

International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making



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Contents

Message from the President	2
1 Call for Nominations: MCDM Awards	3
2 18th International Conference on MCDM	4
3 Other upcoming conferences	4
3.1 MOP/GP 2006, June 12-14, Loire Valley, France	4
3.2 Summer School on MCDM, July 2-15, Kainan, Taiwan	4
4 Past events	5
4.1 XI ELAVIO	5
4.2 MIC 2005, August 22-26, Vienna, Austria	5
4.3 Operations Research 2005	6
5 New books	6
6 Sources of information	6
Imprint	7

Message from the President

Amazingly, a year has passed since the last international meeting of the society in Whistler, Canada. Those who were fortunate enough to have been amongst the approximately 150 delegates will confirm that we had a great time, thanks to the organizational skills of Bill Wedley. The programme was superb, we socialized well, and the surroundings of Whistler was an experience not to be missed. The excursion by cable car up the mountain for lunch and afternoon walks exposed us to the natural beauty of the area while creating many opportunities for informal interaction.

Arrangements for the next conference of the society are already well under way, and information is provided later in this newsletter. There is no doubt that the experience of the conference in Crete will be just as memorable as that of Whistler, and we thank Kostas Zopounidis in advance for his efforts in this regard. Do make a note of the dates, and join us to make it the greatest multicriteria event ever!

This newsletter is the first to be compiled by Martin Geiger, who took over from Gilberto Montibeller after the Whistler meeting. Thank you Gilberto for your efforts in the past and thank you Martin for being prepared to take over this vital activity. It is our intention to produce two newsletters per annum. The delay in getting our this first newsletter after the Whistler meeting is due, I regret to say, to the tardiness of your president in getting various procedures in place. But hopefully, from now we will be able to keep to the two issues per annum to keep you up to date. Do remember to send material to Martin (email: mjgeiger@uni-hohenheim.de) that you would like to pass on to members.

The Whistler meeting was also the occasion for the Society to honour three of our members with awards. I would remind you that the Society makes three awards at each of its biennial meetings, namely:

The MCDM Gold Medal: This is the highest honor that the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making bestows upon a scholar who, over a distinguished career, has devoted much of his or her talent, time, and energy to advancing the field of MCDM, and who has markedly contributed to the theory, methodology, and practice of MCDM.

The MCDM Edgeworth-Pareto Award: The highest distinction that the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making bestows upon a researcher who, over his or her career, has established a record of creativity to the extent that the field of MCDM would not exist in its current form without the far-reaching contributions from this distinguished scholar.

The Georg Cantor Award: The highest form of recognition that the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making bestows upon a researcher who, over his distinguished career, has personified the spirit of independent inquiry and whose many innovative ideas and achievements are decidedly reflected in the theory, methodology, and current practices of MCDM.

The recipients of these awards for 2004 were William W. Cooper (MCDM Gold Medal), Raimo P. Hämäläinen (Edgeworth-Pareto Award) and Harold P. Benson (Georg Cantor Award). Congratulations to all three for these well-deserved honours. Raimo and Harold gave informative and exciting presentations of their work on the final day of the conference. Unfortunately, William Cooper (still very active in his 90s) was unable to attend as a result of a hip operation shortly before the meeting, but we were thrilled to be able to view a short videotaped presentation by him, accompanied by a written paper distributed to delegates.

The same conference saw the end of the term of office of Valerie Belton as President of the Society, and a presentation was also made to her at the banquet, in recognition of her leadership during the previous four years. We all value that leadership and warmly thank you, Val.

During the business meeting in Whistler we received a pleasing number of nominations for vacant positions on the international executive committee of the society. Following the electronic voting, the new elections on to the committee were confirmed as follows:

Jyrki Wallenius (President-Elect)
Birsen Karpak (Vice-President of Finance)
Carlos A. Bana e Costa
Hirotaka Nakayama
Jose R. M. Figueira
Mark Ridgley
Rudolf Vetschera

In addition, Kaisa Miettinen agreed to continue with her sterling and irreplaceable efforts as secretary, and the committee has confirmed her re-appointment to this position. She certainly provides much of the long-term institutional memory of the society!

The complete membership of the executive committee may be viewed from the society's web page (<http://www.terry.uga.edu/mcdm/>).

