

## ***InteriOR 2011 - Where Asians Meet Friend(s) from European OR***

Irpan Batubara, University of North Sumatra, Department of Mathematics, Medan, Indonesia

Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber, Middle East Technical University, Institute of Applied Mathematics,  
Ankara, Turkey

*InteriOR 2011* (<http://www.usu.ac.id/>) is *The International Seminar on Operational Research* has been held at July 27-28, 2011, to celebrate the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *University of Sumatera Utara (USU, University of North Sumatra)*, in Medan, Indonesia. Medan is located in the North of the island of Sumatra and the largest city of Indonesia outside of the most populated island, Java. Indonesia itself is the 4<sup>th</sup> biggest country in the world, with respect to population.

This prestigious seminar was officially opened by the Vice Rector of academic affairs of USU, *Prof. Zulkifli Nasution*, at Madani Hotel Medan, Indonesia. *InteriOR 2011* is organized in collaboration between *Department of Mathematics* of USU and *Indonesian Mathematics Society (IndoMS) of Aceh - North Sumatra Region*. This seminar is conducted to provide a forum for researchers, lecturers, educators, and students to exchange ideas, to communicate, and to discuss research findings and new advances in mathematics, especially, in *Operational Research*. In fact, in OR, USU is a leading university in all of Indonesia. Main organizers of this conference were, among some others, *Prof. Dr. Herman Mawengkang*, being also the initiator, *Prof. Dr. Tulus Tulusjp*, *Prof. Dr. Saib Suwilo* and *Prof. Dr. Opim Sitompul*.

In this seminar, four Keynote Speakers were invited from local and overseas universities: one from Turkey, one from Japan and the others from Indonesia. *Prof. Dr. Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber (Willi)* from Middle East Technical University, Turkey, presented “*The New Robust Conic GPLM Method with an Application to Finance and Regulatory System: Prediction of Credit Refault and a Process Version*”, another Keynote Speech and one contributed talk. *Prof. Dr. Masaji Watanabe* in his presentation drew the attention to “*Modeling and Simulation for Microbial Depolymerization Processes of Xenobiotic Polymers*”. *Prof. Dr. Dian Armanto* (State University of Medan) and *Dr. M.D.H. Gamal* (University of Riau) are both from Indonesia.

*Mr. Irpan Batubara* is, as Prof. Willi and all participants observed, a very welcoming and kind young colleague, who served to the seminar in its Opening Ceremony, by various announcements and as a Session Chair. This is a nice example also for how “young” the conference was, with regard to both the participants and the collaborators who, together with the experienced colleagues, made this conference become such a great success!

As a regional meeting for mathematicians, especially, from the fields of *Operational Research*, from the *Northern part of Sumatra*, the participants at the seminar who joined us from distinguished universities, came from the four provinces of Sumatra, namely: *North Sumatera*,

*Aceh, West Sumatera and Riau.* Some of you may remember the disastrous tsunami which hit the touristic region of Aceh in 2004; an enormous effort was spent since that time to rebuild Aceh.

*InteriOR 2011* involved researchers, lectures, educators as well as students into presentations and vivid discussions. There are at least 30 papers collected in the proceedings volume and more talks even were delivered. The presentations took for the 2 days time-window of July 27-28, 2011.

In spite of conducting a strict order and stiff atmosphere, in the second day of the seminar (July 28), the organizing committee included a symbolic cultural ceremony of handovering a special North Sumatran souvenir, *Ulos*, to the keynote speakers. These big tissues became laid over the shoulders of the keynote speakers which, in fact, was leading to nice – solemn as well as a bit funny – moments and unforgettable photos. Prof. Willi remarked his salutation to the committee for this wonderful gesture and really friendly seminar. “*It is really a place for mathematicians to share as well as to communicate*”, he said after the ceremony. According to him, The seminar was an exchange of ideas, but also a cultural exchange. At last, he said that such seminar as *InteriOR* is the gate to more further *Operation Research* summits and annual “Summer Schools” as well – with a strong involvement of the enthusiastic youth at all stages of preparation and of conducting these events.

*Irpan Batubara*, himself being a fresh graduate from Mathematics Department of USU, told that his debut as a moderator has opened his mind in a broader sight on *Operation Research*. In the discussion session, he also shared his experience in doing some journal reading related to the topic brought by the keynote Prof. Willi about portofolio analysis. He hopes that the *InteriOR* will be a gate to his farther interesting in that matter.

Besides the moderator, there have been some other fresh graduates who attended the seminar. They have been very interested in expanding their horizon in the fields of *Operation Research*, although language limited them - but just a little bit - only, in expressing their ideas. Indeed, the quality of English among the youngsters was quite fine! Furthermore, they have become conscious about the global language to communicate their works, their findings, and the papers which they read and might in future write and publish. *Sheila* is one of the young presenters whose English is good and she is fond of improving her public speaking skills for a better presentation in the future. *Rina* told that she was very excited that her presentation was well done inspite of her lacking of experience. She hopes that such seminar as *InteriOR* could be annually carried out because they would be a good chance for mathematicians and representatives of OR and the applied sciences from the region to update their knowledge and to develop a vision for their life and the life of their communities. Actually, a main vision consists in education, research, in development and the improvement of living conditions of the people. The participants at the seminar were very glad to hear the message that *IFORS* and *EURO* are very much interested in this process and possible partners on this common way.

*Johanes Kho*, a lecturer of University of Riau, presented his paper in such passionated way that he was satisfied by it. As a candidate of master in mathematics, he expressed his high appreciation of the seminar so much. Furthermore, he confessed that *InteriOR* has opened his mind that knowledge is nowadays simultaneously and jointly developed between the lecturers and the students. Many further positive comments on *InteriOR* were given in the days after *the* wonderful days in Medan, for example, via *Facebook*.

At last, another very good news is that rector of USU, *Prof. Dr. Syahril Pasaribu*, could not hide his appreciation and he officially honoured the keynote speakers by his words. In fact, he gave his testimony during the visit of Prof. Willi to his office. He assessed *InteriOR 2011* as a very successful seminar and the markstone on a way of collaboration and friendship, between individuals, universities and academical organizations, from different parts of the world (cf. <http://www.usu.ac.id/pokok-berita/1511-kunjungan-middle-east-technical-university-metu-ankara-ke-usu.html>).

We are looking forward to see each other in Medan in the year 2012!

## **FOTOS**



