

The June issue of the IFORS News is traditionally devoted to the previous year's Annual Report. For this issue, IFORS News is pleased to present to you the 2010 report on the activities of the IFORS Administrative Committee led by President Dominique de Werra. – Editor

2010 Annual Report from the **PRESIDENT**

Dominique deWerra, dominique.dewerra@epfl.ch

The year 2010 started with a new AC which is a quasioptimal solution of an intricate assignment problem. It is appropriate to remind the readers that IFORS had just reached the mature age of 50 and as such the Federation led during three years by Elise del Rosario was in perfect health with a slight tendency to growth (but no threat of overweight). We take this additional opportunity to thank Elise and her team for transmitting to the new AC a Federation full of health and of initiatives. >>

The present AC for 2010-2012 is the following



Dominique de Werra
President, general oversight external relations



Elise del Rosario
Immediate Past President, Newsletter editor, responsible for the website



Hugo Scolnik
Vice President, Developing Countries



Peter Bell
Treasurer



Xiangsun Zhang
VP representing APORS, scholarships, new societies



Nair Maria Maia de Abreu
VP representing ALIO, scholarships, new societies; education committee



Martine Labbé
VP representing EURO, scholarships, new societies, publications committee



Karla Hoffman
VP representing NORAM, scholarships, new societies; meetings committee



Mary Magrogan
Secretary in charge of IFORS office, external relations

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Report from the IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	2
Annual Report from the VICE PRESIDENT	3
Annual Report from the TREASURER	4
Annual Report from the VICE PRESIDENT for ALIO	5
Annual Report from the VICE PRESIDENT FOR APORS	5
Annual Report from the VICE PRESIDENT FOR EURO	6
Annual Report from the VICE PRESIDENT FOR NORAM	7
Annual Report from the PUBLICATION COMMITTEE CHAIR	8
Annual Report from the SECRETARY	8

>> In addition to these members of the AC, we should mention that Hugh Bradley after serving IFORS in many different ways, has accepted to chair the Publications Committee in charge of relations with the publishers of IATOR and IAOR under responsibility of Martine Labbé.

Furthermore, the AC will continue to take advantage of the experience of Theo Stewart in Developing Countries since he is chairing the DC Committee under responsibility of Hugo Scolnik.

I express my thanks to the members of the AC who have served IFORS for many years and who are continuing with the same enthusiasm and efficiency. It is in particular the case of our treasurer Peter Bell whose experience as a Past President and as a treasurer is precious to us in this period of rough financial climate. Thanks also to Elise del Rosario who has been guiding us on the appropriate tracks during the learning phase of the new AC. Elise is not only Immediate Past President but she is also responsible for our website and in addition the new Editor of the Newsletter; she took over the job from Hans Ittman during this year according to the desire of Hans, and the AC expresses its gratitude to both of them for having contributed to improve day after day this essential tool for the visibility of IFORS and for bringing our societies and our members closer to each other.

During this first year we also had a change of the editor of IAOR; David Smith who has been editor for almost twenty years has expressed his desire of retiring. The AC has already had some opportunities to thank him for the excellent work he accomplished in circumstances which required a lot of attention, flexibility and efficiency from him. Preston White was appointed as incoming Editor of IAOR during the Fall of 2010. We wish him success and much pleasure in the challenging job of IAOR Editor and we appreciate that David has accepted to help his successor during the transition period.

Many initiatives of the previous AC are still running and the new committee has decided to work with the required continuity for the development of

IFORS and the promotion of OR, as can be seen in the following reports of the AC members.

The motto of the period 2010-2012 "Do not do what others can do better, but encourage it by all means" will orient the actions of the AC. IFORS will continue its support to original initiatives and fruitful education actions for which the Federation is a natural and indispensable promoter.

No triennial Conference took place in 2010 but it is worth mentioning that IFORS was present at all regional grouping conferences and I express my gratitude to those who have been representing the Federation and introducing it to a large audience at these meetings. The Newsletter has reported on these events during the past year.

Among other events the whole AC was present at the EURO Conference in Lisbon (July 2010) during which a first AC meeting was held. At this conference which attracted more than 2000 participants, an IFORS session was organized; this gave us an opportunity to present the achievements and the future actions of the Federation to all delegates. But the most attractive event was the presence of the IFORS Distinguished Lecturer, John Nash, whose popularity not only among scientists and game theory specialists but also ordinary participants and students was comparable to a movie star, as could be seen from the crowds rushing around him to have a picture with the great John or a signature.

Hopefully this has contributed in some way to the visibility of IFORS.

Besides the IFORS Distinguished Lectures the AC has been working on the introduction of IFORS Invited Tutorials (IIT) which will be offered in the future regional Conferences; this will give an opportunity for general audiences to be exposed to new and emerging fields of OR which recognized scholars will be offering in didactic and motivating presentations. The regional groupings are invited to take advantage of this new offer from IFORS. 

2010 Annual Report from the IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Elise del Rosario, elise@JGdelRosario.com

As Immediate Past President, I was tasked with providing guidance to the incoming Administrative Committee in order to ensure the continuity of programs started and to provide not only the context of decisions made in the past but also perspectives on current issues. The AC, specifically, the President, was very open to the lessons of the past as well as inputs for future plans, and this greatly facilitated the process and made this aspect of my task easy. I was also assigned to oversee an initiative started during my term as President, the Survey of OR practice. In addition, I continued my involvement in taking care of two important vehicles of IFORS communication: the website and the newsletter. Highlights of activities carried out in 2010 are reported below.

