

# Kapihans Highlight OR in Public Sector

The ORSP recently held two successful OR Kapihans on OR Applications in the Public Sector. The sessions seek to promote the application of OR/MS technologies in decision-making towards national development, a primary ORSP objective. Discussions are designed to involve minimum technical content.

## Water and Transport Planning

Decisions on the amount of water to release to MWSS and the capacities of new roads and the LRT that used OR models were the subjects of the first Kapihan held last May 26. The event was keyed by DOST Undersecretary Rufino Lirag, who spoke on behalf of Secretary Filemon Uriarte. Dr. Lirag welcomed OR as a tool that could provide the government with rational bases for informed decision-making. He said, "In an environment growing more and more technically complex, government planners can ill afford to remain clueless in determining the optimal use and allocation of precious government resources paid out of taxpayers' money," while announcing that DOST will spearhead the drive for greater use of OR in government decision-making. At the same time, he challenged ORSP "to lobby aggressively for measures that highlight the rightful place of OR in strengthening science



and technology in the Philippines as well as in uplifting the marginalized sectors of society."

Dr. Reynaldo Veal, MWSS Administrator, discussed how OR was used to lessen the impact of the El Niño on public water consumption. A quantitative model helped arrive at decisions on the amount of water to release to MWSS, considering competing users such as the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and the NPC. (see page 2)

## Wilson Tiu is New ORSP President



Wilson Wy Tiu

The Board recently elected Wilson Wy Tiu as the new ORSP President, replacing Dr. Noli Macalalag who did not seek reelection after a year's term. Tiu, who was elected to the Board last year, is General Manager of Luzel Inc. and currently Board Secretary of the prestigious Federation of Philippine Industries. He also writes a regular column for the Business Day. (see page 4)

## Philippine Entry Among IFORS Prize Finalists

A Philippine entry reached the finals of the prestigious IFORS Prize for OR in Development. The Prize is awarded every three years by the International Federation of Operational Research Societies to papers that best show the practical application of Operations Research in a Developing Country.

The paper "OR Applications for Health Care Delivery" by Edison Jovellanos, Mari-Jo Ruiz, and Sherwin Toribio of the Ateneo University was among eight finalists presented on a special track of the Triennial IFORS Conference last August 16-20 in Beijing, China. The study addressed the issue of where best to assign midwives and health caregivers in Palawan areas.

Forty-seven papers from all over the world were submitted, from which eight were invited for presentation in Beijing. The first prize of US\$ 2,000 was awarded to the paper "A Study of China Grain Output Prediction" from China's Academia Sinica, while the 2 runner-up prizes of US\$ 1,000 each were given to South African and Chinese entries. The South African paper dealt with optimal dam water release

strategies while the Chinese runner up dealt with various OR applications in agriculture.

Another Filipino paper, "Helping Philippine Farmers in Marketing Products – A Facility Location Problem" by Conrado Baltazar of Cavite State University, was also cited by the judges. The study determined the number and location of support marketing facilities for agricultural products. Prof. Baltazar was awarded a registration waiver for the conference.

Prof. Goutam Dutta of the Indian Institute of Management chaired the Prize Committee. Other judges included Xiang Sun Zhang of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Robert Abrams of the University of Illinois, Nelson Maculan of the Federal University of Brazil, Theodore Stewart of the University of Cape Town, Jan Weglarz of the Poznan University of Technology, and Elise del Rosario of San Miguel Corporation. The judges had a difficult time weeding out the eight to be invited for the paper presentation, and expectedly, an even more difficult time with choosing the three winners. ■

### ORSP, NCC Forge Partnership

The Board recently formed a tie-up with the National Computer Center (NCC) to expand venues for fora on OR applications. Ramon Ike Señeres, NCC Managing Director, expressed full support for ORSP's activities, and even offered office space for the society within NCC. NCC also provided the venue for this year's General Assembly, as well as the four Kapihan-style sessions lined up by the Board. Señeres promised to involve the ORSP on NCC projects that need OR experts and consultations. He expressed hopes that an OR office could be set up as training ground for OR practitioners.

In the memorandum of understanding being prepared, NCC will take the lead in getting ORSP involved with government agencies. This provides ORSP the opportunity not only to promote OR as a decision tool in government, but to raise funds for

its other projects as well. ORSP will receive consultancy fees for projects undertaken.

Projects mentioned for potential ORSP involvement were the COMELEC-NCC project to study poll computerization, and systems on traffic management and garbage collection. ■

### OR Kapihans ... (cont.)

National Center for Transportation Studies expert Dr. Olegario Villoria Jr., on the other hand, spoke of various models that are used to plan and implement transport systems. These models have "not only convinced investors of the soundness of transportation infrastructure projects, but have also helped in the actual implementation of transport schemes that minimize environmental costs and traffic delays at maximum service levels."

Representatives from the Institute of Labor Studies, the DTI Office for Policy Research, and the Bureau of

Labor Statistics, as well as ORSP members, actively engaged the panelists in a discussion during the forum.

### Agriculture

Miguel Unson III, Chief of Staff of the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization, and Alice Laborte, Assistant Scientist at IRRRI's Plant Physiology & Agroecology Division, were the panelists for Kapihan 2 last August 25.

