

## FIRST ORSP-NEC OR COURSE HELD

The ORSP, in a joint effort with the UP National Engineering Center (NEC), successfully held its first course on "Quantitative and Computer-Based Techniques for Manufacturing and Distribution" last September 6 to 8. Held at the NEC Building in UP, the three-day course was attended by some 61 managers, technical analysts, and academicians from over 15 companies and universities.

The seminar covered a comprehensive range of techniques and software for effective decision-making in manufacturing and distribution. Topics included methods and applications in traditional fields like Forecasting, Facilities Planning, Production Planning, Inventory Control, and Distribution Management, as well



*ORSP President Jun Villoria delivers a lecture on "Distribution Management" at the ORSP-NEC Seminar.*

as recent technological tools such as Geographic Information Systems and the Internet.

NEC Director Dr. Rey Veal, himself an ORSP member, formally opened the seminar, while ORSP President Dr. Jun Villoria gave the closing remarks and awarded certificates of completion to the participants.

## *ORSP Special Lecture, Gen. Assembly, and Fellowship Night*

The ORSP held 3 special events on Dec. 2 at the National Engineering Center Bldg. The first of these was a special lecture entitled "A Survey of Large-scale Optimization Techniques and Applications," given by Dr. Alexander Hipolito of the UP Mathematics Department. Dr. Hipolito is one of ORSP's newest members, having just recently concluded his postdoctoral research at the TUDelft (Netherlands). The lecture was attended by some 20 participants from industry and the academe.

The second event, a special general membership meeting, immediately followed the lecture. ORSP Vice Pres. Dr. Elvie Zamora discussed preparations for ORSP's hosting of the 1997 International Conference on OR/MS in Manila. Also taken up was the election of new Board Members to fill the position vacated by Dr. Mel Acebedo and the one which will soon be left by ORSP Pres. Dr. Jun Villoria. Dr. Acebedo is currently on a research program in Macau, while Dr. Villoria leaves in February 1996 to do research in the US under the Fulbright Program. With only a few members present at the meeting, it was decided that the election be done by mail.

The third and concluding event was ORSP's Christmas Get Together which was attended by about 24 regular and student members.

## The IFORS Prize for OR in Development

The International Federation of OR Societies (IFORS) is inviting all OR academicians and practitioners to submit entries to the 1996 IFORS Prize for OR in Development. This competition, which has become a traditional and important IFORS activity, will be a highlight in next year's IFORS Triennial Conference in Vancouver, Canada. The prize will be awarded at the close of the conference.

The Prize Committee, chaired by Elise del Rosario, ORSP's representative to IFORS, welcomes all papers meeting the following criteria:

- ♦ The paper should describe a practical OR application in a developing country, conducted to assist an organization in its decision-making process, and with original features in methodology or implementation.
- ♦ The principal authors should be nationals of a developing country.
- ♦ The write-up should be publishable in the International Transactions in Operations Research (ITOR) with at most minor revisions.
- ♦ The paper should include some description of the application's social context and its impact on the organization

*(to p. 2)*

## The Directors' Corner

Noel P. Mojica

### The ORSP on Student Affairs

(Noel Mojica is concurrently ORSP Director and Head of the Student Affairs Committee. He is connected with the PLDT where he is Senior OR Analyst, and with the MIT where he is Associate Professor. - Ed.)

One of the ORSP's thrusts is that of generating interest in OR/MS among the students, whose ranks hold the future practitioners, enthusiasts, and leaders in the field. It was in line with this that the Society moved for the formation of student chapters in different academic institutions. The ORSP envisions its student members to be the epitome of energetic and promising youth through whose enthusiasm an early awareness and appreciation for OR could be effected and shared.

To date, the Society has six (6) recognized student chapters with a total membership of about 900. The six chapters are based in the following institutions: Adamson University, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, Holy Angel University (Angeles City), Mapua Institute of Technology, and the University of Santo Tomas. The Society is presently assisting four other universities in forming their respective student chapters.

In line with its student affairs program, our ORSP has thus far held five OR Quiz Shows and Paper Writing Contests. In August 1994, the Society initiated the formation of the Federation of ORSP Student Chapters with a threefold aim: (1) to solicit the active participation of students in the promotion of the discipline and of the programs of the Society, (2) to foster camaraderie and a closer working relationship among the students of ORSP-affiliated schools, and (3) to assist the Society in planning and implementing student-related programs.

At present, the Society is tapping the Federation for assistance in forthcoming activities. These are the 6th OR Quiz Show and Paper Writing Contest, and the First Student Congress on OR/MS, which are both planned for February 1996.

The Board of Directors believes that with the Student Federation, student involvement in the Society's programs would be stronger. We look forward to many more worthy projects with the Federation.

May God bless our ORSP and our students! Merry Christmas and a prosperous 1996!

## The IFORS Prize . . . (from p. 1)

for which it was conducted. Relevance to the country's development will be a positive factor.

A grand prize of \$2,000 and a runner-up prize of \$1,000 are at stake. All entries must be submitted on or before December 31, 1995 to the: IFORS 96 Secretariat, Venue West Conference Ltd., 645-375 Water Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 5C6.

## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF OR/MS TO BE PUBLISHED

The first-ever full-fledged encyclopedia on OR/MS is due to be published this December 1995. The Kluwer Academic Publishers Group based in the Netherlands has announced the upcoming publication, entitled the Encyclopedia of Operations Research and Management Science, and edited by respected OR authors Saul Gass and Carl Harris.

The book will be a single comprehensive volume of approximately 800 pages and will cover the entire range of traditional and recent OR/MS topics and developments. The introductory price is 500 Dutch Guilders. The ORSP has arranged for brochures to be sent to individual ORSP members, but Kluwer Publishers may be contacted at: P.O. Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, The Netherlands, or at FAX No. 31 (0)78183273.

### Announcements:

- The ORSP is preparing for its hosting of the 1997 International Conference on OR/MS (ICORMS) in Manila, to highlight the celebration of the Society's 10th year. We are inviting our co-members to get involved in the preparations. For more information, please contact Dr. Elvie Zamora, ICORMS General Chair, tel no. 99-4573, fax no. 99-4574.
- Contributions to our quarterly *ORSP Newsletter* are welcome. Please send your articles to, or inquire from Dr. Marilyn Mabini, telefax no. 731-4041.

### ORSP Newsletter

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Editor	Marilyn Mabini
Contributors	Sam Cruz Noel Mojica