IFORS News

For 2010, the quarterly electronic issues appeared on schedule. Alerts were sent to the national societies when the issues were uploaded to the IFORS website. As was the practice, the March 2010 issue marked the first one for the new Administrative Committee (AC), and therefore served as a get-to-know-your-AC issue. Apart from this, the first 2010 issue also covered popular OR topics of Humanitarian Logistics and Airport OR and an equally popular OR personality, Russ Ackoff. IFORS activities were all covered, from a new member (Iranian OR Society) to a kindred member (AGIFORS), from the OR practice survey to the IDL and the IFORS 2011, along with other OR-related conferences.

Consistent with the practice too, the June issue focused on the 2009 Annual Report. These first two issues were edited by Hans Ittman who, because of work commitments, had to beg off from continuing his editorship of the IFORS News. It will be remembered that under Hans' capable editorship, the IFORS News served to provide news and information to the IFORS member societies starting with its first volume launched in 2007. He had not, however, left the IFORS News as he continued to contribute with his regular column on book reviews.

The second half of the year produced two issues. The September issue started the practice of locating the news item on the world map, similar to the map that appears on the IFORS website wherein member countries and regions are identified. This was meant to emphasize the international nature of the IFORS community. An active program to recruit IFORS News correspondents from the regions was also started during the period. Recruited as IFORS correspondents were: Annibal Parracho (ALIO), Degang Liu (APORS) and Gerhardwilhelm Weber (EURO). Through them and other contributors, the September issue was able to report on the four regional meetings – EURO held in Lisbon, APORS held in Jaipur, and the joint ALIO-NORAM meeting in Buenos Aires. Other features included among others, the regular IFORS activities, a reprint of the article on obstacles and enablers in forming OR societies, as well as OR perspectives by regular contributor and IFORS Past President Heiner Muller Merbach. The December issue again contained conference news from all corners of the map – Latin America, Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia and North America, apart from providing updates on the IFORS activities and events held by member societies. Education was well-tackled with two articles about IFORS and university initiatives.

IFORS Website

Throughout 2010, the webmaster retained by IFORS has not only searched for available tools but has also kept pace with the evolving web technology in order to respond to web inquiries and suggestions towards the end of providing a website that is welcoming, easy to use, and conducive to sharing ideas and information among its members. Along this line, the webmaster made sure that the website has remained current through the timely update of information pertaining to IFORS as well as OR-related activities, responded to queries by website visitors, and continued to seek better means by which members could cast their votes on issues put before them. 2010 also marked the official start of activities for the Educational Resources portion of the website. >>



>> The project aims to make available to the IFORS website visitor links to materials on OR that are in the internet. Eventually, it is aimed at providing a means by which OR materials in various languages can be uploaded and hosted by the site. In support of this project, the webmaster has put up a wiki facility to enable these functions.

Site activity monitoring showed a stable number of visitors which is forecast to increase when the Educational Resources project is in full swing.

Global Survey of OR Practice

IFORS commissioned a survey of OR practice in member countries, updating an earlier one carried out in 1996. Fourteen years later we still know too little about OR in practice and the organisations which make good use of analytical methods. The aim of the survey is to gain 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. The results should enable IFORS to improve their support to and promotion of OR in member countries. John Ranyard was appointed project leader with support from Prof Robert Fildes and Alastair Robertson.

The following report was prepared by John Ranyard.

Survey Work. In 2009 an initial questionnaire was designed and sent to all IFORS Country Representatives, with the aim of testing the viability of the full survey. Thirty four responses were received (out of 49) and whilst knowledge of OR practice was low in many countries, it was agreed that the full survey should go ahead. Some helpful feedback for designing and promoting the full survey was also received. A report on the initial survey was produced in March 2010 (1).

The design of the main questionnaire was completed early in the year and then piloted with three country Representatives, which resulted in some minor changes. Although there was a case for having two versions, one for mature OR practice communities and one for less mature ones, we concluded that having a single questionnaire would on balance be preferable and would aid analysis. The main questionnaire was circulated to IFORS Representatives in April 2010, for them to pass on to known practitioners in their country. The initial deadline for responses was July. Various follow up actions were carried out with the aim of increasing the response rate, including targeting specific individuals by email and via an article in the IFORS Newsletter (2). The deadline was eventually extended to November, by which time a final total of 254 responses had been received.

Analysis of the responses commenced immediately after the initial deadline had passed but some analyses had to be repeated as the deadline was extended and further responses were received. Final analysis commenced in December 2010.

Associated Activities. A good response was received from the UK, thanks to the support of the OR Society and its Heads of OR (OR Managers) Forum (HORF). The survey was promoted with an article in OR Inside – the online and printed Newsletter for ORS members – in April. Detailed analysis of the 81 (usable) responses was carried out in August and the results were presented at OR52, the OR Society's national conference, in September.

A further presentation was given to HORF in November. Helpful feedback for the final analysis of the global responses was obtained.

