

**Report on ICOTA 8,  
8th International Conference on Optimization:  
Techniques and Applications,  
Shanghai, China, December 10-13, 2010**

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The *8th International Conference on Optimization: Techniques and Applications (ICOTA 8)* was successfully held at Fudan University, in the exciting city of Shanghai, China, on December 10-13, 2010 (<http://www.fdsf.fudan.edu.cn/icota8/>). There were over **320 participants** from **30 countries and areas**. The co-chairs of the conferences were: Prof. Xiaoling Sun from Fudan University, Prof. Duan Li from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Prof. Shouyang Wang from The Chinese Academy of Sciences and Prof. Ya-xiang Yuan from The Chinese Academy of Sciences.

There were **8 plenary speeches** in ICOTA8:

- Kurt M. Anstreicher (The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA): “*Optimization with Copositive and Completely Positive Matrices*”,
- Aharon BenTal (Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel): “*Tractable Solutions to some Challenging Optimization Problems*”,
- Christodoulos A. Floudas (Princeton University, New Jersey, USA): “*Towards Large Scale Deterministic Global Optimization*”,
- Graham C. Goodwin (University of Newcastle, Australia): “*Some Applications of Optimization in Control Engineering*”,
- Jean B. Lasserre (LAAS-CNRS, Toulouse, France): “*The “Joint+Marginal” Approach in Optimization*”,
- Shinji Mizuno (Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan): “*A Bound for the Number of Different Basic Solutions Generated by the Simplex Method*”,
- George L. Nemhauser (Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA): “*Polyhedral Theory for Optimization Under Uncertainty*”,
- Shuzhong Zhang (The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China): “*The Price of Anarchy and Myopia: a Study of System Inefficiencies*”.

In addition, the conference had **7 Keynote Speakers**. They were:

- Jong-Shi Pang (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA),
- Francisco Facchinei (University of Rome “La Sapienza”),
- Jie Sun (National University of Singapore),
- Defeng Sun (National University of Singapore),
- Daniel Ralph (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom),
- Bintong Chen (University of Delaware) and
- Masao Fukushima (Kyoto University, Japan).

There were around **60 special and contributed sessions** with **over 200 presentations**.

*The International Conference on Optimization: Techniques and Applications (ICOTA)* is an official conference series of POP (*The Pacific Optimization Research Activity Group*; <http://158.132.174.242/pop/>), which was established in October 2000 to promote optimization research activities in the Pacific region. In 2002, ICOTA became one of the two official conference series of POP. ICOTA 8 is the third that is held as a POP official conference, following ICOTA 6 in Ballarat, 2004 and ICOTA 7 in Kobe, 2007. The goal of ICOTA is to provide an international forum for scientists, researchers, software developers, and practitioners to exchange ideas and approaches, to present research findings and state-of-the-art solutions, to share experiences on potentials and limits, and to open new avenues of research and developments, on all issues and topics related to optimization and its applications.

During the conference ICOTA 8, Prof. Wuyi Yue, on behalf of the Steering Committee of ICOTA 8, announced that the next ICOTA (ICOTA 9) will be held in Taipei, Taiwan. The organizers of ICOTA9 will be Prof. Soonyi Wu and Prof. Shu-Cherng Fang.

For further conference photos ICOTA 8 please visit:  
<http://cid-7519d6e3eed3990e.photos.live.com/albums.aspx>.

Since 10 years, there is a collaboration agreement between POP and *EUROPT (EURO Working Group on Continuous Optimization)*; <http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/>). This partnership has contributed to a very vivid scientific exchange in different fields of optimization theory and related areas of Operational Research between the Pacific region and Europe. What is more, scientists from both regions mutually participated at OR conferences of all formats and served as session and stream organizers. Especially, through EURO 2006 in Reykjavik, Iceland, this intensified a lot – in the year, when one of the founders of POP, the late Prof. Alexander Rubinov, became awarded the *EUROPT Fellow 2006*, the first Fellow in the history of EUROPT.

With Prof. Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber's participation at ICOTA 8 and of his visit of Fudan University, this POP-EUROPT friendship became celebrated. In fact, at both occasions he informed about important forthcoming activities of *EURO* (<http://www.euro-online.org/display.php?page=welcome>), *EUROPT* and some other *EURO working groups*, with a special emphasis on *EURO XXV 2012, Vilnius, Lithuania, July 8-11, 2012* (<http://www.euro-2012.lt/welcome>), and about *IFORS 2011, Melbourne, Australia, July 10-15, 2011* (<http://www.ifors2011.org/>), including also the *IFORS Price for OR in Development*.

To both events, to active participation in their preparation, and to long-term fruitful collaborations he cordially invited the friends from Asia, from Europe and from all over the world, in Shanghai, China!

*The second author, Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber, expresses his sincere gratitude to EURO, The Association of European OR Societies, for supporting his travel to Shanghai, and to Fudan University for kind hospitality.*



Plenary Speaker Aharon BenTal



Plenary Speaker George L. Nemhauser



An impression from ICOTA 8



ICOTA 8 Co-Organizer Xiaoling Sun



Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber in Shanghai