

FOREWORDS

The 8th International Conference on Operations Research was held at Capitolio Nacional de Cuba, February 25-29 of 2008.

The Organizing Committee had the pleasure to welcome about 200 participants, of 26 countries of Europe, North, South and Central America, Africa and Asia. More than 150 contributed papers were presented as well as 9 plenary lectures and 5 Tutorials or Mini courses. The speakers were internationally well known leading specialists. They were directed to theoretical foundations of optimization, statistics, economical methods or numerical analysis, the computational methods of them or to applications with a methodological or economic importance. This diversity reflected fairly well the main topics in the field. In this edition a stream of sessions on Partial differential equations was included. It was prestiged by the Plenary Talk of the Fields Medallist Prof Pierre-Louis Lions (France) titled Analysis, models and simulations. Another Fields Medallist, Prof. Steve Smale delivered the Plenary Lecture in the 6th edition.

This Conference took place in the year where Universidad de La Habana celebrated its 280th Anniversary. Hence we were very glad of including it in the main stream of the planned festivities.

This edition of the conference was also significant because it coincided with the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of relationships between Cuban and French mathematicians, which allowed to develop Summer Schools courses first and to articulate, afterwards, a career at a contemporary level using long term visits of French professors. We can fix the beginning in 1968 of a series of Annual Summer Schools in different themes of Statistics and Operations Research as roots of the recognized level of Cuban applied mathematicians, being our conferences an objective proof. The series of conferences have been put through the mill and its 8th edition was benefited by the cooperation of Universidad de La Habana and Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne in the area of Applied Mathematics. The number of French assistants has been the largest among no-Cubans.

The organizers express a cordial recognition to the actual foreign leaders of the co-organization of this series of events, Professors Marie Cottrell and Jurgen Guddat, for their great support.

We also thank the members of the rest of the International Program Committee for their kind collaboration in organizing sessions, soliciting papers for particular streams of sessions and in satisfying the sending of the needed documentation within the closing dates. We warmly thank specially to Ana Porras, Monique Florenzano, Stéphane Mischler and Luká Neralić for their labor.

Finally we thank the members of the Program Committee that assumed the burden to meet out, from the contributions originally submitted, those to be accepted for publication in this volume of the journal. Many experts gave their valuable support within the reviewing process and we warmly recognize their support.

At last but not least the kind cooperation of the Buró de Convenciones Capitolio Nacional which has been smooth and efficient and to the International Committee of Theoretical Physics for their economic support for the traveling and local expenses of some participants of the region.

Prof. Dr. Sira Allende
President of the Organizing Committee.