

***OR for Development and Developing Countries
at ALIO-INFORMS Joint International Meeting,
Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 6-9, 2010***

Experience Report

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The *Operational Research for Development and Developing Countries* cluster, was held in Buenos Aires Argentina, in the framework of the ALIO/INFORMS International Joint Meeting 2010 (<http://meetings.informs.org/BuenosAires2010/>), with the support of IFORS and the organization of the EURO Working Group in Operational Research for Development EWG ORD (<http://www2.ing.puc.cl/~fcrespo/eurofdv/>).



Several participants of the Cluster

(Alejandro Builes, Laura Lotero, Rafael Nanclares, Claudia Rave, Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber)

Venue: Law School, University of Buenos Aires (<http://www.derecho.uba.ar/>).

22 speakers from Medellín, Bogotá, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Santiago, Texas, New York, Ankara, Valencia and Lisbon, some of them presenting multiregional works, participates in 7 different sessions, with a wide range of applications on education, economy, scheduling, environment, energy and decision support systems for policy design as well as some conceptual works on innovation and OR teaching. 10 of the speakers were benefited with *IFORS*' economical support, all of them active researchers or consultants in developing countries.



Coffee time in Buenos Aires (Rafael Nanclares, Medellín, and Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber, Ankara).

The EWG ORD (<http://www2.ing.puc.cl/~fcrespo/eurofdv/>) has been working to develop and maintain a common platform for researchers, practitioners, academicians and other interesting parties across the globe to collaborate and share their invaluable ideas and information to improve knowledge and channel it in to novel and creative applications, based in OR techniques, for assessment and support in all dimensions of sustainable development in both, developed and developing countries. The cluster in ALIO-INFORMS, celebrated for the first time in America, was a successful initiative to extend and consolidate the network in Latin America and North America, and to enhance the group's work through its Latin-American members Claudia Rave (Colombia), Fernando Crespo (Chile) and the cluster board chaired by Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber (Turkey), through the association of OR societies, IFORS, INFORMS, ALIO, EURO, and the local host SADIO.

Remarkable works was presented in the policy assessment lines, for environment, urban planning, education and even commercial and investment issues for developing countries. Software design and development were presented from mobile social applications for micro-retailers to structured modeling platforms for public institution prospective modeling. An important range of contributions were made for vulnerability analysis and disaster relief. For transport, many applications deal with sustainability and public transport enhancement on technology, environment and coverage for rapid growing cities, as well as for modeling strategies.

Researchers, students and practitioners from private and public institutions contributed with papers and their participation were very much enriching. For the PhD and master students, the cluster was an invaluable opportunity to share the contributions from their research and their doctoral programs in Latin-America to the OR for development

community. Therefore, the cluster gave a unique and pioneering chance to network building work, specially for the important task of thinking in terms of applications, of implications of academic contributions to sustainability and of challenges to make the world a better place to live in.

The cluster has certainly provided to our youth an impression of how to organize scientific events, how to share unforgettable moments, how to come together for joint projects and how they can actively serve in the international OR community and in its efforts for humankind all around the globe.

Buenos Aires mood was terrific and the winter sun has illuminated and joined the sessions!



Caminito, Buenos Aires.



The reception night
(Alejandro Builes, Laura Lotero, Maryin Navarro, Medellín).

We express our sincere gratitude to all our speakers and participants!

Furthermore, we cordially thank our Sponsors and Supporters:

EWG ORD, <http://www2.ing.puc.cl/~fcrespo/eurofdv/>

IFORS <http://ifors.org/web/>

EURO, www.euro-online.org

ALIO, www.dc.uba.ar/alio

INFORMS <http://www.informs.org/>

SADIO, <http://www.sadio.org.ar/>