Remaining Actions and Timescale. Full analysis of the responses will be completed in 2011 and a selection of the results will be presented at the IFORS 2011 conference. Additional presentations from country/region Representatives will be sought. The presentations and discussions will be reported. A final report on the results of the survey will be produced and a paper for publication in ITOR will be written with a target completion date of March 2012. 🌐

References:

1. Response to the Initial Questionnaire, JC Ranyard, March 2010
2. IFORS SURVEY OF OR PRACTICE – Update for IFORS Newsletter, Sept 2010
3. New Survey of OR Practice Around the World, OR Inside, April 2010

2010 Annual Report from the VICE-PRESIDENT

Hugo Scolnik, scolnik@fibertel.com.ar



Developing Countries

During 2010 a number of people (Elise del Rosario, Theo Stewart) contributed with their experience to the organization of the OR in Development Prize IFORS 2011 under the direct responsibility of Subhash Datta, who achieved an outstanding job. The call for papers was highly successful both in the number of submissions and their quality. The finalist papers will be refereed for ITOR.

I had the pleasure to introduce Garrett van Ryzin, as the IFORS' Distinguished Lecturer at the ALIO/INFORMS meeting in Buenos Aires, as well as Moshe Sniedovich for the promotion of the Melbourne conference.

We also discussed the possibility of extending the successful ELAVIO school model to other regions. Along these lines the first school in Operations Research supported by IFORS and EURO will be held at Porto-Novo (Benin) on November 15-25, 2011.

The main purpose of this school is to accompany the effort of developing OR in Africa. Hence, the school is mainly intended for African young researchers and graduate students (Masters and Ph.D) but also to teachers that would like to update their experience on Operations Research. This event aims at showing how OR could help in resources management and contribute to the development in Africa. The local organizer is the Institut de Mathématiques et de Sciences Physiques (IMSP), Po. Box 613, Porto-Novo, Bénin and the main contacts are Prof Joël Tossa (joel.tossa@imsp-uac.org) and Dr Aboubacar Marcos (abmarcos@imsp-uac.org)

I wish to thank VP ALIO Nair de Abreu for contributing to this effort both with ideas and with financial support.

During an ICORD conference in Brazil there was criticism that ICORD had just become another conference with no clear developmental or even developing countries thrust. This is something to be taken into account because a key to getting real impact is continuity and monitoring. However, I think the first step during the Benin conference is to bring together a number of researchers and students from different countries to start a collaborative framework. This was the experience with the ELAVIO schools, from which a number of research projects, thesis, etc, started to take shape.

It was also decided to create a web page focused on OR in Developing Countries. Elise del Rosario provided the manpower for this effort which will be available soon. 🌐



2010 Annual Report from the **TREASURER**

Peter Bell, pbell@ivey.ca



The IFORS financial position continues to be strong. What follows is a summary of the audited results for 2010 (all numbers in US \$).

In 2010 IFORS made a surplus of almost \$50,000 as a result of strong revenues from our publications and a spending shortfall. 2010 members' dues collections were above budget (\$32,681) resulting from diligent efforts by Mary Magrogan to collect past due accounts but this was offset by a spectacular decline in IFORS' interest revenue as the economic downturn reduced the interest rate we receive on our reserves: in 2008 we received interest of \$27,280 but in 2010 this had declined to \$2,488. IAOR and ITOR receipts totaled (\$176,062) which was above budget.

The net effect was that IFORS revenues (\$211,231) were well above the budget level (\$166,000).

The 2010 approved budget called for expenditures of \$193,000 but actual (cash) expenses were only \$163,736. We had budgeted for a small deficit, but some committee budgets (including Developing Countries and Education) were significantly underutilized. Expenses for administrative activities (Committees, and Secretariat) were also down slightly as a result of our new contract with INFORMS. The end result was that IFORS generated a cash surplus of \$47,495 in 2010.

The 2011 budget (approved by the IFORS AC in Lisbon) shows an operating loss of \$59,000 although this negative bottom line has already been increased by the decline in interest rates – our CD's are now paying interest at 0.25%! 2011 is a triennial conference year and so this budget is also subject to significant uncertainty in receipts from the Melbourne conference as well as IFORS expenses incurred as a result of the conference. The 2011 final result is also sensitive to the Aus\$/Sterling/US\$ exchange rates. A falling dollar (or improving pound) helps IFORS annual account since our journal royalties are paid in sterling.

On balance, 2010 did not materially change IFORS financial strength. Our very conservative investment strategy with our reserves in US dollars has resulted in erosion of our asset base versus strong currencies (the EURO) but gains against weak currencies (sterling). Prospects for the future are sound with the only significant financial threat being outside factors such as interest rates and exchange rates.

In view of the Society's financial position and prospects, no change in member society dues is recommended at this time. 

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPERATIONAL RESEARCH SOCIETIES REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010

	2010		2009	
INCOME				
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Subscriptions		32,681		19,459
Royalties - IAOR	120,958		74,361	
- ITOR	55,104		54,460	
		176,062		128,821
Bank Interest		2,488		5,163
		211,231		153,443
Less: EXPENSES				
Office	42,713		46,014	
Editorial	44,646		35,718	
Administrative Committee	21,484		12,158	
Meetings Committee	6,095		938	
Triennial Conference Expenses			8,570	
ITOR Subscriptions	14,050			
Bank Charges	1,315		1,522	
Accountancy	3,000		3,000	
Developing Countries	3,462		9,769	
Scientific Activities	22,604		11,683	
Newsletter	4,675			
Exchange Difference	(308)	(163,736)	(83)	129,289
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		\$47,495		\$24,154

All the activities reported above, both for the current and preceding year, represent ongoing activities.

