



# IFORS Commends InteriOR 2013 for Rallying Indonesian OR Community

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The highly-successful *2nd International Conference on Operations Research (InteriOR 2013)* <http://www.interior2013.org/> was held August 26-27, 2013, in Medan, North Sumatera, Indonesia. Jointly organized by the *Department of Mathematics, University of Sumatera Utara*, and *Indo Mathematical Society*, the two-day meeting attracted over 315 old hands and newbies in Operations Research from around the world yielding 99 paper presentations.

Welcome remarks by the *University of Sumatera Utara* vice rector of academic affairs *Zulkifli Nasution* and a speech followed by a striking of the gong by the Mayor of Medan officially opened the conference.

This was followed by a traditional dance featuring a lot of color, grace and a distinctively Indonesian welcome.

A highlight of the Opening Ceremony is the presentation of the **International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS)** appreciation for the efforts of the organizers in bringing together the OR professionals and enthusiasts within Sumatera, thus paving the way for the organization of an OR society for Indonesia. In line with the IFORS objective of encouraging the formation of national OR societies, IFORS also provided registration support for ten local participants to the conference. The Certificate of Appreciation was received by the founder of InteriOR conference series, Herman Mawengkang from the IFORS representative in the conference, past IFORS President Elise del Rosario. Joining IFORS in this event is **Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO)** President, Gerhard Wascher. He expressed EURO's gratitude to the local movers who have actively participated in relatively high numbers during the previous EURO and IFORS conferences: *EURO 2010* in Lisbon, Portugal, *IFORS 2011* in Melbourne, Australia, *EURO 1012* in Vilnius, Lithuania, and *EURO-INFORMS 2013* in Rome, Italy.



▲ Del Rosario presents IFORS certificate to Mawengkang while Filar, Weber and Wascher look on.

The theme of this year's conference, *OR for Industry, Environment and Society* allowed researchers and practitioners to review state-of-the-art literature in OR as well as present scientific results which were particularly relevant to solving real-life problems in industry, environment, and society. The conference provided the venue for researchers, lecturers, educators and students to exchange ideas, communicate and discuss research findings and new advances in all areas of modern OR. High-quality contributed papers were presented, covering all aspects ranging from business to advances in OR dynamics, applications in Management, Finance, Economics, Biology, Environment, Development and Education. The Conference Proceedings will be available in book and CD ROM format.

Keynote talks were given during the morning plenary sessions. Gerhard Wascher (President of EURO; University of Magdeburg, Germany) presented *"Manual Order Picking Systems - Planning Issues and Solutions Approaches"*. He showed how Operations Research enables to strong improvements in industrial and warehouse processes by illustrating increased efficiency in picking processes with the use of OR. *Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber* (METU, Ankara, Turkey; EURO conference advisor) started his talk on *"Advances in OR, Optimization and Control of Stochastic Dynamics - Applications in Finance, Economics,*

*Biology and Environment"* by stressing that time-continuous systems need to be generalized by both phenomenon of impulsiveness and a piecewise, or "hybrid" structure. Applying this insight, he showed how OR can be more useful in the future.

*Jerzy A. Filar* (Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia) spoke on *"The Hamiltonian Cycle Problem and Markov Decision Process"*, where he introduced the corresponding traditional field of combinatorial optimization and then presented recent breakthroughs

achieved by his international OR research team. *Elise del Rosario* (past President, IFORS) gave an overview on *"OR: Applications for all Aspects of Business"*. The attendees were enthusiastic as seen from the responses and questions to the presenter, who let the audience benefit from her managerial experiences in a leading international company from neighboring country of the Philippines.

All invited speakers had the honor and pleasure of having been taken by their hosts to the famous *Lake Toba*, four hours by car from Medan. *Lake Toba* is a unique jewel in being both one of the most scenic places in Indonesia as well as the cradle of the *Batak* people of central North Sumatera. The outing gave an opportunity for greater exchange on the state of Operational Research in Medan, Sumatera and Indonesia. Sincere interest from the representatives of the international OR family characterized the discussions on future support and collaboration along the lines of propagating OR in Indonesia.

Chosen by the organizers, these delegates were awarded the IFORS registration support: *Putra Jaya Bahtera Bangun* and *Irmeilyana* (Sriwijaya University, Palembang); *Siti Rusdiana* and *Intan Syahrini* (Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh); *Tiryono Ruby* and *Notiragayu* (University of Lampung, Lampung); *Ihsan Riyadhi* (Padjadjaran University, Bandung); *Mardiana Irawaty* (Sekolah Tinggi Teknik Adisutjipto, Yogyakarta); *Effendi* (Andalas University, Padang) and *Sudradjat Supian* (Padjadjaran University, Bandung).



▲ One of the packed parallel session venues

The Organizing Committee chaired by *Tulus Tulusjip*, the Scientific Committee, with the session chairs, authors, presenters, discussants, paper reviewers and sponsors all did their part in making this conference possible and memorable.. The conference provided scientific learning amid a lovely atmosphere made special by the hospitality of everyone and the smiles on particularly, the young OR people of Indonesia!

