

Science and Friendship between China and Europe in OR:
JOINT ORSC/EURO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2015
ON CONTINUOUS OPTIMIZATION

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The first *Joint ORSC/EURO International Conference on Continuous Optimization* was held at Shanghai University, Shanghai, China, last May 10-22, 2015 (<http://orsc-euro2015.csp.escience.cn>). The conference was organized by The Operations Research Society of China (ORSC; <http://www.orsc.org.cn/>) presented by its President, *Prof. Dr. Xiaodong Hu*, and the Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO; <https://www.euro-online.org/>) represented by its Past President, *Prof. Dr. Gerhard Wäscher*.

The idea of the joint event between EURO and ORSC was proposed by *Professor Gerhard Wäscher*, then the President in Munich in September 2013. After several discussions with ORSC and EURO leaderships regarding the theme, conceptualization, organization and finalization of the event took place during the IFORS conference at Barcelona in July 2014. This was further reinforced by his visit to Beijing in November of the same year. With such detailed preparation, the realization of the first joint EURO/ORSC international conference then took place in Shanghai, which envisioned as a new platform, the promotion of academic communication and cooperation between Chinese and European researchers and practitioners in the field of continuous optimization, welcoming all academicians and researchers worldwide.

The program was highlighted by the Plenary Talks of four well-known academicians and research enthusiasts, all experts in the field of continuous

optimization. It included the following lectures of: *Prof. Dr. Yaroslav Sergeyev* of the University of Calabria, Italy, on *Lipschitz Global Optimization*; *Prof. Dr Dongdong Ge* of Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, China, on *The Complexity and Algorithms of Regularized Least Square Problem*; *Prof. Yaxiang Yuan* of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, on *Recent Advances in Trust Region Algorithms* and lastly, and *Prof. Vladimir Shikhman* of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, on the *Algorithmic Models of Market Equilibrium*.

Of the medium-sized abstracts, received by the program committee, only 86 were accepted for presentation. Four parallel tracks featured the final papers covering different topics on continuous optimization like subspace global and control, stochastic, conic and tensor, non-linear and multi-objective optimization and their applications in the different fields such as finance, economics and science, mathematics, programming, advertising, budgeting, productivity, hospital capacity management, marine fishery industry, water quality management, marketing, data envelopment analysis, location routing, information system for operational state estimation in complex machines, health care management, robust simulation of stochastic systems, fingerprint recognition, petrochemical industry, optical tenement application for alleviating traffic jams, aeronautics, hybrid energy, procurement planning and other related fields.

The event was well-attended by almost 220 international participants broken down as follows: ca. 60 from outside of mainland China (European, some from the USA and other Asian countries), 140 from mainland China while others were conference volunteers. Everyone benefited from the very informative and interesting lectures and presentations. A welcome reception took place on the evening of the first day at the Chinese Restaurant of the Lehu Hotel. Everyone enjoyed the event that served as a haven for the participants to meet new acquaintances, all research enthusiasts, OR and optimization experts. The special social highlight of the conference was the boat tour on the river, where the participants enjoyed the dinner and the impressive downtown Shanghai at night, with famous Bund, Pudong's Skyline, etc. At all these occasions, old friendship was deepened and new friendship made. Certainly, this will become very valuable for scientific collaboration and serving our OR community of the future together.

Professors Yanquin Bai and *Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber*, co-chairs of the Organizing Committee and *Professors Yuhong Dai* (President of the Mathematical Programming Subsociety of ORSC) and *Julius Zilinskas* (Chair of EURO Working Group on Continuous Optimization, EUROPT), co-chairs of the Program

Committee, expressed their deep gratitude to the participants and to the organizers for the success of the conference. A lot of positive feedbacks were gathered from the conference participants like the excellent hospitality of the local organizing and service team and the very conducive venue of the conference as manifested by the world-class facilities utilized in the entire duration of the conference was very much appreciated. With all these comments, it seemed that the participants were again interested to attend future conferences, namely, *EURO 2015* and *2016*, and *EUROPT 2016*, which will be held in Glasgow, UK, and Poznan, Poland, and in Warsaw, Poland, respectively.

A second *Joint ORSC/EURO Conference* is planned to be held two years later.











OPERATIONAL RESEARCH AND CONTINUOUS OPTIMIZATION: A CHALLENGE TO RESEARCHERS

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Over the past decades, Operational Research (OR) and Continuous Optimization has been a trend of international research conferences and presentations. This type of research is very much beneficial, especially, to developing countries, since it fosters its use for development.

International conferences on OR for Development serve as an avenue for researchers to interact, share recent findings and advances, discuss future perspectives through collaborative efforts and learn from its applications. How? The experiences of developed countries are shared and increased networking with other countries is very timely. Initiatives are disseminated and support is on hand. Better social working relationships would further evolve between partner countries. This will lead to the economic alleviation of developing countries.

Why OR and Continuous Optimization? This is because of its utilization in the different scientific fields like finance, economics and science, computing, advertising, budgeting, productivity, hospital capacity management, marine fishery industry, water quality management, marketing, data envelopment analysis, location routing, information system for operational state estimation in complex machines, health care management, robust simulation of stochastic systems, fingerprint recognition, petrochemical industry, optical tenement application for alleviating traffic jams, aeronautics, hybrid energy, procurement planning and other related fields. As others say – name it and you'll have it. It works on almost all areas of development.

To future researches, it is best to focus on Operational Research and Continuous Optimization for future development – not only professionally but also economically.