



Logistics, Freight, and Aviation Forum Focuses on Analytics that Move People, Goods, and Aircraft

The Operations Research Society of the Philippines, in cooperation with Ateneo de Manila University, convened its 2026 Technical Forum Series on Saturday, 12 September 2026. Nearly 300 participants gathered at Leong Hall for an afternoon devoted to the use of Operations Research in logistics, freight and aviation.

The audience reflected the forum's broad academic and professional reach. Participants came from the University of the Philippines Diliman, the University of the Philippines Los Baños, De La Salle University Dasmariñas, Ateneo de Manila University, Cavite State University, Holy Angel University, University of Perpetual Help System and other institutions, together with ORSP members and non-member professionals. Their presence created a productive meeting point for students, educators, researchers and decision makers confronting real operational challenges.



Participants were well accommodated in the spacious Leong Hall venue.

Three perspectives on connected decisions. Across the three presentations for the afternoon, one message recurred: decisions in transportation systems cannot be optimized in isolation. Maintenance choices ripple through an airline; stakeholders value different outcomes for air transportation; and logistics promises must be translated into capacity, routing and allocation decisions. Each speaker showed

the importance of OR in providing the structure needed to make those tradeoffs visible, measurable and actionable.

From equations to safer and more reliable flights. *Katherine L. Rivera*, Assistant Vice President for Aircraft Engineering at Philippine Airlines, brought the discussion into the safety critical environment of airline engineering and maintenance. She described an airline as an interconnected OR ecosystem in which flight operations, maintenance and engineering, ground operations, airport operations, training, supply chain and logistics continually affect one another.



K. Rivera presents the connected model chain of Optimization, Analytics and Systems Improvement.

Mathematical models support maintenance program development, reliability management, work packaging, materials positioning, scheduling and the anticipation of technical disruptions. Rivera emphasized that the goal is not optimization for its own sake. Quantitative methods help protect continuing airworthiness while improving aircraft availability, on time performance, resource use and customer outcomes.

She ended by citing the model chain of supply chain optimization, predictive analytics and systems improvement that is important in airline engineering and maintenance, where each on-time departure is supported by decisions on when to perform maintenance, how to package work within limited ground time, where to position critical materials, and how to anticipate technical disruptions before they effect flight operations.

Balancing conflicting stakeholder interests. *Dr. Miriam F. Bongo*, Associate Professor in the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department of De La Salle University Manila, opened her presentation by asking whether the diverse and sometimes conflicting interests of multiple stakeholders can be balanced.



M. Bongo shows how MS TORO works by considering the conflicting goals of air traffic control (expeditious flow of traffic), airline management (airline revenue) and airport management (efficiency of air resources).

She then introduced a multiple stakeholder-based target oriented robust optimization model, or MS TORO. The model brings stakeholder interests into a single framework while accounting for uncertainty and seeking a satisficing solution against agreed performance targets. A hypothetical post-departure aircraft rerouting problem illustrated the approach. In such a setting, delay, cost, profit and reputation may point decision makers toward different routes; a defensible solution must recognize all of them instead of allowing one objective to dominate by default.

The talk demonstrated why optimization is also a governance tool. By making targets, uncertainty and tradeoffs explicit, a model can clarify why a course of action was selected and test whether the interests of multiple parties have been treated fairly.

Moving logistics beyond gut feel. *Enrique “Ike” C. Castillo*, President and CEO of PTC Logistics, AP Cargo Logistics Network Corporation and Safexpress Logistics, Inc., closed the technical program with a value driven account of OR in the logistics business. Using AP Cargo as a practical case, he traced a decision chain from customer value proposition to operating model, decision problems, OR applications, operational outcomes and, ultimately, customer and enterprise value.



E. Castillo presents AP Cargo’s nationwide network and the complex logistics decisions that it necessitates.

Citing how logistics decisions carry competing demands for cost, speed, reliability, reach, revenue and customer priority, he explained how OR helps at several levels: Network design and long-term capacity support strategic choices; Forecasting, capacity planning and resource allocation strengthen tactical planning; and Vehicle routing, scheduling, assignment, queuing and capacity allocation improve day to day execution.

