Newsletter 46 of EUROPT

EUROPT - The Continuous Optimization Working Group of EURO

https://www.euro-online.org/websites/continuous-optimization/

July 2020

In this issue:

Words from the Chair

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Managing Board welcome to the 46th EUROPT Newsletter. I hope you and your families are all healthy and safe. While editing the previous newsletter, we were not yet fully aware of the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruption that it was going to take into our lives. Some innovations in our work and activities are taking place, we are already starting to plan future activities in the hope that it will be safe to travel and meet again the next year. Our 2020 workshop should have taken place just a few days ago at ENAC in Toulouse, France. Though EURO 2021 is planned in Athens (11-14 July 2021), we decided to keep the same French location for the 2021 workshop. You can find the new dates of the workshop in the newsletter. My most sincere thanks to the local organising committee for all the hard work they have been doing and their availability to keep going on for 2021 as well.

Online elections for the new EUROPT Managing Board took place regularly at the end of June. I am pleased to report that the participation rate increased very meaningfully. A heartfelt thank goes to all the candidates and voters who showed how lively this community is. The renewed board is made up of 1 new member and 6 people from the previous board, respectively Miguel Anjos (The University of Edinburgh) and Paula Alexandra Amaral (Universidade Nova de Lisboa), Sonia Cafieri (École Nationale de l'Aviation Civile, Université de Toulouse), Dmitri Kvasov (Università della Calabria), Laura Palagi (Sapienza Università di Roma), Christiane Tammer (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg), Giancarlo Bigi (Università di Pisa). On behalf of the whole board I thank you all for your support and we are looking forward to providing a valuable service to our community. Please, feel free to email us your suggestions and opinions anytime, they will be really welcome. My most sincere gratitude goes to Andreas Grothey (The University of Edinburgh), who left the board, for his great service in the last six years.

The new EUROPT website https://www.euro-online.org/websites/continuous-optimization/ was released more than two years ago. The group is very large but still the member list on the website does not reflect it at all. Please, take a few minutes to register. Even if you already registered and you wish to, please log in again to give your explicit consent to make your profile public. Indeed, only registered users of the working group that explicitly gave consent to make their profile public appear in the member list. Thank you all.

Giancarlo Bigi, EUROPT Chair

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Elections of the EUROPT Managing Board

Dear EUROPT Members,

A new EUROPT Managing Board has been elected.
The results of the election are the following EUROPT Managing Board:

- **Paula Alexandra Amaral**, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
- **Miguel Anjos**, University of Edinburgh, UK
- **Giancarlo Bigi**, Università di Pisa, Italy
- **Sonia Cafieri**, ENAC, Université de Toulouse, France
- **Dmitri Kvasov**, Università della Calabria, Italy
- **Laura Palagi**, Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy
- **Christiane Tammer**, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Deutschland

The term of this board will be July 2020 - June 2022.

Thank you very much for taking part in the election.
We will try our best to continue the success of the EUROPT working group!

EUROPT Workshops

18^{th} EUROPT Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization
Toulouse, France, July 7-9, 2021

The 18^{th} EUROPT Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization - EUROPT 2021- will take place in **Toulouse**, France, from **July 7 to July 9, 2021**.
Please add the Workshop dates to your agenda!

The EUROPT Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization is the annual event of the EUROPT continuous optimization working group of EURO (The Association of European Operational Research Societies).

This 18^{th} edition was originally scheduled to be held on July 1-3, 2020 in Toulouse, and, due to the difficult situation around the world in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak, has been postponed to 2021.

It will take place a few days before the EURO 2021 conference, that will be held in Athens on July 11-14, 2021.

EUROPT 2021 will be hosted by ENAC - École Nationale de l'Aviation Civile, in Toulouse, the "pink city" in southern France.

More information about EUROPT 2021 will be disseminated via the website https://europt2021.recherche.enac.fr/ (available shortly).

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Toulouse!

Sonia Cafieri, sonia.cafieri@enac.fr
EUROPT 2021 Program Committee Chair
On behalf of the EUROPT 2021 Organizing Committee

Call for site pre-proposals: ISMP 2024

The Symposium Advisory Committee (SAC) of the Mathematical Optimization Society issues a call for pre-proposals to organize and host ISMP 2024, the triennial International Symposium on Mathematical Programming. ISMP is the flagship event of our society, regularly gathering over a thousand scientists from around the world. The conference is usually held in or around the month of August. Hosting ISMP provides a vital service to the mathematical optimization community and often has a lasting effect on the visibility of the hosting institution. This call for pre-proposals is addressed at local groups willing to take up the challenge of this great enterprise.

