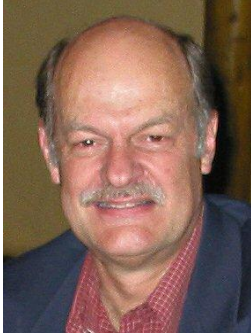




The Operations Research Society of South Africa



Category I Recognition Award

(To a retired member of ORSSA for outstanding contributions over a long period of time)

Hans Willem Ittmann

Citation. By Jan van Vuuren, on behalf of the Executive Committee of ORSSA.

Hans Willem Ittmann was born in Vrede (in the then Orange Free State) on June 9th, 1949. After matriculating with two distinctions from Salomon Senekal High School in 1966, he enrolled for the degree BMil (BSc) at Stellenbosch University – a qualification he obtained in 1970, whilst simultaneously qualifying as a pilot in the South African Air Force in 1968. He also obtained the degrees BSc(Hons) and MSc (both majoring in Operations Research) from the University of South Africa in 1977 and 1981, respectively. His MSc thesis topic was on a linear programming model for the South African Purse-Seine fishing industry. Finally, he obtained an MBA from the University of Pretoria in 1985 with a thesis on the scope and impact of decision support systems on organizations, for which he received the *Old Mutual Gold Medal for the Best MBA Student*.

From 1970 to 1973 Hans Ittmann was a lieutenant in the South African Air Force, serving as pilot at the Waterkloof and Swartkop Air Force Bases in 1972 and 1973. In 1973 he joined the National Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences at the CSIR, as Chief Specialist Researcher. He was promoted to Head of the Operations Research and Statistics Division of the CSIR in 1986. Thereafter he was manager and programme manager in various capacities at a number of divisions of the CSIR, most notably the Centre for Advanced Computing and Decision Support (1987-1991), Decision Support Services (1991-1997) and the Centre for Logistics and Decision Support (2003-2005). Since 2006 he has held the positions of acting executive director and later executive director of the Built Environment division of the CSIR. He will be retiring from the CSIR at the end of November 2011 after an illustrious career at that organisation, spanning 38 years, during which time he has done much to promote the profession of operations research at the CSIR.

Hans has been a member of ORSSA since 1973 and has served on the Executive of ORSSA on a near-continual basis for the last 32 years – first as Pretoria Chapter Chair (1979-81), then two stints as National Treasurer of ORSSA (1982-85 and 1987-88), as Business Manager of ORiON (1985-93), twice as President of ORSSA (1987 and 2002-03) and since 2004 as IFORS Representative. He has twice received the prestigious Tom Rozwadowski Medal (first with TJ Stewart in 1978 and later with DC Currin in 1985). Hans has also been a member of INFORMS (since 1980), a member of the Statistical Association of South Africa (since 1991), a member of the Operational Research Society of the United Kingdom (since 1993), and a member of the Council of Logistics Management of America (since 1995). In addition he has served on the editorial and advisory boards of a number of journals, has edited the IFORS Newsletter and has organised a large number of national and international operations research conferences, including the 18th Triennial Conference of IFORS which took place in Sandton in 2008. He has published 22 peer-reviewed papers, a large number of technical reports and popular articles in various newsletters and newspapers, and has delivered more than 70 conference papers. He has acted as external examiner for theses at a number of universities, both locally and abroad, and has also done a sterling job in publicising the potential power of operational research prediction models in his regular appearances on national television as analyst of early election results since 1999. His contribution to operations research in South Africa has been invaluable – indeed too great to quantify.

During a closed electronic ballot in August 2011, the Executive Committee of ORSSA duly and unanimously decided to recognize the significant contributions by Hans Ittmann in his capacities of model builder, promoter, facilitator and protector of the profession of operations research over a period of nearly 40 years, both at the CSIR and within ORSSA, by presenting him with a Recognition Award (Category I: To a retired member of ORSSA for outstanding contributions over a long period of time). I call on the President to present the award to Hans Willem Ittmann.