He mentioned three cases they are working on and to which he challenged researchers in the audience. The first involves investment decisions on fixed and “rolling” warehouses. The second is a choice of optimal vehicle routing that must contend with different drop offs, lead times, distances, costs, revenue profiles and capacity requirements. For the third airfreight case, he cited the decision for an optimal dispatching of cargo that is way above flight capacity, while considering weight, volume, commodity, urgency, commitment, destination, customer priority, possible connections, revenue and contribution across all air and Roll-on-Roll-off (RORO) options.

A forum bridging classrooms and operations. Taken together, the sessions presented OR as more than a collection of mathematical techniques. It is a decision architecture for connecting objectives, constraints, data and consequences across complex systems. The forum also gave students a concrete view of career pathways in aviation, logistics, industrial engineering, analytics and systems improvement, while giving practitioners a common language for decisions that are often made across organizational boundaries.

The proceedings were managed by ORSP Board members **Malu de Guzman U, Dennis Cruz** and **Elise del Rosario**, with the participation of **Kerish Villegas** who welcomed participants to the ADMU. At the conclusion of the forum, del Rosario summarized the key points from the three talks before drawing the names of the raffle winners. KFC sponsored the tokens presented to the speakers as well as the gift certificates awarded during the raffle.



E. del Rosario goes over the learning for the day and gives out the raffle prizes.

The afternoon ended on an especially cheerful note. Participants were pleased with their prizes, and the sunshine was a welcome sight after four consecutive days had been lost to heavy rain. More importantly, those gathered acknowledged the valuable learning they had gained from the speakers and from seeing how Operations Research can guide difficult decisions in aviation, freight and logistics.

The strong attendance and enthusiastic response underscored continuing interest in practical, socially relevant applications of Operations Research. By bringing academic research and industry experience onto one stage, the 2026 Technical Forum advanced ORSP's role in building a community capable of moving from intuition to transparent, evidence based and continuously improving decisions. ♦

Advancing Operations Research Tools Competence for Data-Driven Decision Making Through the Simulation and Optimization Software Training



Participants take time to pose in front of the UPDIEOR Wall with their certificates from the day-long hands on workshop.

The Operations Research Society of the Philippines (ORSP) organized its annual technical workshop on 19 June 2026 at the Kaizen Laboratory, IE-ME Building, University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD). Faculty members of the Circle of Operations Research Enthusiasts (CORE) from the Department of Industrial Engineering, University of the Philippines, Los Baños (UPLB), conducted the “Simulation and Optimization Software (SOS) Training: A Hands-on Workshop on Operations Research Tools for Data-Driven Decision Making”. The event is hosted in partnership with the UPD Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research (IEORD). Prof. Iris Ann G. Martinez, ORSP Board of Directors Secretary, welcomed the participants

on behalf of ORSP.

Asst. Prof. Angelo C. Ani, started the workshop by having a review of the basics of operations research and an overview of the common OR tools used in both deterministic and stochastic OR. Sample applications from previous projects utilizing these tools were also presented. Before moving on to the use of the specialized optimization software, a guided exercise using Excel Solver on simple linear programming models, such as the product-mix model and bank portfolio optimization, was also facilitated.

The first hands-on exercise using the specialized software was facilitated by **Engr. Miguel Darwin DC. Lapitan**. This exercise modeled a production inventory model. The basic modeling elements of the software were employed. Accordingly, LP formulations in their set-based form were also discussed to facilitate easier implementation in the software. Asst. Prof. Ani continued the morning session by facilitating the next exercise, which focused on a transshipment problem. This exercise also introduced the use of an interactive web-based interface, which aids users in visualizing data inputs and optimization results.

During the afternoon, **Asst. Prof. Gabriel John L. De Leon** had a discussion on systems simulation, presenting previous simulation projects. Asst. Prof. De Leon facilitated the two simulation sessions covering a production and a service system. The first exercise familiarized the participants with the simulation software’s basic modeling elements and interface. The primary goal is to develop initial comfort with navigation, object libraries, and property settings, while building a simple but complete simulation model of a production system. The following exercise emphasizes modeling decision rules, time-dependent arrivals, service-time differentiation by transaction type, and structured data collection in a multi-service bank system.

