

ORSP NEWSLETTER

October 2002

A Note from the Editor:

Apologies are due for the delay in the production of this issue. We are making up by printing everything that was supposed to be included in the past two issues. Our secretary has left and it took time to look for a new secretary and a new office (page 12). ORSP also welcomes its new Board of Directors, (page 3) even as it thanks its very dedicated outgoing President, JC Mercado. Student activities take center stage (pages 8-9) with outreach activities not far behind (page 4). Seminars for the practitioners and teachers of OR (pages 5-6). News from the international OR scene (page 7), along with some light moments and fun happenings (pages 10-11) are also featured. ORSP Corps activities are also highlighted (pages 1-2). We hope we have made up for the long absence, and with everything that has transpired, you will know that in ORSP, maximum results are possible even under minimum fuss!

Boncodin, Domingo Speak at General Membership Meeting



Secretary Boncodin discusses balancing the government budget.

The annual ORSP General Assembly was held last June 5, 2002 at the Edsa Plaza Hotel. Secretary Emilia Boncodin from the Department of Budget and Management talked about the challenges in balancing the government's budget and how optimization would be a powerful tool in achieving a balanced budget. E. Boncodin finished her degree of Business

Administration and Accountancy at the University of the Philippines and passed the Certified Public Accountant Board in the 15th place out of over 8,000 examinees. She obtained her Masters degree in Public Administration at the Kennedy School of government, Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

Undersecretary Greg Domingo of the Board of Investments, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI-BOI) talked about how OR can be applied to the current Purchase Power Adjustment (PPA) problem. He explained how an optimization model can help determine the best combination of power plants that would result in the minimum cost of power production.

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ORSP Corps Helps DOE and DTI Optimize Energy Generation

The ORSP Committee on OR for Public Service, represented by its Board, Mari-Jo Ruiz, JC Mercado and Elise del Rosario, met with DOE Secretary Vince Perez and DTI Undersecretary Greg Domingo last May to start up a project that will help optimize the generation of power by the Napocor plants as well as by the various independent power producers. In the meeting, various parameters were set in the presence of key Napocor management and personnel. ORSP Corps then formally offered to extend pro-bono professional

services.

As a result of the discussion and various subsequent interviews, a mixed integer programming model had been formulated. ORSP has allowed complimentary use of the Xpress-MP software. The project team also includes incoming Board Director Geoff Chua, assisted by Alyson Yap and Ryan Liwanag, all faculty



Usec Domingo, prime mover of ORSP Corps project with DOE, shown here with JC Mercado

members of the Management Engineering Department of the Ateneo de Manila University.

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NAMFREL Project: ORSP Is Heaven - Sent

(An account of the involvement of the Operations Society of the Philippines in the automation of the elections)

by
Telibert Laoc
*Executive Director, National
 Citizens' Movement for Free
 Elections*

In July, less than three months after the May 2001 polls, Namfrel initiated the creation of a **private sector committee** to look into the automation of the counting and canvassing of the May 2004 Presidential and General Elections. Such mode of automation is prescribed by Republic Act 8436, which was passed in 1997. Under this law, machines will count paper ballots, paper ballots will be "read" by optical mark readers, and computers will be used to consolidate the votes from the municipality or city up to the national level.

Under the automated system, discretion in the reading and tallying of the votes and *dagdag-bawas* will be totally eliminated.

The task of automating the polls is very important and implementing it nationwide poses a real challenge, not only to the Comelec, but also to those in the private sector who are concerned with the integrity of the election counting process.

On August 29, Jose Conception, Jr. of Namfrel led the private sector in a meeting with the Comelec Chairman Alfredo Benipayo to discuss the program implementation. Comelec presented lessons that were learned from 1996 and 1998 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao where the automated system was used. The private sector presented (at that time) a broad implementation plan and proposed areas where it can

assist in the implementation. This meeting marked the beginning of a partnership between Comelec and the private sector.

Subsequent meetings saw Comelec and private sector representatives forming four committees: 1) technical; 2) public acceptance; 3) investment analysis; and 4) procurement planning.

The technical committee was assigned to determine the automation scenario and all its attendant components. Such components as features of the counting machines, safeguards and security measures, machine deployment, technically-dependent tasks, events and schedules, etc., were among those that were determined by the committee.

