

## Interregional Cooperation for Combinatorial Optimization

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The 30th annual conference of the *European Chapter on Combinatorial Optimization* within EURO (ECCO) was made more significant as it was held in conjunction with the second joint conference between EURO and the Operations Research of China (ORSC). Promoted by former EURO President Gerhard Wäscher, the joint EURO/ORSC conference was first held in Shanghai in 2015. On the other hand, ECCO holds a Spring meeting that is usually attended by around 100 participants.

A beautiful Venetian-style town on the Adriatic Coast, Koper, Slovenia was the venue for this joint EURO/ORSC/ECCO Conference in Combinatorial Optimization 2017 (ECCO XXX). There were about 90 presentations and 140 participants from 19 countries all over the world. Among the delegates, around 35 came from China.

The General Conference Committee of the conference was composed of ORSC President Xiaodong Hu, Silvano Martello, and Gerhard Wäscher. Andrej Brodnik co-chaired the Program Committee with Guochuan Zhang. The Organizing Committee was led by Degang Liu.

EURO supports international meetings on relevant OR topics held in one of its member countries through its sponsorship of a plenary presentation by an internationally renowned operations researcher from a EURO member country. Called the *EURO Plenary*, the talk was delivered by Gerhard Woeginger for this conference. He delivered a stimulating talk on lower bound techniques for algorithmic problems.

Other thought-provoking plenary lectures were given by Robert Bixby on *Progress In Linear And Mixed-Integer Programming*, Xiaotie Deng on *Constructive Output of Existentially Proved Structures in Combinatorics*, and Bernard Ries, *On Some Graph Modification Problems*.



▲ The General Conference Committee: Silvano Martello, Gerhard Wäscher, Xiaodong Hu

The social activities included a bus tour in Piran and a visit to the Piran salt pans, where the *fleur de sel* (flower of salt) is still produced using age-old methods. The tour was concluded with a social dinner in a local wine farm.

It is worth noting here that every fourth year, the ECCO conference is jointly held with the *International Symposium on Combinatorial Optimization (CO)*, a series of conferences that started in the UK in 1977.

Submissions are currently encouraged for two special issues of *Discrete Applied Mathematics* and *Journal of the Operations Research Society of China*, dedicated to the Koper EURO/ORSC/ECCO conference, and open to all ECCO, CO, and ORSC members. The next ECCO-CO conference will be held in Fribourg (Switzerland) from June 14 to June 16, 2018. 🇨🇭