All recognised gains and losses are reflected through the Revenue Account and no Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is presented.

Notes to Accounts

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.
- Items of income and expenditure are accounted for on an accruals basis, with the exception of triennial conferences and specific purpose conferences, which are accounted for on a receipts and payments basis.
- Foreign currencies are translated at the rates which applied at the Balance Sheet date.
- All (losses)/ gains on foreign exchange translation are (debited)/ credited to the Revenue Account and disclosed as a component of total expenditure.
- Debtors are stated net of full provision for any doubtful or disputed items.



2010 Annual Report from the VICE-PRESIDENT for ALIO

Nair de Abrue, nairabreunova@gmail.com

As an IFORS-AC elected member representing ALIO, Asociación Latinoamericana de Investigación Operativa, during the period 2010-2012, it gives me great pleasure to remember some important OR-activities which happened in South America in 2010.

The first was the Joint International Meeting, ALIO-INFORMS, co-sponsored by ALIO and INFORMS and extremely well organized by SADIO, Sociedad Argentina de Informática. The event took place in Buenos Aires, June 6th-9th 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Irene Loiseau and the other Argentine colleagues for this important initiative. The event was attended by about 1000 researchers and students in Operations Research of whom more than 700 were from Latin America.

The XV Escuela Latinoamericana de Verano en Investigación Operativa, in its 15th edition, took place in Pacoti, Ceará, in the Northeast of Brazil, from 2nd to 6th August, 2010. The president of this event, Marcos José Negreiros Gomes and the other members of the Organizing Committee kindly received in Pacoti almost one hundred of Latinoamerican students from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru and some ten or so students from several countries of other continents such as Belgium, Canada, China, France, India, Italy and Serbia.

Finally, I would like to inform our readers that IFORS was extremely happy to receive SOPIOS, Sociedad Peruana de Investigación Operativa y Sistemas, as their newest member.

Education Committee

At the request of our President, Dominique de Werra, I took on the responsibility for the OR- Education Committee. At the end of the previous term of office, the Educational Program of IFORS consisted of 3 distinct activities:

(i) *The Young Scholars' Program* whose main objective is to encourage the organization of short term Schools looking for young talent in ORMS. IFORS supports the following schools which are functioning very successfully: ELAVIO (Summer School for ALIO) and the EURO (the Winter School for Euro). As the next step, our Vice President, Hugo Scolnik, is in contact with APORS to organize a similar school on the African continent.

(ii) *The Website International Research* is an available space on the IFORS website so that researchers can provide slides, papers, texts, software that could be useful to teachers of Operational Research. In 2010, the AC gave the authorization for the Website Education Editorial Board, composed of Marcela Araya Chile; Samuel Jurkiewicz, Brazil; James Cochran, USA and Xiwen, China, to evaluate the material submitted. Only those which are approved will be posted on the page/site.

(iii) *Workshop for Teachers*: This is an activity which has been happening successfully during regional meetings. Thanks to the collaboration of James Cochran and Peter Bell.

Besides these 3 important activities, we have one more proposal: A Crash Course in Decision Problems and Operational Research. The main objectives are to provide professionals from Education in Mathematics, Engineering and Management with an overview of the minimum content of Operational Research within the scope of their teaching practice and to disseminate the main techniques of Operations Research and emphasize its importance in the training of present and future professionals. In 2011, IFORS intends to encourage experimental activities from the Crash Courses in emerging countries. 🌐

2010 Annual Report from the VICE PRESIDENT for APORS

Xiangsun Zhang, zxs@amt.ac.cn

For 2010, APORS got organized and for the first time, held two council meetings in a space of three months. During these meetings, the following officers were elected to the APORS Council:

APORS president: Prof. Yaxiang Yuan, China
Vice president: Dr. Ilias Mamat, Malaysia
Secretary general: Prof. Chang Won Lee, South Korea
Treasurer: Dr. Degang Liu, China

There were two APORS Council meetings held. The first one was held during the ORSC National Conference held October 16-17, 2010 in Beijing. The APORS Council meeting focused on election of officers, the APORS official journal APJOR, preparations for the APORS2012 triennial conference in China's Xi'an, and the APORS2010 in Malaysia as well as the IFORS2011 in Melbourne.

Subsequently, the APORS 2010 Conference in Malaysia Penang held from December 5-8, 2010 received participants coming from the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, China, India, Iran, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, Korea, and Malaysia. A Council meeting, chaired by IFORS vice president Prof. Xiang-Sun Zhang, was called to discuss on Council officers, triennial conferences, and other issues. Dr. Ilias Mamat of MSORMS was elected as vice president and Prof. Chang Won Lee as secretary general.

