
ORSP *Newsletter*

August 1997



Time sure flies. It has been ten eventful years since a group of OR professionals, seeking to spearhead the development and promotion of OR/MS in the Philippines, banded together and formed the ORSP.

The Society's story started in December 1986 when, at the initiative of the SMC OR Department, a testimonial dinner called "A Toast to OR Professionals" was held at SMC's Andres Soriano Executive Center. The event generated an enthusiastic exchange of ideas and culminated in the formation of a working committee tasked to define the organization that was to be the OR Society of the Philippines.

The committee was composed of Dr. William Torres of DAP, Dr. Rolando Danao of UP, Ms. Elise del Rosario and Mr. Diosdado Engbino of SMC, Dr. Roberto Padua of De La Salle, and Dr. Arthur de Guia of Colgate-Palmolive. On February 20, 1987, the committee presented the Constitution and By-Laws for approval by the initial batch of some 50 members, and the ORSP formally came into being. Dr. Torres was elected

the first President, while Ms. del Rosario succeeded him a year later.

The following have since served the society as President :

1987-88	Dr. William Torres (National Computer Center)
1988-90	Ms. Elise del Rosario (SMC)
1990-92	Mr. Felipe Fondevilla (PLDT)
1992-94	Mr. Manuel Agustin (SMC)
1994-96	Dr. Olegario Villoria, Jr. (UP) Dr. Elvira Zamora (UP)
1996-	Dr. Aura Matias (UP)

The first ORSP symposium was held on June 19, 1987 and featured OR applications in various sectors. This was to become a regular event of the society in its drive to focus on the vast potential of OR/MS in the Philippines. Both local and foreign experts have presented papers before the ORSP membership.

On December 11-14, 1990, the ORSP went international and hosted its first International Conference on OR/MS (ICORMS). The conference committee, chaired by Ms. Del Rosario, succeeded in gathering nearly 200 academicians and enthusiasts from 13 countries. Prominent OR authors presided over 8 plenary sessions, while over 40 papers were presented. At about the same time, the first issue of the *Philippine Journal of Operations Research* was published.

Each year, the ORSP has held a general membership meeting to discuss pertinent issues and elect officers. Top government officials have graced ORSP's biennial induction of officers. In 1988, then Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos inducted the second batch of ORSP officers. This year, "presidentiable" Sen. Gloria Arroyo was the induction speaker.

While recognizing the value of unity among OR professionals, the ORSP also set its sight on the future OR professionals: the students. During the presidency of Mr. Fondevilla, the ORSP formed student chapters in five schools. Two more chapters have since been established, and the total student membership is now over 900. Since 1991, these schools have participated in another annual event that has become a fixture in the ORSP calendar: the Inter-University OR Quiz and Paper-Writing Contest. Many alumni of these quiz shows have become OR practitioners themselves, and have joined the society as regular members.

1997 promises to be a fitting banner year which should boost the ORSP into its second decade. Preparations are underway for the second ICORMS to be held on November 25-28, 1997 at the EDSA Plaza Hotel. The conference will be conducted jointly with the IFORS' annual International Conference on OR in Development (ICORD) and this early, close to 60 foreign papers have been received. A teachers' workshop, to be led by no less than IFORS President Peter Bell, will be a major feature of the conference.

A toast to the ORSP for ten successful years.



Announcement

- ◆ Please remember to accomplish the Membership Renewal Form and send it to:

ORSP Secretariat
c/o Prof. Annie Capistrano
ME Department
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights
Quezon City 1108

Details on the payment of the membership fee are found on the same Form.

- ◆ We need more newsletter articles. Any significant OR news (local or international), announcements, views, and the like may be sent to:

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