The workshop was attended by professors and professionals from Mapua Malayan Colleges Laguna, Analog Devices Inc, P.J. Lhullier Inc., and San Miguel Corporation.

Participants rated the Workshop as Excellent and look forward to other offerings from the ORSP. ♦



ORSP Student Congress Quiz Bee 2026: Showcasing the Nation's Brightest Minds in Operations Research

The Operations Research Society of the Philippines (ORSP), through the ORSP Student Federation, successfully held the ORSP Student Congress Quiz Bee 2026 on March 21, 2026, at the Industrial Engineering–Mechanical Engineering Building, College of Engineering, University of the Philippines Diliman. The event gathered some of the country's top universities in a dynamic and intellectually stimulating competition.

Each university fielded a team of highly skilled and competitive students who demonstrated strong proficiency in operations research and problem-solving. The quiz bee followed a three-round format: easy, medium, and difficult, with ten questions per round. The competition covered a wide range of topics, from programming fundamentals to advanced Markovian processes, challenging participants to apply both theoretical knowledge and analytical thinking under pressure. The early rounds showcased strong performances across all teams, with participants demonstrating speed and accuracy in answering foundational questions. As the competition progressed to the medium and difficult rounds, the level of intensity heightened, and distinctions between the teams became more apparent.

In the end, **Ateneo de Manila University**, composed of Lincoln Gabriel K. Ang, Zachary Ashton L. Go, Walden Merrick T. Kuo, Jaden Christian L. Lim, and Marvin Josh S. Tan, emerged as the champion, delivering a consistent and outstanding performance throughout the competition. The **University of the Philippines Diliman**, manned by Vanessa Rynne G. Julio, Shawn Garrett O. Yuen, Hugh Ruzle E. Mejos, Jerd Mark M. Carlos, and Jucille Kate B. Delos Santos, secured the first runner-up position. Meanwhile, **De La Salle University–Manila**, represented by Gabriel Cheo M. Carambas, Jared Earl C. Leyson, Chun Yang H. Shi, Cassidy Kyler L. Tan, and Megan Daryl L. Sio, claimed second runner-up. All participating teams exhibited remarkable skill, resilience, and sportsmanship, contributing to the success and excitement of the event.

The competition was adjudicated by a distinguished panel of judges, namely **Mr. Rommel Dela Cruz**, **Ms. Christine Co**, and **Ms. Marlene Gutierrez**, whose expertise ensured a fair and credible evaluation of all responses.



Quiz Bee Champion Ateneo de Manila University contestants show off their cash prize and certificate.



First and 2nd runner ups, UP Diliman (top) and De La Salle University—Manila (bottom) pose proudly with their certificates and cash prizes.

The event was made possible through the generous support of **Philippine Batteries, Inc.**, the major sponsor, whose contributions helped enhance the overall experience for both participants and attendees. Behind the event's success was the ORSP Student Federation leadership: *Harold Anjelo Espeleta* (University of Santo Tomas), President; *Juztine Brigette Bunda* (De La Salle University), Vice President; *Lia Esclamado* (Holy Angel University), Secretary; *Sebastian Bugayong* (Mapúa University), Treasurer; *Cristian Obida* (Asia Pacific College), Auditor; *Raechelle Go* (University of the Philippines Diliman), Social Communications Officer; and *So'ia Paige Tang* (Ateneo de Manila University), Membership Officer. The organizers also extend their sincere gratitude to the ORSP Mother Chapter advisers and Board for their invaluable guidance and support in making the event possible, as well as to the ORSP Secretariat for their valuable administrative support and coordination throughout the preparations.

More than just a competition, the ORSP Student Congress Quiz Bee 2026 served as a celebration of academic excellence, collaboration, and the growing impact of operations research in addressing real-world challenges. It continues to inspire students across institutions to pursue innovation, critical thinking, and excellence in the field. ♦

2025 National Conference Highlights Real-World OR and Analytics

The Operations Research Society of the Philippines (ORSP) successfully held its 16th National Conference on November 14, 2025 at the Eastwood Richmond Hotel in Quezon City. With the theme **OR/Analytics in Practice**, the event gathered **159 participants** from leading universities, government agencies, and major industry partners, highlighting the rapidly expanding role of operations research, analytics, and artificial intelligence in solving real-world problems.



