellow, Management Science Department at Lancaster University (and previously an OR manager in British Coal). He will be supported by two Lancaster colleagues, Prof Robert Fildes, who specialises in forecasting and marketing analysis and Dr Alastair Robertson, a research associate specialising in marketing research, who has much experience of technology surveys using online questionnaires. John and Robert carried out a comprehensive study of OR practitioner groups in the UK for the OR Society in the mid-1990s, which was widely published.



▲ John Ranyard

All IFORS member countries will be included, with the main point of contact being the IFORS Representative. The principal instrument will be a comprehensive online questionnaire, aimed at OR practitioners in non-academic organisations. It is appreciated that the usage of OR varies considerably across member countries and so some Societies in countries with well-developed OR practice communities (eg USA and UK) will be encouraged to aim at a higher response rate and will be contacted directly. The timescale is from September 2009 to October 2010 to collect, collate and analyse the comprehensive data involved. Subsequently a paper will be written for publication in ITORS.



▲ Robert Fildes

President Elise del Rosario comments:

"I believe that this survey will provide IFORS with a better understanding of how and to what extent OR is being applied to solve practical problems in member countries, including the methodologies and techniques being used, the context of OR work in organisations, the background of practitioners as well as country-specific uses and developments. This will enable IFORS, in conjunction with member Societies, to improve support for the development and use of OR in member countries in several ways, for example:

For academics

- by identifying training/educational needs and collaborative research possibilities.
- For practitioners
- by identifying the different types of OR work being carried out and how OR work is organised
- by benchmarking current practice across countries

IFORS looks at this survey as potentially one step towards a more positive and fruitful collaboration between academics and practitioners"

John Ranyard and Robert Fildes

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