Present during the first APORS meeting were APORS Immediate past President Prof. Tatsuo Oyama, Operations Research Society of Japan (ORSJ) President Mr. Fumio Sudo, Korean Operations Research and Management Science Society (KORMS) President Prof. Jinwoo Park, Operational Research Society of New Zealand (ORSNZ) President Prof. Andrew Mason, Operations Research Society of Hong Kong (ORSHK) representative Dr. Jenny Leung, Management Science/Operations Research Society of Malaysia (MSORSM) President Dr. Ilias Mamat, and Operational Research Society of Singapore

(ORS) representative Mr. Toh Kaiyang. Also present were the Operations Research Society of Taiwan President Prof. Chin-Tsai Lin, along with a four-member delegation. A special session hosted by IFORS Vice President for APORS Prof. Xiang-sun Zhang, called on each society representative to deliver a short presentation on the practice of OR. Prof. Zhang also encouraged ORSC members to participate in the IFORS Prize for OR in Development competition. ORSC became an IFORS member in 1982.

Two months after, the Council met again during the APORS meeting held in Malaysia for the first time. Distinguished invited speakers from Malaysia, the United Kingdom and APORS member countries - Philippines, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Iran and Malaysia presented their papers during the plenary sessions. On the other hand, papers presented during the parallel sessions covered a wide range of topics, namely, education, mathematical programming, simulation and scheduling, reliability, queuing, capacity planning, inventory, location, optimization, manufacturing, and finance. Contributing in a big way to the success of the conference were Vice Chancellor USM Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkipli Abdul Razak, Patron MSORSM Datuk Dr Halim Shafie, President MSORSM Dr Ilias Mamat, Dean School of Mathematical Sciences Associate Professor Ahmad Izani Mohd Ismail, Chairman Organising Committee Adam Baharum and IFORS Distinguished Lecture (IDL) Speaker, Emeritus Professor Jonathan Rosenhead, invited speakers IFORS Immediate Past President Elise del Rosario (IFORS), IFORS Vice-President for APORS Xiang-Sun Zhang (IFORS), Janny Leung (IFORS), Alleli Domingo (Philippines) Lai Kah Wah (Singapore), Chun Kwong Han (Malaysia), Chun Zhi Wu of IBM (Singapore), APORS member representative speakers Degang Liu (China), Tatsuo Oyama (Japan), Nezam Mahdavi Amiri (Iran), and Chan Yan Chong (HongKong).

In the meantime, the member societies are actively pursuing their objectives of providing a healthy environment for OR professionals within their countries. Following are some of the activities undertaken by the societies.



Operations Research Society of China (ORSC)

Under APORS umbrella, ISORA held its ninth symposium in 2010. Prof. Xiang-Sun Zhang, IFORS vice president representing APORS, welcomed participants to the opening of the ninth International Symposium on Operations Research and Its Applications in Engineering, Technology, and Management (ISORA) last August 20, 2010 in Chengdu, China. Prof. Zhang brought the audience sixteen years back to the first ISORA meeting in Beijing, citing how over the years, a network of OR workers have turned to friends who meet regularly at the ISORA, thus ensuring the continued success of the conference.

Prof. Zhang extended the message of IFORS President Dominique de Werra, who among other things, cited the unusual disasters and extended condolences to those who have lost some family members in serious floods, earthquake and mud-rock avalanches, natural catastrophes that have struck China and the rest of the world. It was therefore timely that papers were presented in the areas of "Emergency Logistics Management" and "Disaster Management", a signal to the growing sensitivity of OR workers to environmental aspects.

Operational Research Society of India (ORSI)

ORSI undertook various activities in 2010 throughout the country:

- **CHENNAI** chapter arranged the Fifth Endowment lecture in the honour of Late Prof. T. R. Natesan on 6th May, 2010 on 'Games, Auctions, and Market Design by Dr. Y. Narahari, Department of Computer Science and Automation, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- **DURGAPUR** Organised a seminar on Supply Chain Management Oriented Decision Support System from January 15 – 16.
- **MADURAI** organised a special lecture on New Direct Taxes Codes by Mr. Laxmanan, Chartered Accountant on March 2. The chapter also hosted the annual ORSI convention.
- **TIRUPATI** organized featured the following speakers in association with the Department of Statistics, Andhra University: Prof. J. S. Rao, Department of Statistics and Applied Probability, University of California on February 2; Prof. P. R. Vittal, Department of Mathematics, Vivekananda College, Chennai on February 14; Prof. P. C. Jha, Department of O.R., Delhi University, on Supply Chain Management on April 12.
- Seminar on Feb 5 featured Reliability Models and Their Applications; A Novel Paradigm for Reliability Modeling in Software; and Reliability based Optimal Design of Engineering with the following speakers: Prof. Ajit Kumar Verma; Prof. Sri Vidya; Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT, Bombay.
- On the occasion of the 91st birthday of Prof. C. R. Rao last September 27. a seminar was held, featuring: Development and Applications of O.R.; a talk on O.R. and its Applications by Prof. R. Srinivasa Chakravarthy, Department of O.R., Kettering University, Flint, U.S.A; and a talk on Significance of SAS for Statisticians by Mr. Venkat Ikkurti, Confugure Solutions, Guntur.