ORSP President S. Mariscal presents speaker Camille Reyes Castro with Certificate after the Q & A.

to map, monitor, and protect mangrove ecosystems across the Philippines. Dr. Blanco showcased how tools such as satellite imagery, the Mangrove Vegetation Index, artificial intelligence, and conservation planning models support restoration prioritization, early warning systems, and nationwide mangrove rehabilitation efforts.

One of the major conference events was the panel discussion, **From Problem to Profit: A 360° View of Real-World OR/Analytics Cases** was moderated by former Accenture Philippines Managing Director Jaime “Bing” del Rosario. The panel featured Anthony Chan of Bain & Co., Myk Ogbinar of San Miguel Corporation, and Alyson Yap of Ateneo and Ramcar, who discussed their backgrounds, the role of math and critical thinking in OR and analytics, and their experiences working on diverse projects across

The conference opened with two keynote addresses that set the tone for a day of advanced technical discussions and applied analytics. **Camille Reyes-Castro** of NielsenIQ Philippines delivered an engaging talk on Sales Force Activation, emphasizing how predictive models, segmentation analytics, and real-time dashboards are transforming the way organizations plan, motivate, and guide their sales teams. She underscored the importance of integrating behavioral analytics with operational insights to create agile, high-performing sales organizations.

This was followed by an equally compelling presentation from **Dr. Ariel C. Blanco** of UP Diliman and the Philippine Space Agency. His talk highlighted how remote sensing, geospatial analytics, and operations research are being used



Dr. Ariel Blanco shows how OR tools, among others, help support mangrove rehabilitation efforts.

for bakery inventory management, which achieved a notable reduction in waste. Public service and community-focused papers also drew strong interest, including PUP's paper on flood response strategies in Biñan City and UPLB's linear programming model for optimizing dog rabies vaccine allocation in Calamba City. Behavioral and sectoral modeling studies rounded out the program, featuring research on running event participation in the Philippines and multiple linear regression models for forecasting residential real estate prices with more than 90 percent predictive accuracy.

During the Business meeting, ORSP President Mariscal presented ORSP activities for the year, and inducted new members as follows: *Angelo Paulo Atienza, Gilbert Calosa, Klariza Marie Leander, Nazka Leosala, and Benito Joseph Ngo*. The conference concluded with recognition of its sponsors—San Miguel Corporation, Ramcar Group of Companies, Asia Pacific College, and Adamson University—whose support helped make the event possible. Chaired by President *Shella Mariscal*, this 16th national conference of ORSP reaffirmed the essential role of operations research and analytics in addressing complex economic, environmental, and societal challenges. The event strengthened collaboration across academia, industry, and government, and underscored ORSP's continuing commitment to developing future-ready analytical talent for the Philippines. ♦



S. Mariscal inducts new ORSP members (left to right): Klariza Marie Leander, Gilbert Calosa, Angelo Paulo Atienza, Nazka Leosala, and Benito Joseph Ngo.



At conference end, participants show off raffle prizes they won, compliments of sponsor, Ramcar.



ORSP Presence Shines at IFORS 2026 in Vienna

The 23rd IFORS Triennial Conference, held from **12–16 July 2026** at the University of Vienna, brought together the global Operations Research community for five days of scientific exchange, collaboration, and celebration of OR's impact worldwide. The conference welcomed **over 1,500 delegates** from **more than 70 countries**, underscoring the international reach of the discipline. For ORSP members, IFORS 2026 was especially significant as the Philippines was prominently represented through the leadership and contributions of ORSP Founder and past IFORS President **Elise del Rosario**.

The scientific program featured plenary and keynote speakers who addressed the evolving role of OR in solving societal challenges—from sustainability and mobility to digital transformation and public policy. Delegates also enjoyed the traditional **mid-week outings**, which offered curated cultural and historical tours around Vienna, providing opportunities for informal networking and deeper engagement among participants.