Unson lamented the sore lack of objectivity in many agri and fisheries projects, and pointed out what could have been better-informed decisions had OR analysis been considered. Laborte presented an actual land-use model in Ilocos that generated the best-use option and showed the tradeoffs among alternatives. She also narrated how the results helped the decision-making process among the various sectors involved in the project. ■

## Board Forms Team on Governance

In its pursuit to propagate OR use in government, the ORSP recently formed a consulting arm that will focus on promoting OR in public service and nation-building decisions. Initially called the Team on Governance (TOG), the group is envisioned to evolve into the main business of the ORSP. It will deliver service through a pool of OR experts from among society members, generate income to fund the society's functions, and provide consultant-members challenging work opportunities.

The TOG will market OR as a resource-maximizing tool that could provide an objective basis for decision-making in government. It will explore potential applications and enter into agreements for OR work, as well as carry out and monitor projects identified. Projects undertaken must be at least self-liquidating, able to pay for the expenses incurred.

The TOG will be chaired by Elise del Rosario, with Alex Hipolito, JC Mercado, and Mari-Jo Ruiz composing the Board of Quality Reviewers. Leo Villarosa and Wilson Wy Tiu will handle marketing and legal matters, respectively.

Projects already in the pipeline include OR appreciation and training programs for DOLE, NCC, and PHIC. Potential projects identified include work for Pag-Asa, Red Cross, SSS, and the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation. ■

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Visit the  
ORSP Website at  
<http://m-stone-intl.com/ORSP.html>

## Del Rosario Nominated for IFORS Vice Presidency at Triennial Conference

Elise del Rosario, one of the ORSP founding members, was the Nominating Committee's choice for the Vice Presidency of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies for the years 2001 to 2003. Nominated President is Paolo Toth of the University of Bologna, Italy. The nominating committee is made up of the last three IFORS Presidents, namely, Prof. William Pierskalla of UCLA, Prof. Brian Haley of UK, and Prof. Peter Bell of the University of Western Ontario.

Del Rosario is the ORSP standing representative to IFORS. She has been actively involved in the Developing Countries Committee of IFORS, which she has headed since 1996. She also serves as editor to various international OR publications. She is currently Vice President for Operations Research at San Miguel Corporation.

The nomination was done during the Triennial Conference held in Beijing from August 11 to 20, 1999. The Conference attracted more than a thousand participants from 53 countries, making it the biggest ever. About 1,055 papers were presented, punctuated with two plenary lectures, panel discussions, and 8 tutorials. A unique session was the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of IFORS that was highlighted by the presentation of the representatives from the 60 member countries and kindred societies. The traditional events included the welcome party, the mid-week outing to the Ming Tomb and the Great Wall. Paolo Toth of the Programs Committee, Xiang Sun Zhang of the Local Organizing Committee, and the IFORS President Andres Weintraub graciously accepted the thanks and praise of the participants. Other ORSP members present in the Conference were Leo Villarosa, Mari-Jo Ruiz, and Mar Castaño. ■



Elise del Rosario speaks during the Beijing IFORS Conference.

# University of the Philippines Wins 1999 OR Quiz

The University of the Philippines – Diliman won a close and exciting 1999 Inter-University OR Quiz last February 20 at the UP Engineering Theater. Defending champion De La Salle took runner-up honors while Ateneo placed third.

Ateneo easily topped the 5-team elimination round to enter the finals with UP and DLSU. The buzzer-based final round, however, was a different story.

The outcome went down to the 15th and last question which DLSU incorrectly answered, giving UP the win.

The OR Quiz is already on its ninth year and has produced top OR academicians and practitioners. Sam Cruz of San Miguel chaired the panel of judges, with Dr. Noli Macalalag and Noel Mojica of Mapua as members. ■

## Wilson Tiu ... (cont.)

The Board also welcomed two new members elected during the General Membership Meeting last May. JC Mercado, Skycable's Cablenet Operations Director and Ateneo OR faculty member, and Dr. Alex Hipolito, Senior Section Manager of Motorola Communications Philippines, filled the slots vacated by Ruel Fajardo and Dr. Aura Matias, who resigned early this year. Mercado was subsequently elected ORSP Vice President. Other Board members are Beng Manalang - Secretary, Dennis Beng Hui - Treasurer, Leo Villarosa, and Dr. Macalalag. ■

## OR in Governance Forum Set November 10; OR Primer to be Launched

Dubbed "DOST-ORSP Forum: OR in Governance", the third of this year's Kapihan-style OR fora will be held over lunch on November 10, 11:30 am to 3:00 p.m., at San Miguel Corporation's Executive Dining Room. Department of Science and Technology Secretary Filemon Uriarte will speak on areas and challenges for OR approaches in all levels of government. Reactors will come from the Department of Labor and Employment, National Computer Center, SSS, and PhilHealth. The private sector will be represented by Alberto Manlapit,

SVP of San Miguel Corporation.

The ORSP will also hold its induction of officers in the same occasion. Sec. Uriarte will swear in the new officers led by President Wilson Wy Tiu. Top officials of government agencies as well as industry executives are expected to participate. All ORSP members are invited to attend. **No fees will be charged but seats are limited. Those planning to attend are requested to reserve slots as soon as possible by filling out the form below.**

A first-ever OR primer targeted for government and private sector CEOs will be distributed during the affair. The primer will contain non-technical articles that explain what OR is all about, and highlight benefits which OR tools have generated for companies and government agencies here and abroad.

ORSP and its newly formed Team on Governance will also be featured. The affair will also mark the official start of work by the ORSP TOG (see article on p.3). ■

### Reply Form for DOST-ORSP Forum: OR in Governance

November 10, SMC Executive Dining Room, 11:30-3:00 p.m.

Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax. No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

This is to confirm attendance of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation made by \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send form to **Marie** at fax number 632-3406 or call 6323408 / 6323410 on or before **October 30, 1999**.