Operations Research Society of Japan (ORSJ)

ORSJ has three official publications: Communications of ORSJ (vol. 56, 12 issues in 2010), Journal of ORSJ (vol. 53, 4 issues in 2010), Transactions of ORSJ (vol. 53, 1 issue in 2010). It has two semiannual national conferences in each year. In 2010, the first one was held in Spring (March 4-5) in Tokyo and the second one in Fall (Sept. 16-17) in Fukushima. There are 6 local chapters within ORSJ, and they do several activities such as conferences, seminars, lectures.

ORAJ has 24 special interest groups, and each group holds several meetings a year. Their events are announced through the mail magazine and the website of ORSJ as well as their respective websites so that anyone outside the group can join the events.

Two symposiums were held as follows:

- 1) Recovery from the world monetary crisis, March 3, Tokyo
- 2) Time of "change" and urban OR, Sept. 15, Fukushima

OR saloon regularly features "Service innovation and development of industries" where distinguished speakers from universities or industries give lectures mainly to OR workers in industries followed by discussions among the participants. For 2010, the first one was held in Nov. 18 and the second one in Dec. 6, both in Tokyo.

OR seminars held were on:

- 1) OR software for business practice, Feb. 4, Tokyo
- 2) Recent trends on modeling and software for optimization

Korean Operations Research and Management Science Society (KORMS)

Important meetings and events that were held in 2010 are as follows:

- Joint Spring Conference of IE/MS 2010, June 3~4. 2010, Ramada Hotel, Jeju and attracted 500 participants.
- 2010 Korea Academic Society of Business Administration Annual Meeting with theme "Asia toward 2020: City Competitiveness and Business Competitiveness", Aug. 16~18. 2010, Songdo Convensia, Incheon, with 1000 delegates attending.
- KORMS 2010 fall conference with the theme "IT Convergence and Management Sciences", Oct. 29.2010, Seoul National University, with 300 participants.

Operations Research Society of the Philippines (ORSP)

Though a small society composed of less than one hundred active members, the society has been active in organizing seminars, workshops, forums apart from its regular National Conference. The society maintains a website (www.orsp.org.ph), a newsletter, ORSP Newsletter as well as an electronic journal, Philippine Journal on Operations Research (PJOR). These are the activities and tools by which OR professionals – whether from the academe or practice gather together and share ideas and practices. The ORSP also has an active student base, having an ORSP chapter in 15 schools all over the country.

Thus, yearly activities include the Annual Student Congress which feature a Quiz and a Paper competition. For 2010, the Annual Student Congress was held in March. In July was the ORSP Technical Forum entitled "OR: Diverse Tools for Wide Ranging Applications" which featured applications in the areas of Logistics, DEA, and Inventory Control. The year was capped with the National Conference in November, with the theme, "OR: Providing Solutions for Emerging Challenges". More than 200 local OR professionals gathered for this event. 

2010 Annual Report from the VICE PRESIDENT for EURO

Martine Labbe, mlabbe@ulb.ac.be

The President of EURO for 2009 and 2010 has been Valery Belton from UK. During this period, the Executive Committee members, besides the President was composed of Gerhard Wäscher (Germany), Marc Sevaux (France), Jesper Larsen (Denmark). The permanent treasurer is Marino Widmer (Switzerland) and the webmaster Bernard Fortz (Belgium). Philippe Van Asbroeck is the permanent secretary and Marie-France Rogge the website editor. From January 1, 2011, Maria Grazia Speranza, from Italy, takes over as the EURO President.

The members of EURO, which are full members of IFORS, comprise 30 national Operations Research societies of countries located within or nearby Europe.

The EURO conference is organized every year, except those of the IFORS Triennial conference. In 2010, it was its 24th edition, took place in Lisbon and was a real success. The number of attendees was the largest one that any EURO conference has ever had since 2542 participants registered.

During the EURO conference, several awards were delivered:

- Gold Medal: Rolf Möhring, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany,
- EURO Distinguished Service Medal: Maurice Shuttler, London School of Economics, UK,
- Excellence in Practice Award: Pinar Keskinocak, Georgia Tech, USA, Fararnroze Engineer and Larry Pickering,
- EURO Doctoral Dissertation Award: Claudia D'Ambrosio, Università di Bologna, Italy,
- Management Science Strategic Innovation Prize: Ioannis Gamvros, IBM and S.Raghavan, The Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, USA.



The 28 EURO Working Groups represent European-wide scientific networks on all major topics of OR. Most EURO working groups had a meeting in 2010 where members exchanged ideas and research results. In addition to their annual meetings, these groups organize invited sessions at the EURO Conferences and publish featured issues in OR journals.

Since 1984, EURO is also organizing Summer and Winter Institutes (ESWIs), which constitute probably the best activities towards the young researchers in OR. Each ESWI focuses on a specific topic and about 20 early stage researchers are selected to take part in the institute, which usually lasts two weeks. The participants present their research, discuss it with the other participants and receive comments and advices from senior experts in the field. In 2010, a EURO Summer Institute took place in Klagenfurt, Austria, on the topic "Nonlinear methods in combinatorial optimization".

Detailed information on EURO and its activities can be found on the EURO website: <http://www.euro-online.org>. 

2010 Annual Report from the VICE PRESIDENT for NORAM

Karla Hoffman, khoffman@gmu.edu

NORAM

The two societies that make up NORAM (North America) The Canadian Operations Research Society (CORS) and the Institute of Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) continue to be very active.