Within the **Magic of OR** practice area, E. del Rosario organized the stream on **OR in Practice**, a well-attended track that highlighted real-world applications of OR across industries and public sectors. Speakers shared case studies demonstrating how OR models are implemented in complex, data-rich environments, and how practitioners navigate challenges such as stakeholder alignment, uncertainty, and resource constraints. The strong attendance and lively discussions reflected the growing global interest in applied OR and the importance of bridging analytical rigor with implementation realities.

Beyond the technical program, E. del Rosario exercised a major role in the activities of the **Global Leadership on OR for Women (GLOW)**, which aims to **increase visibility for women in OR, strengthen professional networks, promote mentorship, and support leadership pathways** for women across the global OR community. During IFORS 2026, E. del Rosario led two major GLOW events: the **GLOW Circles** and the **GLOW Reception**, both of which became standout moments of community building.

The **GLOW Circles** offered small-group conversations where women in OR could share experiences, discuss career challenges, and build supportive connections. Participants appreciated the intimate, structured format, which encouraged honest dialogue and practical mentorship. The conference also featured a **GLOW Panel Discussion**, which brought together women leaders in OR to discuss visibility, leadership journeys, and the im-



▲ Some invited speakers of the Practice of OR stream (from left to right, top) - A. Weintraub, E. Del Rosario, J. Cochran, K. Hoffman; (from left to right, bottom) - A. Banaszewska and F. Gotzinger, E. Arruda, A. Cohn and S. Nickel.



▲ Elise del Rosario (GLOW Founding Steering Committee member), Hector Cancela (IFORS President), and Grazia Speranza (GLOW Founder) are launching the GLOW reception.

portance of inclusive professional environments. Panelists shared insights on navigating career transitions, advocating for representation, and building confidence in technical and leadership roles. The session resonated strongly with attendees and reinforced GLOW's mission of empowering women in the field.

The **GLOW Reception** gathered delegates from around the world, focused on connection and collaboration. The event encouraged participants to make "one meaningful introduction" to support mentorship, sponsorship, and future partnerships.

For ORSP members, IFORS 2026 demonstrated how Philippine OR continues to contribute to the global community. Through her roles as stream organizer, GLOW leader, and long-standing IFORS volunteer, Elise showcased the depth of ORSP's engagement in international initiatives and amplified the visibility of Filipino OR professionals. ◆

(Readers are asked to refer to the IFORS News, September 2026 issue, pp.8-9, pp. 15-17 and pp.18-19. Above pictures are reproduced from September issue of IFORS News.)

Welcome New Members!

This newsletter issue welcomes new members who have joined the ORSP Family.

From the **Academe** are: **Maria Lourdes P. Jusa**, Program Chair, BSIE, School of Engineering and Information Technology, UST Gensan and **Charlon Adrian C. Ruiz**, Instructor, IE Department, University of Santo Tomas.

From the **Industry** are: **Gabriel P. Bayani**, Data Analytics & OR Analysts at San Miguel Corporation; **Harold Chavenia**, Data Analytics & OR Analyst at San Miguel Corporation; and **John Robert Ureta**, Data Architect at San Miguel Corporation.



**Maria Lourdes
P. Jusa**



**Charlon Adrian
C. Ruiz**



Gabriel P. Bayani



Harold Chavenia



John Robert Ureta



17th NATIONAL CONFERENCE

of the Operations Research
Society of the Philippines (ORSP)



