

# International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making



E-News • 2006 • Issue 1 (February)

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

a new year lies ahead, and we are looking forward to a number of events in our area of Multiple Criteria Decision Making. The year 2006 is going to be particular busy, bringing together a series of major activities into a single season.

First, the biannually organized *International Conference on MCDM*, taking place in Chania, Greece, to which we want to draw your attention in particular. The conference is going to be a hot spot of science, and certainly not only because of the expected weather in June. Section 2 will provide you with the key information on this event.

Second, the *Summer School on MCDM* in July (see Section 3.5), following the tradition of a three-year-rhythm. After having participated myself in the 2000 Summer School in Catania, Italy, I personally want to recommend this event to all students and researchers being interested in the area of Mutiple Criteria Decision Making. The lectures are going to provide profound knowledge, but most of all the two weeks will enable the participants to exchange ideas and create new friendships.

Other events are not to be forgotten, with the corresponding call for papers given in Section 3. Please let me take this opportunity to thank all who contributed to this newsletter. Do not hesitate to get in touch with me under [mjgeiger@uni-hohenheim.de](mailto:mjgeiger@uni-hohenheim.de). Upcoming events, reports on past activities, and any further information being of interest to the community are highly welcome.

Talking about the community, the membership database of our society now comprises 1360 records with people from 87 countries. A statistical overview is given in Section 5. We know however, that more people are involved in Multiple Criteria Decision Making, and if you know about interested colleagues wanting to join the Society on MCDM, please let them know about the possibility of applying by sending a message to the Secretary of the Society, Kaisa Miettinen ([kaisa.miettinen@hkkk.fi](mailto:kaisa.miettinen@hkkk.fi)).

With the best wishes,

Martin J. Geiger  
February 2006

## 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](mailto: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.

Intending contributors should submit abstracts. Abstracts will be reviewed to determine whether acceptance for presentation is appropriate. A guide for preparing abstracts is presented in the Style Guide for Abstracts. A common style is important, since Conference Proceedings of abstracts will be published. A hard copy of the abstracts will be distributed with the Conference Program.

As well as abstracts, contributors are encouraged to submit a paper in the specified format (please see the website for further details). Such papers will undergo a more extensive review and editing process to determine whether they warrant publication in special issues of major journals. With author permission, completed papers will be published electronically in PDF format.

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 Annual Workshop of the German GOR Working Group on Decision Theory and Practice, March 6–7, Kaiserslautern, Germany

The annual workshop of the German Working Group on Decision Theory and Practice within the ‘Gesellschaft für Operations Research (GOR)’ is going to take place March 6–7 in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The workshop will be jointly organized with the German Working Group on Fuzzy Systems, Neural Networks and Artificial Intelligence, giving the opportunity of an exchange of ideas, approaches, and results.

**Contact:** Karl-Heinz Küfer, [kuefer@itwm.fhg.de](mailto:kuefer@itwm.fhg.de)

### 3.2 CORS/Optimization Days, May 8–10, Montreal, Canada

The CORS/Optimization Days 2006 joint Conference will be held on May 8-10, 2006 at Montreal (Quebec, Canada). Belaid Aouni is organizing a cluster on Multicriteria Decision Aid and Multi-Objective Programming, inviting all of you to participate in this cluster. The guidelines for submitting abstracts are available online at the conference web page (see below), where submission of abstracts is possible. When sending an abstract, please do not forget to specify that your abstract is for the Multicriteria Decision Aid Cluster. For additional information on the CORS/Optimization Days 2006 meeting, please go to the conference web page.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is [February 15, 2006](#)

### 3.3 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 (already extended) deadline for submission of short papers/abstracts has been [January 31, 2006](#), but certainly you will be welcome to attend without presenting.

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

**Conference website:** <http://www.crt.umontreal.ca/scrojopt2006>

**Contact:** baouni@laurentian.ca

### 3.4 EURO XXI, July 2–5, Reykjavík, Iceland

We would like to invite you to come and join us at the EURO 2006 conference in Iceland. Within the conference theme *OR for Better Management of Sustainable Development* we aim to showcase how OR can improve the management of this important topic that touches everyone in the world.

All members of the international OR community are encouraged to contribute papers describing their current research and applications. Presentations from all areas of operational research are welcomed.

Three streams related to the special interest of the Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making will be organized:

- Multicriteria Decision Analysis, organized by Theo Stewart (tjstew@stats.uct.ac.za) and Valerie Belton (val@mansci.strath.ac.uk),
- Multiple Criteria Decision Aid, organized by José Figueira (figueira@fe.uc.pt),
- Multiple Objective Optimization, organized by Kathrin Klamroth (klamroth@am.uni-erlangen.de) and José Figueira (figueira@fe.uc.pt)

The deadline for submission of abstracts is [March 1, 2006](#)

**Conference website:** <http://www.euro2006.org/>

### 3.5 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 are of MCDM. For the upcoming summer school this year, talks will be provided by

- Belton, Valerie (United Kingdom)
- Deb, Kalyanmoy (India)
- Hämäläinen, Raimo P. (Finland)
- Korhonen, Pekka (Finland)
- Li, Han-Lin (Taiwan)
- Steuer, Ralph E. (United States of America)
- Saaty, Thomas L. (United States of America)
- Sakawa, Masatoshi (Japan)
- Slowinski, Roman (Poland)
- Spronk, Jaap (Netherlands)
- Stewart, Theodor J. (South Africa)
- Seiford, Lawrence M. (United States of America)
- Shi, Young (United States of America)
- Tzeng, Gwo-Hshiung (Taiwan)
- Wang, Hsiao-Fan (Taiwan)
- Yu, Po-Lung (Taiwan)
- Zeleny, Milan (United States of America)
- Zionts, Stanley (United States of America)

Participation is highly recommended for students and young researchers wanting to gain further insight in the topics discussed. A limited number of scholarships is made available by the organizers. Please visit the updated website for further details.