Sometime in November, Sen. Edgardo Angara convened a Technical Working Group to look into the automation of the polls. He sought representation from government and private sectors and appointed former National Computer Center administrator Ramon Señeres as group chair. It was then that Ramon Señeres mentioned and recommended that the ORSP be invited by the Namfrel to be a member of the private sector group.

On December 7, ORSP president JC Mercado attended his first technical committee meeting.

ORSP's participation in the automation committee is no doubt heaven-sent. What took us months to figure out took ORSP just a few days. To date, the most significant contributions the organization has made are in the following areas:

1. Optimum machine usage and deployment – This involves

determining the optimum deployment of counting machines throughout the country using a slow-and a fast-machine combination. This task is most important because investment, risk and redundancy, training, servicing and other program components are dependent on this scheme. ORSP provided the committee with a clearly optimum deployment strategy.

2. Implementation – Comelec will award the supply of counting machines to at most two vendors. ORSP's approach was to divide the country into four areas: north Luzon, south Luzon, Visayas, NCR with Mindanao. Grouping Mindanao and NCR was recommended by ORSP to make the grouping more attractive from the perspective of the bidders.

3. Award parameters – To carry out the award process, JC Mercado formulated an Integer programming model to identify minimum cost combination of vendors.

As a whole, the automation plan is enriched and made more realistic by ORSP's inputs and perspectives. The ORSP intervention has allowed the members of the committee to visualize the program better.

We at Namfrel, whose task is to identify competent private sector organizations that can contribute (*pro bono*) in making the automation a reality, are encouraged by the contributions and commitment of several organizations.

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ORSP Elects Officers for 2002 - 2003

In the ORSP Board Meeting last June 17, 2002, the Board elected its new set of officers. They are Vic Reventar as President, Ramon Yap as Vice President, Agnes Perez as Secretary and Dennis Cruz as Treasurer. Other Board Members are : Rizaldy Capulong, JC Mercado, Marlene Gutierrez, Geoffrey Chua, Richard Li and ORSP Corps Chair, Elise del Rosario.

Vicente Reventar, formerly Vice President of the ORSP, moved into the Presidency from the VP position. Vic is the current president of the SVI Billing Solutions, responsible for administrative and operational management as well as formulating strategic visions for corporate directions and planning. **Ramon Yap** is a Department /Project Manager of the National Development Company (NDC). He concurrently holds senior positions in NDC-held companies. A Business Administration graduate of Ateneo de Manila University, he is also the Treasurer of the Carl Duisberg Association of the Philippines.

Agnes Perez is a Senior Analyst with the OR Group of San Miguel Corporation. A graduate of BS Math, UP Diliman, she continued onto attain her MS in Management Science and is only short of a thesis towards completing her Ph. D. **Dennis Cruz** is a graduate of BS Industrial Management Engineering and an MS IE degree holder at De La Salle University where he is currently Chairperson and Assistant Professor. **Rizaldy Capulong** is Deputy Chief Actuary and



Vicente Reventar



Ramon Yap



Agnes Perez



Dennis Cruz



Rizaldy Capulong



JC Mercado



Marlene Gutierrez



Geoffrey Chua



Richard Li



*Elise del Rosario
Corps Chair*

Assistant Vice President for Securities Trading and Management at the Social Security System **JC Mercado**, the outgoing ORSP Board President, is the managing Director of eCode, Inc. He was formerly connected with Cablenet Operations of Skycable, where he led the help

desk and Network Operations Center for the company's internet services. He graduated from Ateneo de Manila with a BS in Management Engineering and a Master's Degree in Operations Research. **Marlene Gutierrez** is a graduate of BS Mathematics at UP and MS major in Industrial Engineering. Currently, she is assistant Professor in the Operations Research and Industrial Engineering Department of UP.

Geoffrey Chua is the Program Director of the Management Engineering Department, Ateneo de Manila University where he teaches OR, Computer Programming and Business Statistics. He is also a co-founder, director and lecturer of Academic Consulting and Training Services. **Richard Li** currently teaches undergraduate IE courses such as Profitability and Statistics, Production and OR and Engineering Economy, and advanced IE courses at the Graduate School of Engineering in De La Salle University.

A founding member of the Operations Research Society of the Philippines, **Elise del Rosario** was OR Manager and Vice President of San Miguel Corporation. She was also a past ORSP president. She is an appointed member of the Board and heads the ORSP Committee on OR for Public Service. The elected ORSP Board will serve for the year 2002-2003.