CORS continues to provide its members with a variety of publications and services including its quarterly Bulletin, its journal, Information Systems and Operations Research (INFOR), a traveling speaker program, holding a yearly Graduate Student Conference and providing grants to attend teaching effectiveness workshops. In addition, CORS honors its members with a variety of awards. In 2010, John D.C. Little (MIT) was awarded the Harold Larnder Prize for international distinction in operations research; Bernard Gendron (Universite de Montreal) received the CORS Award of Merit, Neil Barnes (IT Consultant), Vihn Quan (Ryerson University), and Neil Robinson (TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.) each received the CORS Service Awards, and Burcin Bozkaya (Sabanci University), Erhan Erkut (Ozyegin University), Dan Heaight (University of Alberta), and Gilbert Laport (HEC Montréal) received the 2010 Practice Prize for "Designing New Electoral Districts for the City of Edmonton".

The 2010 CORS conference was held on 25-28 May in Edmonton, Alberta, in conjunction with MITACS, an organization that links universities with businesses, governments, and not-for-profits in Canada. The 2011 annual CORS/SCRO meeting will take place in St. John's, the provincial capital of Newfoundland and Labrador, May 30-June 1, 2011. Edward Coffman of Columbia University and Vedat Verter of Mc Gill University will be the two plenary speakers. The site for the 2012 CORS/MOPGP International Conference be Niagara Falls Ontario. It is also co-sponsoring the INFORMS Healthcare 2011 conference in Montreal, Canada on June 20-22, 2011.

INFORMS continues to expand its number and scope of activities. For more on the new analytics and online initiatives see the accompanying article in this newsletter. Here, I present a summary of the ongoing INFORMS activities. The INFORMS annual meeting in Austin TX in November set a new attendance record with over 4,600 people attending.

The conference included 9 plenary talks (Edward H. Kaplan, John Weyant, Joan Woodard, Charls Groat, Perry Noaks, John Birge, Gerald G. Brown, Chung-Yee Lee, and Paul Jensen), 74 concurrent sessions each of four days, and over 50 community/subdivision receptions. At the meeting, the John von Neumann Theory Prize was awarded to Søren Asmussen and Peter Glynn for their contributions in applied probability and the theory of stochastic simulation; the Jonathan Caulkins was honored with the INFORMS President's award; 11 members became INFORMS Fellows Award; the George E. Kimball Award for distinguished service was given to James Bean and Lawrence Wein; and Fred Glover received the INFORMS Impact Award.

INFORMS is planning a Summer 2012 meeting in Beijing in conjunction with the Operations Research Society of China Beijing, China. The chair for this meeting is Jian Chen from Tsinghua University. Other conferences in 2011 include the Computing Society Conference in Monterey (January), the Organizational Science conference in Steamboat Springs, CO (February), the Symposium for Systems Analysis in Forest Resources in Reñaca, Viña del Mar, Chile (March), the Marketing Science Conference in Houston, TX (June), the Revenue Management and Pricing Conference in New York City, NY (June), The MSOM Society annual conference in Ann Arbor, MI (June), the Transportation Science and Logistics Workshop in Pacific Grove, CA (June), the Applied Probability Society Conference in Sweden (July), and the Winter Simulation Conference in Phoenix, AZ (December).

INFORMS currently publishes 16 journals as well as a tutorial and book series. Other programs include a speakers program, a high-school teachers' program, and a doctoral colloquium and young practitioners workshop. INFORMS is divided into communities: currently there are 10 societies, 22 subdivisions, 5 fora (interest groups that are neither discipline or geographical), and 31 regional groups. These entities hold their own meetings as well substantially contribute to the content of the national meeting.

IFORS Meetings Report

Plans are well underway for the 2011 conference in Melbourne, Australia July 10th – July 15, 2011. Janny Leung is hard at work putting together the program. As of the end of January, there were already 1250 abstract submissions with the deadline for submissions being Feb 28, 2011. Patrick Tobin and his organizing committee are working on assuring that the facilities and events associated with this meeting are perfect. The theme of the conference is "World OR: Global Economy and Sustainable Environment". This should be an outstanding conference and one each of you should consider attending. How many opportunities might you have to visit this part of the world?

The next IFORS meeting will take place in 2014 in Barcelona and be hosted by the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research (SEIO). Elena Fernandez is heading the organizing committee with Stefan Nickel (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) serving as Program Chair. With this superb team leading the meeting it should be a great success. Plans are already beginning for this meeting.

IFORS Distinguished Lecturer Report

The IFORS Distinguished Lecturer is a program to encourage international cooperation in OR and to recognize successful and influential OR researchers. The breadth of the presentations by this year's IDLs attests to the good health of our field. At the ALIO/INFORMS Joint meeting in Buenos Aires in June, Garrett van Ryzin (Columbia University) gave the IDL lecture on choice-based revenue management.

Nobel Laureate John F. Nash Jr gave a lecture on the agencies method for modeling coalitions and cooperation in games at the EURO meeting in Portugal in July. Finally, Jonathon Rosenhead (Professor Emeritus, London School of Economics) gave a talk titled "Is Operations Research Sustainable" at the IDL at the APORS meeting in Penang, Malaysia in December.

