

APORS President's Address

IRI Masao

President of APORS

Chairman of the International
Programme Committee

To begin with, let me say my cordial welcome to all of you, participants of APORS'94, the Third Conference of the Asian-Pacific Operational Research Societies within IFORS.

As you know, APORS is one of the regional groups of operational research societies under the umbrella of IFORS, but it is quite unique in character among its sister groups, EURO (European), ALIO (Latin-American) and NORAM (North-American). APORS does not only geographically cover a much larger area than the other groups but also consists of member societies quite different in cultural traditions, languages, life styles and ways of economic development both from one another and from the member societies of the other groups. In spite of this diversity, we must look for a steady progress in harmony. It is a most challenging OR problem and the theme of this conference.

Due to the geographical distance, it is not easy for us to meet together so often as the other groups do. For the time being we have officially this triennial conference series only, but, needless to say, we should encourage special interest groups or the like to meet more frequently than ever.

I have just mentioned the geographical distance. Roughly, the length of the area we cover extends more than 100 degrees in latitude from north to south and the same in longitude from west to east. In that sense, too, APORS is a global organization. We have many operational research problems within us to solve for ourselves because only we, living in this area on the globe, can understand and model our own problems. The OR methodology may be the same, but the models, objective functions and constraints must be different. It is one of our responsibilities to help people in the other part of the world do recognize through OR modelling that there are diverse cultural traditions, values, ways of thinking—and even justices and human rights.

This is the third of the triennial APORS conference series which was initiated under the excellent leadership of the first president, Dr. RHA Woong Bae, and the Korean society, KORS, and has been

taken over by the Chinese society, ORSC, with Prof. HSU Guang Hui as the second president. That means, APORS is now nearly ten years old. Its membership, which was eight when it was born, has grown to ten during this decade, and is expected to grow further. It is through APORS that we have been able to know one another better and to establish true academic friendship among us.

With the remarkable economic growth in the area APORS covers, the area is attracting keen interests of the people in the other part of the globe, and the triennial APORS conference series is becoming a forum more and more important for better international communication and mutual understanding, not only within the APORS area but also between the APORS area and the other part. This, I think, is evidenced by the geographical distribution of the participants in this conference.

Giving this address, I have a few faces. In the capacity of APORS President I would like to thank the Japanese society, ORSJ, for hosting this conference with long, intensive, devoted works of its active members, especially of those of the Organizing Committee and the local working group of the program committee. And special appreciations and gratitudes are due to the academic organizations who cosponsor our conference and to the foundations, industries and enterprises whose financial support made the organization and operation of the conference much smoother than would have been otherwise.

In the capacity of the Chairman of the International Program Committee, I should express sincere gratitude for the friendly cooperation of the members of the Committee and of the organizers of many special sessions which will certainly add a vigor to the conference.

Finally, in the capacity of a member and past president of the host society, I take this opportunity to welcome you all again and wish the conference to be enjoyable and fruitful for all of you.