The deadline of for the early bird registration is **May 1, 2006**

**Summer school website:** <http://mcdm.knu.edu.tw/>

**Contact:** mcdm@kainan.tw

### **3.6 Multidisciplinary ECAI-06 Workshop on Advances in Preference Handling, August 28–29, Riva del Garda, Italy**

Although preferences have traditionally been studied in fields such as economic decision making, social choice theory, and Operations Research, they have nowadays found significant interest in computational fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Databases, and Human-computer interaction. This broadened scope of preferences leads to new types of preference models, new problems for

applying preference structures, and new kinds of benefits. Explicit preference modelling provides a declarative way to choose among alternatives, whether these are solutions of problems to solve, answers of data-base queries, decisions of a computational agent, plans of a robot, and so on. Preference-based systems allow finer-grained control over computation and new ways of interactivity, and therefore provide more satisfactory results and outcomes. Preference models may also provide a clean understanding, analysis, and validation of heuristic knowledge used in existing systems such as heuristic orderings, dominance rules, and heuristic rules. Preferences are studied in many areas of Artificial Intelligence such as knowledge representation, multi-agent systems, constraint satisfaction, decision making, decision-theoretic planning, and beyond. Preferences are inherently a multi-disciplinary topic, of interest to economists, computer scientists, operations researchers, mathematicians and more. The workshop promotes this broadened scope of preference handling and continues a series of multidisciplinary workshops on preference handling (a AAAI-02 workshop, a Dagstuhl-Seminar in 2004, and a IJCAI-05 workshop) which have been very successful. The workshop provides a forum for presenting advances in preference handling and for exchanging experiences between researchers facing similar questions, but coming from different fields. The workshop builds on the large number of AI researchers working on preference-related issues, but also seeks to attract researchers from databases, multi-criteria decision making, economics, etc. These different research areas are represented in the program committee.

The deadline for paper submission is **April 15, 2006**

**Conference website:** <http://www.mycosima.com/ecai2006-preferences/>

### 3.7 Operations Research 2006, September 6–8, Karlsruhe, Germany

The annual conference of the ‘Gesellschaft für Operations Research (GOR)’, the German society for OR, in conjunction with the Swiss and Austrian Societies SVOR and ÖGOR, will take place September 6–8 in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Christiane Tammer and Matthias Ehrgott are organizing a stream on *Multi Criteria Decision Theory* and would like to cordially invite you to participate in the conference and present a talk. Although the submission deadline of abstracts is April 30, 2006, please try to let them know by the **28th of February** if you are interested in participating and send a title.

**Conference website:** <http://www.or2006.de/>

**Contact:** Christiane Tammer: [tammer@mathematik.uni-halle.de](mailto:tammer@mathematik.uni-halle.de)

Matthias Ehrgott: [m.ehrgott@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.ehrgott@auckland.ac.nz)

## 4 Sources of information

- Homepage of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making. Website: <http://www.terry.uga.edu/mcdm/>
- 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/>

## 5 Member statistics

The members database currently contains 1360 members from 87 countries. Table 1 gives an overview about the distribution by country.

**Table 1:** Members by country

USA	266	Ukraine	12	Georgia	2
Spain	81	Argentina	11	Indonesia	2
Finland	60	Australia	11	Ireland	2
Germany	58	New Zealand	11	Lithuania	2
Canada	55	Nigeria	11	Oman	2
China	55	Bulgaria	10	Paraguay	2
United Kingdom	50	Tunisia	9	Peru	2
India	42	Romania	8	Philippines	2
Turkey	40	South Africa	8	Bangladesh	1
Italy	36	Austria	7	Benin Republic	1
France	32	Hungary	7	Colombia	1
Portugal	32	Sweden	7	Congo	1
Belgium	29	Denmark	6	Croatia	1
Egypt	29	Hong Kong	5	Ecuador	1
Brazil	27	Malaysia	5	Estonia	1
Taiwan	27	Morocco	5	Iceland	1
Russia	26	Norway	5	Korea	1
Greece	24	Saudi Arabia	5	Kuwait	1
Netherlands	23	Vietnam	5	Latvia	1
Poland	23	Belarus	4	Libya	1
Japan	22	Chile	4	Luxembourg	1
Cuba	16	Singapore	4	Mongolia	1
Iran	15	Thailand	4	Mozambique	1
Switzerland	14	Armenia	3	Nepal	1
Czech Republic	13	Jordan	3	Pakistan	1
Algeria	12	Slovak Republic	3	Senegal	1
Israel	12	Uruguay	3	Slovenia	1
Mexico	12	Bahamas	2	United Arab Emirates	1
South Korea	12	Costa Rica	2	Yugoslavia	1

### Imprint

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