ORSP Officers Speak at Kapihan : Tarlac State University

ORSP Director Vic Reventar and ORSP Corps Chair Elise del Rosario were the guest speakers in the seminar arranged by the Industrial Engineering Department of the Tarlac State University last March 8. The more than a hundred TSU students, joined by participants from the Holy Angel University, missed the Student Congress last February 2 at the Ateneo. (See page 2). As in the Student Congress, del Rosario explained the various facets of OR Practice and Practitioners while Reventar showed how OR has been beneficially used in two specific financial applications. Prior to the seminar, Renato Galvez, TSU Engineering Dean and Arlyn Angco, herself an ORSP member, exchanged ideas on OR and the IE curriculum at the TSU. After the seminar, ORSP agreed to play an active role in bringing more seminars for faculty development as part of its outreach program. The first activity envisioned is a workshop for northern Luzon faculty to be held at the Tarlac State University through the coordination efforts of Arlyn Angco.



Speakers with organizers of the TSU Seminars



Vic Reventar enlightens the engineering majors at TSU

DOST Continues ORSP Support

DOST Undersecretary Dr. Rogelio Panlasigui received in his office ORSP President JC Mercado and ORSP Corps Chair Elise del Rosario last September. Discussed were the various seminars conducted under the Kapihan program sponsored by the DOST.

The Kapihan is a series of seminars and open fora aimed at

Crisis Management in making decisions about the proper level water releases from the reservoir. Dr. Villoria talked about the applications of OR in Public Transportation. An open forum followed after the presentations.

The second ORSP-DOST-NCC Kapihan was again held at the National Computer Center on



Usec Rogelio Panlasigui flanked by Elise del Rosario and JC Mercado

linking up with government to promote the use of OR tools and technologies in the formulation of government policies and programs.

The first Kapihan served to launch the discussion series and was held at the National Computer Center May 26, 1999. It was attended by 40 people from the private and public sectors. The speakers were **Reynaldo B. Vea** of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and **Olegario T. Villoria Jr.** from the National Center of Transportation Studies (NCTS).

Dr. Vea talked about the quantitative approach used in the management of the Angat reservoir during the 1997-98 El Niño episode. The approach used by MWSS and its concessionaires, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) and the Inter-Agency Committee on Water

August 25, 1999. The speakers were **Miguel R. Unson III**, Chief of Staff, Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization and **Alice G. Laborde**, Assistant Scientist, SysNet Project Agronomy, Plant Physiology & Agroecology Division of IRRI.

The third Kapihan was held at the Executive Dining Room of the San Miguel Corporation head office on November 25, 1999. It was in the third Kapihan when the ORSP Committee on OR for Public Service (ORSP Corps) was formally launched. The ORSP Corps was launched to help government use resource-maximizing tools that could provide objective basis for decision-making.

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Peter Bell Bares Findings:

Investing in MS/OR Yields Sustainable Competitive Advantage

ORSP members attended a lecture on Strategic OR/MS by Professor Peter Bell at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel last October 17. The one-day stop over enabled the former International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) President to share his research with the general ORSP membership.

His work focuses on strategic MS/OR which he defines as "OR/MS work that leads to a sustainable competitive advantage." He defines strategic OR/MS problems as those that are very large, involve high cost, and maybe theoretically "optimizable", but where the optimum solutions are beyond the reach of current techniques and technology. He gives crew scheduling problem as an example. He cites how some organizations have achieved sustainability by maintaining their own internal OR/MS groups that apply continuously enhanced solutions to many or a specific problem type.

How do you know that strategic OR/MS exists in an organization? He includes among the "symptoms": a CEO who talks about MS/OR, Competitors talk about (and respond to) your MS/OR, regular consultation of MS/OR people on major decisions, and some industry restructuring driven by the MS/OR work. He adds that other indicators are an MS/OR head who reports to the CEO, and a greater focus on "operations" than on "research".

Bell then proceeds to identify companies that have invested in MS/OR and reaped strategic success from this investment. The study looks at the past winners of the prestigious Edelman Prize and monitors the sustainability of the applications along the dimensions of **Initiation**: problem, crisis, or opportunity; **Level**: functional, business unit, or corporate; **Form of Advantage**: low cost, differentiation, or focus; **Competitive Forces**: suppliers, competitors, or customers; **Source of OR Expertise**: internal consultants, or academics.