IFORS is changing its policy to allow IDL lectureships to take place in the same year as the IFORS meeting as long as the regional meeting does not take place within three months of the IFORS meeting. Because of this change, both INFORMS and APORS will be able to have an IDL lectureships in 2011. 



2010 Annual Report from the PUBLICATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Hugh Bradley, hbradley@netvista.net



IAOR

In 2010, Dr. David K. Smith (UK) retired as Editor of International Abstracts in Operations Research (IAOR), having served 19 years in this capacity, the longest-serving Editor in the journal's history. During his tenure, he edited and indexed more than 70,000 abstracts. Dr. Smith has now retired from the School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics at the University of Exeter. His successor is Dr. K. Preston White, Jr. (US), Professor of Systems and Information Engineering at the University of Virginia, currently on sabbatical at the US Naval Postgraduate School

in Monterey, California. He served IAOR as the US Contributing Editor since 1985.

During Dr. Smith's tenure IAOR was transformed from a paper-based journal to a web-based service, IAOR Online. Most publishers now transmit their original material to the IAOR Editorial Office electronically, where it is indexed and transferred to IAOR Online. A modern search engine within IAOR Online provides rapid access to its online database consisting of twenty years of indexed abstracts. A paper version derived from the online version is still published in its familiar format on its usual schedule, primarily for libraries, though libraries now are migrating toward purchasing site-licenses for the online service.

Transition of the Editorship has gone smoothly. Enhancements are being made to the Editorial Office's computer system to speed up processing. Efforts are continuing to link the IAOR system more effectively with those publishers who transmit material electronically, to minimize manual intervention and speed up processing into IAOR Online.

IAOR continues to serve as a major provider of access to the OR literature. Total institutional subscriptions are up 19% from last year. However,

corresponding revenue is down 8% as the mix shifts to discounted developing-world site licenses. Royalties continue to provide approximately half of IFORS' annual income.

ITOR

International Transactions in Operational Research (ITOR) is a journal of record with special emphasis on OR in and for the international community. Originally a vehicle for publishing papers from IFORS conferences, it has migrated under its current Editor, Dr. Celso Carneiro Ribeiro (Brazil), to its current position of recognition by quality authors. Submissions are up again in 2010, to 144 from 140 in the prior year. Page constraints which hobbled accommodation of this growth have been relaxed somewhat through negotiations with the publisher. Volume 17 (2010) contains 48 papers in 868 pages, compared to 42 in 848 pages the prior year, and 38 in 782 pages in 2008. This trend is continuing in 2011. As we write, the next four issues are ready and complete.

Two highly successful special issues highlighted the year: "OR and Ethics" (Brans, Clímaco, Gallo & Wenstop) and "Applied Combinatorial Optimization" (Zabala & Mendéz-Díaz). The issue for January 2012 is being organized to contain tutorials from the 2009 INFORMS-ALIO Joint International Meeting in Buenos Aires.

A petition for ISI indexation was submitted in April 2009. We are expecting a final decision from ISI soon.

IFORS' publications had another very good year. 🌐

2010 Annual Report from the SECRETARY

Mary Magrogan, secretary@ifors.org

Member Societies

On 18 August 2010 the Peruvian Society of Operations Research and Systems (SOPIOS) was approved as a member society of IFORS by a mail ballot of the Board of Representatives. SOPIOS has selected Professor Rosa Sumactika Delgadillo Avila as their first representative to the IFORS Board of representatives. The IFORS Administrative Committee and the Board of Representatives welcome our new member and look forward to meeting with her in Melbourne this year.

The IFORS President, in conjunction with the Administrative Committee, approved two other applications for member societies and ballots are in process. The ballot for the Estonian Operational Research Society (EstORS) was mailed to the Board of Representatives on 3 September 2010 and the deadline for voting is 4 March 2011. The Operational Research Society of Nepal ballot will be mailed to the Board of Representatives on 5 May 2011 and the voting deadline will be 5 November 2011. Representatives may also cast their vote online on the IFORS website, www.ifors.org.

It is very difficult to make a decision regarding inactive and nonresponsive member societies and the IFORS Administrative Committee works diligently to make sure every opportunity is provided to the member society for reactivation within IFORS. Unfortunately, the Tunisian Management Science Society, who became a member of IFORS in July of 2005, has not been active

in IFORS for several years and the office of the Secretary has not heard from the society officers after many communication attempts, therefore in early 2011 their membership in IFORS will be discontinued.

Finances

The IFORS Secretary handles all transactions with accounts payable, accounts receivable, dues collection, and sends quarterly financial reports to the Treasurer. The member societies submit annual returns and are invoiced for membership dues each year based on the number of qualified members in their society. With the exception of a few outstanding invoices, dues invoices were issued and payments were received on schedule. Annual returns are submitted throughout the year from member societies due to variances in societies' election schedules.

Board of Representatives Meeting

The Board of Representative Meeting is held only every three years at the IFORS conferences. The next meeting of the IFORS Board of Representatives will take place during the IFORS Triennial Conference in Melbourne on Tuesday, 12 July in the late afternoon and again, if needed, on Thursday, 14 July in the late afternoon. Each member society is entitled to a predefined number of representatives based on the voting strength formula applied to qualified members. Formal notices are sent out to the member societies prior to the conference. 🌐

