

The International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) is an umbrella organization set up in 1959, representing approximately 50 societies and several kindred societies. In all, it represents some 30,000 individual members.

IFORS exists to:

- Promote the development of operational research (O.R.) worldwide, both in methodology and practice, and
- Link the member societies and regional groupings

These objectives are achieved through:

- Publications
- Conferences
- Web site and Newsletter
- Special programs for developing countries
- Educational initiatives
- Distinguished Lectures



I F O R S

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International Federation of Operational Research Societies

[www.ifors.org](http://www.ifors.org)

Bringing the World of  
Operational Research Together



# IFORS: BRINGING THE WORLD OF OPERATIONAL RESEARCH TOGETHER

## STRUCTURE

**National Societies** are organized into four regional groupings: EURO (Europe), ALIO (Latin America), APORS (Asia Pacific region), and NORAM (North America).

**Kindred Societies** include the Airline Group of IFORS (AGIFORS), composed of 1200 members.

IFORS is run by a Board consisting of the Representatives of each member country, who decide on basic issues confronting IFORS, and its Administrative Committee, which is responsible for the execution of activities and making proposals to the Representatives.

The Administrative Committee is elected for periods of 3 years, and is composed of a President, a Vice President at large, four regional Vice Presidents, representing each region, a Treasurer, elected for a 3 year term, renewable twice, responsible for handling all financial matters, and a Secretary who is responsible for all administrative and logistic matters and whose location corresponds to the headquarters of IFORS.

The Administrative Committee for 2013-2015:

President: Nelson Maculan  
Vice President at Large: Sue Merchant  
Vice President ALIO: Lorena Pradenas  
Vice President APORS: Ya-xiang Yuan  
Vice President EURO: Jacek Blazewicz  
Vice President NORAM: Michel Gendreau  
Treasurer: Peter Bell  
Secretary: Mary Magrogan  
Past President: Dominique de Werra

Co-opted members:

Coordinator for Publications: Graham Rand  
IFORS News/Website: Elise del Rosario

## IFORS ACTIVITIES

To carry out its declared objectives, IFORS has developed a series of activities in different areas of interest to researchers, practitioners and teachers.

## IFORS PUBLICATIONS: BRINGING YOU NEW IDEAS

- The International Abstracts in Operations Research (IAOR), edited by Preston White, which has a long tradition in collecting information on what is published worldwide in the area of operations research
- International Transactions in Operational Research (ITOR), edited by Celso Ribeiro, which carries methodological and applied articles with an important international outlook, with articles from very diverse countries, which reflect the IFORS membership.

## IFORS MEETINGS: COMING TOGETHER TO SHARE IDEAS

IFORS ensures that people involved in operational research around the world have opportunities to get to know one another and exchange ideas, knowledge and experience.

- The Triennial Conference, a tradition since 1957, brings O.R. academics and practitioners from around the world together.

In addition to presenting a strong academic program, these conferences foster interaction among the members, developing bonds that may lead to future collaboration and idea sharing. Social activities are a big part, with a one-day excursion traditionally held on the middle day of the conference.

The 20th Triennial Conference will be held in Barcelona, Spain in July, 2014. It will attract almost 2500 participants from 45 countries and include a wide variety of topics and interests. The 21st Triennial Conference will be held in Quebec City in 2017. For information on the Barcelona conference, visit: <http://www.ifors.org/conference>

- IFORS also sponsors small "special conferences" on specific topics. These conferences generally attract about 150 attendees, and may be organized independently or with other professional organizations. IFORS provides sponsorship, publicity, organizational support and, through ITOR, a publishing outlet for refereed papers.
- IFORS also collaborates with the organizing committees of major national and regional conferences, helping to organize sessions and panels. The IFORS Distinguished Lecture, typically a plenary session, recognizes worldwide contributions to O.R. The IFORS Tutorial Lecture recognizes new research in emerging areas of O.R.

## IFORS EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Believing that O.R. professionals in the early stage of their careers should be supported, IFORS sponsors students to attend the EURO and ALIO Summer Schools. The aim of the summer schools is to encourage good social and working relationships among promising early stage O.R. scientists. Call for candidates including specific criteria is posted every year on the IFORS website.

Depending on arrangements with the regional summer school programs, IFORS provides travel and accommodation funds to selected scholars. IFORS offers support for educators and students through their Education Resources website. (<http://educationresources.ifors.org/>) Contributions from various O.R. societies makes this site the best location to begin a search for tools to help learn about O.R. Search capabilities by type of media (lectures, books, videos, slideshows, etc.) as well as technical interest areas (game theory, decision analysis, simulation, etc.) makes it easy to find techniques to improve the O.R. student experience.

## IFORS NEWS AND IFORS WEBSITE:

### INFORMATION THAT'S A CLICK AWAY

The IFORS News, edited by Elise del Rosario, is an online quarterly magazine that carries information on IFORS, its members and various O.R. related activities and initiatives worldwide. One of its key roles is to establish a link among the various member societies. IFORS correspondents from member countries ensure that activities are covered and shared with colleagues all over the world. Its regular sections include "OR for Development" that focuses on events, articles and IFORS initiatives in the use of O.R. to advance the goal of development; "O.R. Impact" that highlight benefits of implemented projects; "Tutorial" that give an overview of an O.R. or related topic; and "Book Review" which features views on books of interest to the O.R. public. All issues that had been published are available at <http://ifors.org/web/newsletter/> The IFORS website, is a key tool in the promotion of O.R. internationally and a valuable resource for any practitioner or academic.

The site includes:

- Information about IFORS
- IFORS Lectures
- OR Hall of Fame
- Notifications of conferences/workshops and prize competitions
- Career Opportunities
- Activities of member societies
- Learning resources (videos, lectures, slides)
- Links to national societies and regional groupings
- Online Resources containing materials on a wide range of subjects and topics of interest for people with interest in developing countries and O.R. education.
- Members Only Area where members can cast ballots on issues brought to the general membership for decision.

## DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:

### FOSTERING THE USE OF OR FOR DEVELOPMENT

IFORS plays an important role in ensuring that developing countries reap the benefits of operational research.

- The International Conference on O.R. in Development (ICORD) provides a forum for researchers to interact and discuss issues of O.R. for development, as well as to learn and share applications, tools and implementation experiences in developing countries. Conferences locations have included: India, Brazil, the Philippines, and South Africa.
- The IFORS prize, awarded at the close of the triennial conference, recognizes exemplary work. It carries a grand prize of US \$4,000 and a runner up prize of US \$2000.
- The Developing Country On-Line Resources page offers the O.R. worker many publicly-available materials on the topic of O.R. for Development.

## BENEFITS OF JOINING IFORS INCLUDE:

- Influencing IFORS activities by proposing new initiatives
- Attending and organizing joint activities with other societies
- Increasing networking with other countries and local members
- Obtaining mutual support and advice from others
- Sharing ideas on structuring, running, and developing your O.R. society
- Engaging with colleagues on the Board of IFORS representatives
- Tapping into the vast pool of speakers available through the Lectures program
- Participating in the global and regional activities set up by IFORS
- Increasing your country's input to International Abstracts in OR



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