As members will be well aware, Ralph Steuer has for many years maintained the data base of society membership together with the flags of the nations they represent. This has been valuable in providing a sense of cohesion between members. Rudolf Vetschera has now complemented the data base by an on-line system for members to update their co-ordinates, to assist us in striving to keep regular electronic contact with members. Members should have received information from Rudolf concerning access to the on-line system, and I would urge you all to make use of the system to ensure that your details are up-to-date. Our thanks to both colleagues in putting so much effort into these systems.

Best wishes to you all. I look forward to seeing you all in Crete next year.

Theo Stewart
October 2005

1 Call for Nominations: MCDM Awards

The International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) has been presenting awards at each of its meetings since 1992. The next set of awards will be presented at the 18th International Conference on MCDM in Chania, Greece, June 19-23, 2006 (<http://www.dpem.tuc.gr/fel/mcdm2006/>). The Society welcomes nominations for the following awards: 1. MCDM Gold Medal, 2. Edgeworth-Pareto Award, and 3. Georg Cantor Award. Submit nominations to: Professor Murat Köksalan, Industrial Engineering Department, Middle East Technical University, 06531 Ankara, Turkey or (preferably) by e-mail, koksalan@ie.metu.edu.tr. Contact him for further information.

To assure full consideration:

1. Make the nominations by **March 1, 2006**.
2. Indicate the name of the nominee, why he or she is worthy of the award, his/her contributions to the field, and anything else that is relevant to the award.
3. Provide a CV of the nominee.

Awardees are expected to attend the conference and present a paper. More information concerning the awards and past awardees may be found on the web site at <http://project.hkkk.fi/MCDM/intro.html>.

2 18th International Conference on MCDM

The XVIIIth International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making will take place June 19-23, 2006 at the MAICh Conference Centre, Chania, Greece.

The Conference aims to bring together researchers and practitioners who address Multiple Criteria Decision Making. The conference theme 'Knowledge-based multicriteria decision support' emphasizes the advanced knowledge techniques in the development of multicriteria decision support system. Participants are particularly welcome to submit work relevant to this theme. However papers, abstracts and discussions on all aspects of multiple criteria decision making are invited, too.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **March 1, 2006**.

Conference website: <http://www.dpem.tuc.gr/fel/mcdm2006/>

3 Other upcoming conferences

3.1 MOP/GP 2006, June 12-14, Loire Valley, France

The 7th International Conference devoted to Multi-Objective Programming and Goal Programming will take place June 12-14, 2006 in the Loire Valley (City of Tours), France.

MOP/GP is an international conference series devoted to multi-objective programming and goal programming (MOP/GP). This conference brings together researchers and practitioners from different disciplines of Computer Science, Operational Research, Optimisation Engineering, Mathematical Programming and Multi-criteria analysis. Theoretical results and algorithmic developments in the field of MOP and GP will be covered, including practice and applications of MOP/GP in real-life situations.

The seventh meeting (MOP/GP'06) is organized in collaboration with the Universities of Nantes and Tours, and PM2O (the French working group on multi-objective programming). It will take place in the old city hall of Tours.

The deadline for submission of extended abstracts (4 pages) is **January 15, 2006**.

Conference website: <http://www.mopgp06.org/>

3.2 Summer School on MCDM, July 2-15, Kainan, Taiwan

The International Summer School on Multiple Criteria Decision Making is going to take place July 2-15, 2006 at the Kainan University, Taiwan.

The MCDM summer school is organized every three years at different locations around the globe. After the first school took in place in 1983 in Catania, Sicily (Italy), six others have successfully been organized in the past. Numerous well-known professors and researchers are going to give lectures on scientific topics in the area of MCDM.

Participation is highly recommended for students and young researchers wanting to gain further insight in the topics discussed.

Summer school website:

<http://www.knu.edu.tw/content/news/0509/050927/MCDM.htm>

Contact: mcda@kainan.tw

4 Past events

4.1 XI ELAVIO Latin American Summer Workshop on Operations Research

Martin Josef Geiger, University of Hohenheim

This year, the Latin American Summer Workshop on Operations Research took place in Villa de Leyva, Colombia, from 25th to 29th of July. For already the eleventh time this workshop brought together students, researchers and professors in the field of Operations Research in Latin America. After previous workshops in Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Cuba it was the first time for Colombia to host the event. Consequently, the organizing team around Andrés L. Medaglia and Ren Meziat of the Universidad de los Andes ensured a perfect organization of the conference.