ORSP President JC Mercado awards plaque of appreciation to ex-IFORS President Peter Bell



ORSP Members in the audience discuss a question posed by P. Bell

He concludes that firms that have invested on MS/OR as a strategy have had a major impact on their industries and competitors, and that MS/OR is now a "core competence" in a growing number of firms.

Professor Peter Bell earned BA and MA degrees from Oxford University and MBA/PhD degrees at the Graduate School of Chicago. He is also a Professor of Management Science and Information Systems at Ivey School of Business. P. Bell can be reached at pbell@ivey.ca.

Seminar Demystifies Mathematical Programming

The Operations Research Society of the Philippines (ORSP) recently offered a successful workshop on Mathematical Programming entitled "Unraveling the Mysteries of Mathematical Programming". The workshop was held last November 28, 2001 at I/ACT, Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City. This forms a second wave of the first ORSP Seminar, "Enhancing Profitability Through Operations Research". It resulted mainly from the clamor of the first seminar participants for a hands-on workshop on the tools of OR as well as from other members who wanted a training for those who wish to solve OR problems themselves.

The seminar was a case study-based workshop aimed at equipping the participants with knowledge on formulating mathematical programming problems and solving them using Excel Solver and Express MP. Each participant was assigned one computer to work with.

Three ORSP members conducted the seminar: Dennis Beng Hui, Richard Li and Dennis Cruz. The eleven participants were a mix of practitioners and academicians. The highly positive evaluation from the participants indicated that the workshop achieved its objectives and ultimately produced trainees who could do mathematical programming themselves.

A second run of this seminar is in the works. Watch out for further announcements!



Lecturers Richard Li, Dennis Beng Hui and Dennis Cruz take a breather while participants work on a problem.



Participants try out their modeling skills using Excel.



Richard Li stresses a point.

ORSP Represented in IFORS Edinburgh Conference

ORSP Corps Chair Elise del Rosario and Marino Castaño of ORSP attended the sixteenth triennial Conference of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) held from July 8 to 12 at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K.

Aside from attending several administrative committee meetings and the general meeting of the body, Del Rosario who is Vice President of IFORS, acted as part of the jury of the IFORS Prize for OR in Development. IFORS Prize is a competition on the applications of OR in developing countries. Although three years ago in Beijing, two entries from the Philippines were accepted and one made it to the elite roster of 8 finalists, there were no paper submissions from the Philippines for this year. The 2002 competition winner was the paper "A Combinatorial Auction Improves School Meals in Chile" with "Network Service Scheduling and Routing" from South Africa garnering the runner up prize.

The emphasis on development for

the Edinburgh conference was evident from the thrust of the closing session which was opened by Del Rosario in her capacity as Chair of the Developing Countries Committee. The plenary speaker, Francisco Sagasti, shared his research work on OR and poverty alleviation and outlined opportunities to increase the influence of OR in the management of sustainable human development at the international, national and local levels. He is the Executive Director of AGENDA: Peru and serves as an advisor to the Prime Minister of Peru.

The Conference theme was "OR in a

globalized, networked world economy" and featured tutorials on strategic choice, web course and measurement. Over one thousand papers were organized into 44 streams dealing with the practice of OR, vehicle routing, AI, expert systems and neural nets, decision analysis, game theory, math programming, location analysis, telecommunications, electronic commerce and e-business, to name a few. About 1,200 delegates made this conference, the biggest one to date. Organizers of the 17th Triennial Conference in Hawaii in 2005 are however, promising to top this record.



Elise del Rosario shown here with Francisco Sagasti (Peru), IFORS President Paolo Toth (Italy), Jonathan Rosenhead (UK) and John Friend (UK)

Message from the Outgoing President

Another year with ORSP comes to a close. It started with an Operations Research Seminar for Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft (CDG) in August 2002. In October, we organized a seminar given by Professor Peter Bell on Strategic Operations Research/Management Science for the general membership. In November, we conducted a workshop on the use of Excel and Xpress-MP for mathematical programming.

For the students, we co-sponsored the ORSP Student Congress with the various ORSP Student chapters in

February of this year. Talks on OR applications, OR Paper presentations by students and the OR Quiz made this year's congress a truly memorable one for students and teachers alike. We also reached out to the students and faculty of Tarlac State University by sending some of our well-respected OR practitioners to give talks on the applications of OR. This year also presented the society with opportunities to get involved in nation building. We continue to contribute to two government-sponsored projects: the study on

domestic shipping rates and the automation of the 2004 elections.