NOVEMBER 20, 2026

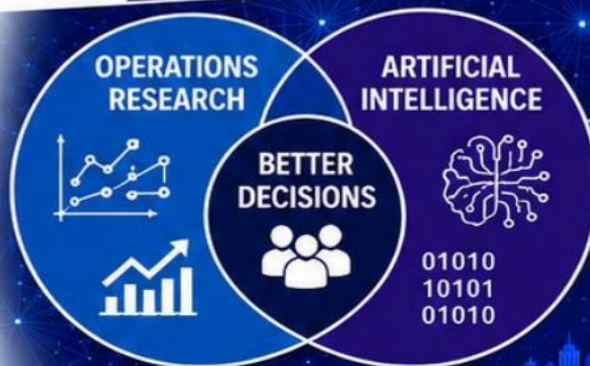


**EASTWOOD RICHMONDE
HOTEL, QUEZON CITY**

CALL FOR PAPERS

THEME

OR and AI: Working Together to Power Better Decisions



With the theme, "OR and AI: Working Together to Power Better Decisions," the conference seeks to bring together researchers, academicians, practitioners and students to explore the growing synergy between Operations Research (OR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). As organizations face increasingly complex challenges, the integration of OR methodologies and AI technologies offers powerful tools for improving efficiency, optimizing resources, and enhancing decision-making.

The conference provides a platform for sharing innovative research, practical applications, emerging technologies, and success stories demonstrating how OR and AI can work together to create smarter, data-driven, and impactful decisions.

Join us in advancing knowledge and developing solutions to real-world problems across various sectors.



CONFERENCE TOPICS

Submissions of papers aligned with the Conference Theme in the following areas are welcome:

OPERATIONS RESEARCH

- Mathematical Programming
- Modeling
- Decision Support Systems
- Management Information Systems
- Distribution Management
- Production Operations Management
- Project Management
- Financial Investment
- Queuing
- Transportation
- Inventory Control
- Supply Chain Management

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYTICS

- Generative AI
- Data Analytics
- Natural Language Processing
- Deep Learning
- Supervised and Unsupervised Learning



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The abstract should be typed in English, should not include mathematical notations, and must contain the following:

- ✓ Paper/proposal title;
- ✓ Abstract of not more than 200 words;
- ✓ Author(s) name(s), organization, full mailing address, email address, with an indication of author(s) presenting the paper; and
- ✓ Topic (at most three, chosen from the Conference Topics List) under which paper falls and additional topics if not included in the list.



Submit abstracts to
orspconference2026@gmail.com



IMPORTANT DATES



Deadline for abstract submissions:
September 30, 2026



Last day for notification of abstract acceptance:
October 16, 2026



Deadline for early registration and author registration for inclusion in the online abstract book:
October 30, 2026

Early registration closes one week after abstract submission deadline.



PROGRAM

0730	Registration	1200	Business Meeting/Lunch
0830	Welcome Remarks	1330	Parallel Sessions
0845	Plenary 1	1500	Break
1000	Break	1515	Parallel Sessions
1015	Plenary 2	1700	Closing Ceremonies



KEYNOTE AND INVITED SPEAKERS

Prominent OR practitioners, academicians, and businessmen have been invited by the organizers to deliver keynote speeches. Speakers and delegates from all over the country will share their work in the parallel sessions.



INVITATION

The conference seeks to bring together OR researchers, academicians and practitioners, whose collective work has sustained continuing OR contribution to decision-making.

The conference focuses on the key role of operations research (OR) and analytics in shaping decision-making processes across various industries, as well as within non-governmental organizations (NGOs), public institutions, and private enterprises. It underscores the fusion of theoretical frameworks, practical methodologies, and cutting-edge technologies to optimize operations.



REGISTRATION FEES*

	PESO	Early Reg (until early reg deadline)	Regular Reg (after early reg deadline)
Members		P4,500	P5,000
Non-Members		P5,500	P6,000
Students		P3,000	P3,500
Foreign		\$150.00	

* Registration fees are inclusive of AM/PM snacks and Lunch.



REGISTRATION / PAYMENT METHODS

- Payment may be deposited directly to BDO Account No. 00151 0025 666 under the name of Operations Research Society of the Philippines, Inc. (Please do not abbreviate)
- For ORSP members, membership fees must be paid for the year.
- Payments may also be made thru GCASH 0317 863 4136.
- For other inquiries, please contact ORSP secretariat, viber/mobile +63 927 877 3219; e-mail secretariat@orsp.org.ph or operationsresearchsociety@gmail.com
- Certification of attendance shall be given upon request.

SCAN TO REGISTER!



ORGANISED BY:



Operations Research
Society of the Philippines



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