The program of the conference comprised 80 contributed talks organized in three parallel sessions. Although the event is not particularly dedicated to research in MCDM, several presentations have been related to multi objective optimization. An extensive plenary session by Carlos A. Coello-Coello (Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN, Mexico) was given on ‘Introducción a la Optimización Multiobjetivo’. Besides, scientific talks in the context of MCDM have been:

- Víctor Pérez, Universidad de Pinar del Río (Cuba): Toma de Decisiones Multicriterio Discreta para la selección de alternativas en el tratamiento de suelos degradados
- Jorge Navarro, Eduardo Fernández, Alfonso Duarte (Centro de Ciencias de Sinaloa, Mexico): Evaluación Multicriterio Utilizando una Relación Borrosa de Cercanía Preferencial
- Martin J. Geiger (Universität Hohenheim, Germany): MOOPPS: An Optimization System for Multi Objective Production Scheduling
- Banu Soylu, Murat Köksalan (Middle East Technical University, Turkey): An Evolutionary Algorithm for Multiobjective Combinatorial Optimization
- Juan Guillermo Villegas (Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia): Algoritmos Evolutivos para la solución de problemas de localización multi-objetivo sin restricciones de capacidad

Abstracts and slides of most talks are available on the **workshop website**: <http://elavio2005.uniandes.edu.co/>

4.2 MIC 2005, August 22-26, Vienna, Austria

Martin Josef Geiger, University of Hohenheim

The 6th Metaheuristics International Conference took place in August, 22-26 in Vienna, Austria. It was possible to notice that applications involving multiple criteria are becoming more and more popular. Besides the tutorial on ‘Multiobjective Combinatorial Optimization Problems’ by Xavier Gandibleux, a considerable amount of talks was dealing with problems involving multiple criteria, ranging from multi objective knapsack problems over bus driver scheduling applications to production scheduling.

Further information are available on the **conference website**: <http://www.mic2005.org/>

4.3 Operations Research 2005

Martin Josef Geiger, University of Hohenheim

Within the annual conference of the German Operations Research Society GOR, held from September 7-9 in Bremen, Germany, a scientific session has been organized by the working group on Decision Theory. The session organizers Walter Habenicht (Universität Hohenheim) and Christiane Tammer (Universität Halle-Wittenberg) managed to attract 21 scientific talks, presented in six sessions. Also, a semiplenary talk on 'New Trends in Discrete Multicriteria Optimization: Applications and Methods' was given by Matthias Ehrgott (University of Auckland, New Zealand).

Conference website: <http://www.or2005.uni-bremen.de/>

5 New books

- Carlos A. Coello Coello, Gary B. Lamont: Applications of Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithms. World Scientific Publishing Company 2004, ISBN 981-256-106-4.
- Carlos A. Coello Coello, Arturo Hernández Aguirre, Eckart Zitzler (eds.): Evolutionary Multi-Criterion Optimization—Proceedings of the Third International Conference, EMO 2005 Guanajuato, Mexico, March 9-11, 2005. Lecture Notes in Computer Science 3410, Springer Verlag 2005, ISBN 3-540-24983-4.

6 Sources of information

- Kaisa Miettinen's website has several interesting links with Operational Research and Multi-Criteria websites (scientific societies, journals, conferences, etc.). Webpage: <http://www.mit.jyu.fi/miettine/lista.html>
- The website of the EURO Working Group on Multicriteria Decision Aiding has lots of useful information on multi-criteria. Webpage: <http://www.inescc.pt/~ewgmcda/index.html>
- Vincent Mousseaus database of research publications on MCDA has more than 2400 records, and it is a good source of information. Webpage: <http://www.lamsade.dauphine.fr/mcda/biblio/>
- Carlos A. Coello Coello maintains the EMOO web page, an archive of publications, software and other material related to multi objective optimization. Website: <http://www.lania.mx/~ccoello/EMOO/>
- Homepage of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making. Website: <http://www.terry.uga.edu/mcdm/>

Imprint

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