I would like to thank all of you who have been very supportive of ORSP this past year. Special mention goes to those who participated in our activities as organizers, lecturers, and support staff. We have lined up a few more activities as part of the transition to the 2002-2003. Board so please stay tuned. As always, we request your outmost support in promoting the use of OR in all areas where scientific decision-making is needed.

The wORKs:

ORSP Student Congress Day A Rousing Success

By Isabel Lacson

More than a hundred students from various chapters attended the activities lined up on the ORSP Student Congress Day last February 2. The day started with the Congress proper, called the wORKs. The affair was jointly organized by Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, Mapua Institute of Technology, University of the Philippines-Diliman and University of the Philippines-Los Banos. The student and some faculty filled up the Escaler Hall at the Ateneo de Manila University.



Students fill up the Escaler Hall for the wORKs.

The National Student Federation scored a success in gathering two of ORSP's most respected speakers, Mr. Vic Reventar and Ms. Elise del Rosario both board members who presented financial applications of operations research and operations research practice and

practitioners, respectively.

The students then took the center stage as the three finalists for the ORSP Student Paper Writing Contest presented their

researches. The three finalists came from the Industrial Engineering Department of the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

Ateneo Wins Quiz Contest Anew

By Darlene Joy Uy

The 12th annual Operations Research Quiz Contest held on February 2, 2002 at the Escaler Hall, Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) was a repeat of last years' results. Just like last year, Ateneo placed first, University of the Philippines-Los Banos (UPLB) was second, and De La Salle University (DLSU) third.

After the first round, De La Salle led ADMU and UPLB by 10 points. The second round saw the three teams battling neck-to-neck as Ateneo took the clear lead only after half the round while the second place was up for grabs until the last question.

Other schools that competed in the contest were University of the Philippines-Diliman, Mapua Institute



Ateneo quiz contest coach Geoffrey Chua shown here with the winning team being congratulated by ORSP President JC Mercado.

of Technology, University of Santo Tomas, Southern Luzon Polytechnic College, Polytechnic Institute of the Philippines, and Technological Institute of the Philippines.

ORSP Student Congress Coordinator Dr. Emmanuel Macalalag headed the board of judges, which included Mr. JC Mercado and Rizaldy Capulong.

U.P. Students Shine in the ORSP Student Paper Competition

UP Diliman clearly led all the schools as it captured the top three prizes for the 2001-2002 Student Operations Research Student Paper Writing Contest. With the objective of encouraging students in applying Operations Research tools and techniques to real world everyday problems, the contest offered a cash prize of P5,000 and medals for the authors and adviser of the winners. Free registration to the Student Congress was awarded to the finalists. First place went to the UP

team which submitted **An Operations Research Study of the Metro Rail Transit (MTR-3) Operations.** The team is composed of Charlene Therese Falcis, Rebecca Ricalde and Andrew James Varona.

Other winners also from the University of the Philippines were Frances Allan Baquiran, Ronald Aaron Po and Natasha Tabucal, who garnered Second Place with their paper entitled "Car

Maintenance Policy for Nissan Car Lease, Philippines." Bagging Third Place is the group of Nittanee Frances Galema, Maria Jann-Ella Juan and Michelle Mancenido with their work entitled "A Facility Location Study on Police Loans Association".

The adviser of all these papers was Dr. Aura Matias, a past ORSP President. Abstracts of the three papers are reprinted below.

An Operation Research Study of the Metro Rail Transit (MTR-3) Operations

By: *Charlene Therese Falcis*
Rebecca Ricalde
Andrew James Varona

The study was formulated in order to determine the number of servers or ticket sellers needed per MRT station and to determine which stations need Reloadable Card machines.

The study included all the 3 stations of the MRT. The group gathered background and system information after which they selected the OR tools and techniques to use. Excel and TORA were used to compute for feasible and optimal solutions.

The number of reloaded card servers required in attaining

optimum service time was computed at 27. The study, recommended to establish two card servers at each station: one for north-bound and one for south-bound. Three servers are needed in North Avenue Station to attain optimum service time.

Through this study, MRT would be able to utilize its workers more effectively while saving time for millions of MRT passengers.

Car Maintenance Policy for Nissan Car Lease, Philippines, Inc.

