

Quick shots on ISIR's activities

15th International Symposium on Inventories August 22-26, 2008 - Sofitel Budapest, Hungary

It is our pleasure to report that we had a record participation at the 15th International Symposium on Inventories in August. There were 142 registered participants from 30 countries. 59 participants returned their evaluation form from which the following general comments could be drawn:

- One fifth of the participants were absolutely newcomers, so besides being able to retain previous participants we could attract new people as well, who will hopefully return next time again.
- The overall evaluation of the event was 4,18 (on a five point scale), a bit higher than in 2006, when it was 4,04. Participants were satisfied with the professional content and the organization of the Symposium but highlighted some areas (e.g. regarding the pre-registration period) to improve.
- And what is most important – 54 out of 59 plans to return in 2010!
Reports on the session will follow shortly both in the newsletter and on the website.

New section of ISIR was established at the August General Assembly Meeting: Forecasting for Inventories

It was agreed at the General Assembly of ISIR to establish a new section of the society, to be named 'Forecasting for Inventories'. This link between forecasting and inventory management has been researched for 50 years, and became a popular research topic in the 1960s and 1970s following the pioneering work of RG Brown. Over time, the two disciplines began to diverge. This is reflected in separate conferences (ISIR and the International Symposium on Forecasting) and in separate journals (eg IJPE and the International Journal of Forecasting). This divergence has not been healthy, as it has led to forecasting researchers ignoring the inventory implications of their work, and to inventory researchers under-emphasizing the role of forecasting.

It was this concern that led to the call for papers for the 14th International Symposium, repeated at this year's symposium. The response has been very encouraging, both in terms of the quantity and quality of papers delivered. In addition to this initiative, the following recent activities have all indicated increased interest in Forecasting for Inventories:

- The IMA Journal of Management Mathematics published a special issue (Issue 2, 2008) on Demand Forecasting for Inventory Management.
(<http://www.imaman.oxfordjournals.org/content/vol19/issue2/index.dtl>)
- The UK-based Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council provided funding to run a research project on the subject of 'Forecasting and Inventory Management: Bridging the Gap'.
(http://www.mams.salford.ac.uk/CORAS/Projects/Bridging_the_Gap/).
- A pre-conference workshop on Intermittent Demand Forecasting was held at the 28th International Symposium on Forecasting (Nice, June, 2008). This included a session from Ruud Teunter focussing on inventory aspects of this topic. (Please see attached PowerPoint presentation).
- The Journal of the Operational Research Society has agreed to publish a special issue on Supply Chain Forecasting and Planning. (Please see attached call for papers).

The General Assembly agreed that it would be consistent with ISIR's mission to establish a new section of the society to promote research and implementation of new approaches to forecasting

for inventory management. The new section aims to attract new researchers to this field and to membership of ISIR.

The following activities are planned for the new section:

1. ISIR Symposia. It is planned to make Forecasting for Inventories an established stream of the ISIR Symposia, from 2010 onwards.
2. Reciprocal arrangement with the International Institute of Forecasters. It is proposed to request the International Institute of Forecasters (IIF) to sponsor the new stream on Forecasting for Inventories, on the understanding that the ISIR will sponsor an equivalent stream at the International Symposium on Forecasting during those years when there is no ISIR Symposium.
3. Launch Bibliography on ISIR Web-Site. It is planned to launch an electronic bibliography on Forecasting for Inventories, to be hosted on the ISIR web-site.

If you have any other suggestions, or wish to be involved in the new section of the society in any way, please contact me directly (john.boylan@bucks.ac.uk).

John Boylan, Section Chair, Forecasting for Inventories

ISIR Summer School and Workshop in 2009

It was agreed at the Symposium that we shall organize the Eighth ISIR Summer School on Inventory Modelling in 2009. Professor Danuta Kisperska-Moron kindly volunteered to host the school.

Timo Pirttilä has had a great initiative: a special ISIR workshop entitled „Managerial and organizational issue of inventories in supply chains“.

Further details about both meetings will come soon. Both are tentatively planned for late August 2009.

NEWS FROM ISIR MEMBERS

- **Sven Axsäter**, professor emeritus at the division of Production Management, Lund University, and active in the Vinn Excellence Center NGIL (Next Generation Innovative Logistics) has been selected by the Manufacturing and Service Operations Management Society (MSOM) as recipient of the **2008 Distinguished Fellow Award**. MSOM is the largest subdivision of INFORMS (Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences), which is the premier society in its field. By the Distinguished Fellow Award MSOM recognizes outstanding research and scholarship in operations management. Sven Axsäter is the first MSOM fellow outside North America. In 2005 Sven Axsäter was awarded the Harold Larnder Memorial Prize by the Canadian Operational Research Society for distinguished international achievement in Operational Research.
- **Attila Chikán** has received an **Honorary Doctorate degree from Lappeenranta University of Technology**. Talking about this great honor he emphasizes that he believes that ISIR activities played a very important role in choosing him by this distinguished university.
- **International Journal of Inventory Research**
The inaugural issue of the International Journal of Inventory Research is now available (<http://www.inderscience.com/ijir>). A brochure introducing the journal can be downloaded from that website. We are discussing discounts for ISIR members with the publisher and will come back to you regarding the outcome shortly.

CALL FOR PAPERS

- **OR creating competitive advantage**
23rd European Conference on Operational Research
Bonn, July 5 - 8, 2009

Anders Segerstedt, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden will organize a session on the Economic Lot Scheduling Problem (ELSP) and its belonging inventory control problem during EURO 2009. You are invited to a presentation, and also to suggest other researchers whom should be invited.
Contact: Anders.Segerstedt@ltu.se

- **Journal of the Operational Research Society**
Special issue on „Supply Chain Forecasting and Planning“
Submission deadline: April 30, 2009

Brief description of the topic

Supply chain management depends upon the quality of forecasting and planning. This is an area that has benefited, over many years, from Operational Research interventions. Traditionally, OR improvements have been algorithmic, and work in this area continues to flourish. However, in recent years, OR work has broadened to include whole system planning using control theory and a re-discovery of the role of System Dynamics. There has been increased interest, too, in the role of human judgement in forecasting and the scope for organisational learning. Related research into information systems to support forecasting and supply chain planning is becoming increasingly important.

Papers are invited for a special issue on "Supply Chain Forecasting and Planning" of the Journal of the Operational Research Society. Empirical and theoretical papers that consider this topic and make a significant contribution to the field will be considered for publication. Real-world applications and case-studies are particularly welcome.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Bullwhip effect in the supply chain
- Forecasting support systems
- Hierarchical forecasting
- Knowledge sharing and organisational learning
- Logistic planning systems
- Multi echelon supply chains
- Performance measurement and management
- Product categorisation for forecasting and logistics planning
- System dynamics.

Deadlines and submission instructions

Papers should be submitted through the journal's online submission system on the OR Society's website (www.orsoc.org.uk) by clicking on the 'Submit paper - JORS' button. Instructions for authors can be found at <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jors/index.html>. Please indicate that your paper is being submitted to the Special issue on 'Supply Chain Forecasting and Planning' by mentioning this on the 'explanation of the contribution' field on the submission page.

Special issue editors

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