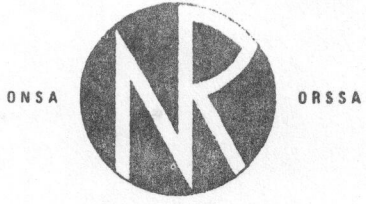


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OPERATIONS RESEARCH SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA
OPERASIONELE NAVORSINGSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

NUUSBRIEF
NEWSLETTER

JULIE 1975
JULY

NEWS FLASHES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

+ IFORS:

Although at the time of writing the triennial IFORS conference is already past, members will be interested to learn that ORSSA was represented. At the last moment Dave Masterson, society archivist and a past president, was able to travel to Tokyo. We look forward to a report from him.

+ TIMS/ORSA:

The society has received communication from the organizers of The Institute of Management Sciences/Operations Research Society of America 1976 Joint National Meeting (31 March - 2 April, Philadelphia, USA). This letter reads in part:

"Our plans for International Sessions related to our theme of 'Spirit of Inter-Dependence' are beginning to take shape but are still not complete. A format being considered is to have a plenary session on 'The World as a System' featuring keynote presentations on the global problems of energy, food and regional development followed by additional sessions containing contributions in areas related to this theme.

We would appreciate the suggestion of topics to be included in these sessions and also the name of a person who could serve as an official delegate from your organization and with whom we could correspond to develop this portion of the program".

Members having an interest in this subject may contact the ORSSA secretary, Mike Roberts.

+ UK Operational Research Society:

Notice of the annual conference of the British Operational Research Society (Loughborough, 23-26 September) was given in our last newsletter. More details have now come to hand, and are obtainable from the ORSSA secretary or editor. Of interest are the topics of the special presentations:

OR in British Nuclear Fuels

OR in British Leyland

The Role of Universities in Educating OR professionals (by that old friend of ORSSA, Professor Pat Rivett)

History of OR in the Steel Industry
OR in Coal Mine Planning and Exploration
Computer Evaluation in Hospitals

The address again:

The Operational Research Society,
Neville House,
Waterloo Street,
BIRMINGHAM B2 5TX.
U.K.

SITUATION SOUGHT

A member of the Society, at present resident outside the country, is seeking a post in South Africa from September onwards. This is a person with an engineering degree, post-graduate diploma in OR, and experience in the Mining Industry.

A full curriculum vitae is available from the secretary of ORSSA.

ADRES ONBEKEND/ADDRESS UNKNOWN

Pos wat aan die volgende lede van die vereniging gestuur is, is teruggestuur "onbekend/unknown":

Mrs. Betty Ball
N. Harding
I.R. Kantor
A.G. Marketos
C.S. Woollaston

If anyone has contact with any of these members, please urge them to inform the Society of their current abodes.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INFORM THE SOCIETY OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS / ONTHOU
ASSEBLIEF OM DIE VERENIGING IN KENNIS TE STEL VAN VERANDERING IN ADRES

SEMINAAR OOR KWALITEIT/SEMINAR ON QUALITY

BESOEK VAN PROF. MASING/VISIT OF PROF. MASING

During August Prof. Masing will be conducting a number of two-day seminars on quality assurance. These seminars, jointly sponsored by MOBIL and SABS, will be held in Johannesburg (5-6 August), Durban (12-13), Port Elizabeth (18-19), Cape Town (21-22) and Pretoria (26-27). More details are obtainable from local offices of the SABS.

Prof. Masing, die huidige President van die Duitse Genootskap vir Kwaliteit, is waarskynlik die toonaangewendste Europeër wat op die terrein van kwaliteitsversekering werksaam is. Op Donderdag 28 Augustus praat hy by die Universiteit van Pretoria oor:

"Quality Control: from Craft to Science"

Hy sal aandag gee aan die kwaliteitskonsep in verhouding tot 'n verskeidenheid van produkte en prosesse en sal enkele probleme wat op die weg van die bereiking van dié oogmerk lê, bespreek. Voorbeelde sal gegee word en aanbevelings ter verbetering wat op ekonomiese oorewegings gegrond is, sal gedoen word.

(Verdere besonderhede oor tyd en plek is nog nie aan ONSA beskikbaar gemaak nie - dié kan later van die SABS verkry word.)

TAKNUUS/CHAPTER NEWS

PRETORIA

Die Pretoria-tak is tydens 'n vergadering op 10 Julie toegesprek deur mnr. E. Strauss van YSKOR. Sy onderwerp was: "Die toepassing van die teorie van stogastiese prosesse in die staalnywerheid".

Ter aanvang is 'n oorsig gegee van verskillende projekte binne YSKOR waarop operasionele navorsingstegnieke toegepas is. As gevolg van die kompleksiteit van die prosesse wat betrokke is, moet daar meestal van simulاسie gebruik gemaak word. Vir 'n strookmynprojek is 'n 0-1 lineêre programmeringsprobleem opgestel om optimale mynpraktyke te bepaal.

Voorts is 'n stogastiese model beskryf vir die minimering van wagtyd by 'n staalwals. Die model kan herlei word na 'n lineêre programmeringsprobleem. Die toepassing van die resultate van hierdie studie het gelei tot 'n verbetering van vyf persent in die benutting van die wals.

JOHANNESBURG

A meeting of the Johannesburg Chapter was held at the Sunnyside Park Hotel on Wednesday 25th June. The meeting was addressed by Dr. D.C. Limerick who is Senior Lecturer in Organisational Behaviour at the Graduate School of Business Administration, University of the Witwatersrand. His topic was "Can the operations research specialist really be a manager?"

The speaker explored the different roles of OR specialists in different kinds of organisational structures. He showed that questions such as

How can the OR specialist become an integrated member of the Executive team?

What levels of decision-making should be his concern?

How much authority - over whom and in what areas - should he have?

depend on both the kind of structure the organisation has assumed to deal with its technology and the way in which the specialist sees his managerial role.

This was a really excellent and thought-provoking talk. It is difficult to remember any other talk in recent years which engendered so much discussion amongst those present.

FOOT NOTE

At a recent OR meeting in the USA, a talk was given on "Astrological Operations Research - A new methodology for personal decision-making". This sounds like a good interdisciplinary subject for one of our chapters to consider! Any takers!

Week Courses in Operations Research and Statistics

Offered by: UNISA's Institute for OR and Statistics

Where: UNISA's Main Building, Muckleneuk, Pretoria

For whom: Quantitative Thinkers from the Private and Public Sectors

Object: To supply QT's with a Working Knowledge of the most often used quantitative techniques

When: (1) 15-19 September 1975 (2) 24-28 November 1975
(3) 2-6 February 1976

Subject: (1) OR (2) Statistics
(3) Further OR

Prerequisites: (1) Matric Mathematics (2) Matric Mathematics
(3) Course 1

Fee: A steal at R150 per course including course notes, lunches, teas and cocktail (made possible by high efficiency of Institute). Even better you get it for R400 if registration is for all three courses simultaneously.

Further information: Director Tuition, Room 6-48, P.O. Box 392, Pretoria 0001. Tel.: 42-3011 ext. 233.