By: *Francis Allan Baquiran, Ronald Aaron Po and Natasha Tabucal*

The study formulated a car rental fleet maintenance policy for Nissan Car Lease Philippines that results in minimum costs associated with unexpected breakdowns. The study comes up with optimal replacement

schedules for critical car components that result in longer rental time, since no unexpected component breakdowns are expected to occur. This also ensures that cars are in good condition when rented out, enabling the company to offer a high service level. It also prolongs the useful life of the car, since component breakdowns which cause a lot of damage are minimized. Furthermore, it enhances safety of the car and its passengers, as unexpected component breakdown will lead to more accidents on the road.

The model is also recommended for application to taxi fleets or companies that maintain a truck or car fleet. With model adjustments, other companies can also reap the benefits of a maintenance policy that ensures good condition of cars, increases safety, and lowers maintenance costs.

3rd prize winner featured on the next page.

Study for the Police Loans Association

By: *Nittanee Frances Galema
Maria Jann-Ella Juan
Michelle Mancenido*

The study aims to determine the number of Police Loans Associations (PLA) branches to construct, which would maximize membership coverage throughout NCR, given the capital budget of P40,000.00. By using OR tools such as Binary Integer Programming and Sensitivity Analysis, the team achieved the objective through the use of Operations Research Software, STORM.

The team concluded that in order to achieve the primary objective of minimizing the number of new facilities to be constructed while maximizing membership coverage, PLA must consider adding branches in two sites: Pasig and Diliman. Recommended for further study was the maximization of loans efficiencies generated by the additional branches.



Other winners of the quiz competition.

ORSP is heaven-Sent

Continued from page 2

To date, twenty-two private sector organizations and nine government agencies are assisting Comelec. These are : 1) Advertising Board of the Philippines (Ad Board); 2) Advertising Foundation of the Philippines (Ad Foundation) 3) Ateneo de Manila University; 4) Bishops-Businessmen's Conference of the Philippines (BBC); 5) Catholic Educational Association of the Philippine (CEAP); 6) De La Salle University; 7) Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex); 8) Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines (ITFP); 9) Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE); 10) Makati Business Club (MBC); 11) National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel); 12) National Social Action Secretariat (NASSA-CBCP); 13) Operations Research Society of the Philippines (ORSP); 14) Philippine Computer Society (PCS); 15) Philippines Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA); 16) Philippines Printing Technical Foundation (PPTF); 17) Procurement Watch, Inc.; 18) Purchasing and Materials Management Association of the

Philippines (PMMAP); 19) Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan of the Ateneo de Manila University; 20) Students Catholic Action of the Philippines (SCAP); 21) Sycip Gorres & Velayo (SGV); and 22) Web Philippines, Inc.

Government organizations so far include: 1) Department of Budget Management (DBM); 2) Department of Finance (DOF); 3) Department of Justice (DOJ); 4) Department of Science and Technology (DOST); 5) National Computer Center (NCC-DOST); 6) National Economic Development Agency (NEDA); 7) National Printing Office (NPO); 8) Philippine Information Agency (PIA); and 9) University of the Philippines.

The common cause of these organizations is to ensure the success of the 2004 elections automation. And so far, all those that have been asked to help have not refused. Comelec has been very appreciative and sees the value of the competent assistance from the private sector. While there will be a good number of challenges along the long road to automation of the elections, the collective, honest and unwavering efforts of those involved are most essential in ensuring the success of the endeavor.

Ex-ORSP President Finds Local Optimum

Long-time reigning heartthrob of ORSP, Board member and Past-President Dennis Beng Hui, finally succumbed to marriage to two-year fiancée Bibi Teves last May 18, 2002 at Davao City, where both hail from.

Fr. Randy Baluso officiated the wedding at St. Paul Church and the reception, attended by more than 600 guests, followed at the

Davao Convention and Trade Center. Family and close friends of the couple from all over flew in to rejoice with the couple.

The adornment of all the unique and colorful orchids, for which Davao is known, helped create the festive ambience at the Convention Center.

Dennis is an Assistant Professor at De La Salle University while Bibi works for the SGV Audit Group.



ORSP Celebrates Christmas Party

How do operations researchers have fun? The December 14 Christmas party became an opportunity to try which of the officers and members of the society could guess the word based on clues, be the pictorial champion, and qualify for the "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" Dennis Beng Hui emerged the champion pictorial illustrator with Sam Cruz giving him a run for his money. On the other hand, Vic Reventar would be the society's bet to go home with the million. Last to be disqualified

were Melissa Mercado and Bibi Teves. Of course, questions did have the entertainment category in which Mar Castaño excelled. Wilson Wy Tiu slept through the whole party, not because it was boring but because of the four-hour Christmas traffic that he had to negotiate from his office to the party site, which had traditionally been the del Rosario residence at Acropolis. A sumptuous buffet was served, and the traditional exchanging of gifts capped the evening. Bing del Rosario, egged on by wife Elise, gamely took on the

role of the games master. The dancing tutorial from Rizaldy Capulong of the previous Christmas party was sorely missed, but more so the other members who were not able to make it.

And so...one month from now when the secretary asks if you are available for the ORSP Christmas party, do not hesitate...and find out how operations researchers have fun!

Boncondin Speaks

(Continued from page 1)

G. Domingo holds a Master of Science degree in Operations Research from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, a Masters degree in Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management, and a BS in Management Engineering from Ateneo de Manila University. Also present in the event was Undersecretary Fortunato Dela Pena from DOST, a constant supporter of ORSP.

Another highlight of the night was the Annual Report of ORSP. President JC Mercado presented the accomplishments of the ORSP for year 2001. These accomplishments focused on organizing and developing seminars on OR for the industry, academe and the government. Another major activity of the ORSP was the ORSP-CORPS involvement in helping government with its various projects.

The winners of the last OR Quiz and Paper Writing Contest were also awarded their medals. Finally, the new Board of ORSP was elected and proclaimed.

DOST Continues

(Continued from Page 4)

The Kapihan speakers were **Alberto Manlapit**, SVP of San Miguel Corporation who discussed private sector perspectives on OR and **Rufino Lirag Jr.** Undersecretary of the DOST for the public sector perspective. A panel discussion followed, panel discussants were **Rizaldy Capulong** of the SSS, **Ramon Ike Señeres** of the National Computer Center and **Eric Losloso** of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation.

The fourth ORSP-DOST *Kapihan* was held at the Manila Galleria Suites last May 3, 2000. The speakers were **Vic Reventar** of SVI Ventures who talked about "OR in Financial Application in Government", **Edwin Pineda** of the University of Asia and the Pacific who discussed "Ethics and OR in the Capital Markets" and **Rizaldy Capulong** of the SSS about OR Applications at SSS."

Although affected by the budget cuts, DOST will continue to support this program, according to Dr. Panlasigui. ORSP is now working on the proposal requirements so that the first seminar under this program may be organized soon.



Past and Present ORSP Board Members pose with speakers: (from L-R) Wilson Tiu, Noli Macalalag, Greg Domingo, JC Mercado, Vic Reventar, Emilia Boncodin, Richard Li, Dennis Cruz, Marlene Gutierrez, Agnes Perez, Beng Manalang and Dennis Beng Hui.

ORSP Finds New Home, New Secretary



*Jiezel Rubiales
ORSP's New Administrative
Assistant is ready to serve you.*

ORSP Corps Helps

(Continued from page 1)

In a presentation before the Makati Business Club forum, the Energy Secretary cited this study as an "independent review of the Luzon (power) grid by the Operations Research Society of the Philippines on the utilization mix of Napocor." This was quoted from the June 25 issue of the Philippines Star.

The project is at the data-gathering stage while the mathematical model continues to be enhanced based on the data gathered. The project is expected to be completed within the year.

After more than two years at the ground floor of the National Computer Center at the UP Diliman along C.P. Garcia Avenue, ORSP moves to its new home at the Jollibee Plaza along Emerald Avenue in Ortigas, Pasig City. ORSP was first housed at the San Miguel Corporation and eventually was relocated to where the current President held office, notably, at PLDT, UP and the National Engineering Center.

ORSP also moves on to improve its service delivery to members through its new Administrative Assistant, **Jiezel G. Rubiales**. She graduated from St. Paul College of Manila with a degree in

Bachelor of Science in Information and Computer Science. For any inquiries, please contact her and she will gladly serve you.

Please take note of our new contact details:

Operations Research Society of the Philippines

Unit 2810 Jollibee Plaza Emerald Ave.
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Website: www.orosp.org.ph

Be a Part of ORSP

We are often asked, "What are your requirements for prospective ORSP members- do we have to be good in Math?"

The answer is NO. You just have to know what OR is and be convinced of its use in optimizing resources. If this description refers to you, don't delay- call the ORSP Secretariat or e-mail at secretariat@orosp.org.ph. If, furthermore, you are interested to be a part of the ORSP consultancy arm for the public service (ORSP Corps), you are doubly welcome! Please indicate in your application your area of expertise.



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