Preliminary bids will be examined by the Symposium Advisory Committee (SAC), which will then issue invitations for detailed bids. The final decision will be made and announced during ISMP 2021 in Beijing. Members of the SAC are:

- Luis Nunes Vicente, USA, chair
- Regina S. Burachik, Australia
- Xiaojun Chen, Hong Kong - China
- Sandra Augusta Santos, Brazil
- Stein W. Wallace, Norway
- David P. Williamson, USA
- John R. Birge, USA (ex officio)
- David Morton, USA (ex officio)

Preliminary bids should be brief and contain information pertaining to the

1. location,
2. facilities,
3. logistics: accommodation and transportation, and
4. likely local organizers

Further information can be obtained from any member of the SAC.
Please address your preliminary bids until October 15, 2020 to Luis Nunes Vicente (lnv@lehigh.edu).

Call for site pre-proposals: ICCOPT 2022

The ICCOPT Steering Committee of the Mathematical Optimization Society (MOS):

- Mikhail Solodov - Chair (IMPA, Rio de Janeiro, solodov@impa.br)
- Coralia Cartis (University of Oxford, Coralia.Cartis@maths.ox.ac.uk)
- Maryam Fazel (University of Washington, mfazel@ee.washington.edu
- Michael Hintermueller (Weierstrass Institute, Berlin, michael.hintermueller@wias-berlin.de)
- Angelia Nedich (Arizona State University, Angelia.Nedich@asu.edu)
- Takashi Tsuchiya (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, tsuchiya@grips.ac.jp)

is requesting proposals for organizing ICCOPT VII, the Seventh International Conference on Continuous Optimization, which is scheduled to be held in or around August 2022. Being the flagship conference of MOS in the area of continuous optimization, ICCOPT is held every three years at a site to be selected according to the criteria below. For information about the four prior ones, visit the WEB-sites:

https://iccopt2019.berlin/
http://www.iccopt2016.tokyo/
http://eventos.fct.unl.pt/
http://www.iccopt2010.cmm.uchile.cl/

The proposal for organizing ICCOPT VII should include the candidate site and Organizing Committee. Selection criteria for the site are based on the following considerations:

1. Existence of continuous-optimization researchers in the proposed geographic area who are interested in and can assist in the organization of ICCOPT VII.
2. Attendance open to prospective participants from all nations.
3. Availability of an attractive facility with a sufficient number of meeting rooms, standard lecture equipment, etc., preferably on a university campus.
4. Availability of a sufficient supply of reasonably economical hotels and/or university dormitory rooms fairly near the meeting facility.
5. Committee is interested in the most compelling proposal regardless of the continent.

Some characteristics of previous ICCOPT conferences:

1. The more recent such conferences usually had around 500-700 participants.
2. Plenary, semiplenary lectures, invited and contributed sessions, poster session and poster competition.
3. The length of the recent ICCOPT conferences ranged between 4 and 6 days.
4. A 1 or 2-day long tutorial workshop for graduate students.
5. Young Researchers Prize in Continuous Optimization.
6. Program and Prize committees formed in consultation with the Steering Committee.
7. Social events, student's social, banquet.
8. Reasonably low registration fee.

9. No financial or administrative support from MOS.
10. No proceedings of papers, no competitive selection of talks, but only one presentation per paid participant.

Further information can be obtained from any member of the Steering Committee.

Submission deadline: 12:00 GMT, August 31, 2020 to the Chair of the ICCOPT Steering Committee: Mikhail Solodov (solodov@impa.br).

Hosts of the candidate sites are encouraged to send an email as soon as possible to the Committee Chair to indicate interest to submit a proposal.

Reports

Report on Summer School on Large Scale Optimization in Indore, India

Current Practices of Operational Research in Emerging Economies

Modern workplaces demand attention, agility, openness, innovation so working professionals need platforms to update their skills to honor their professional engagements and sense of responsibility. Continuous shifts in business scenarios require working professionals to stay ahead and prepare well resulting in the dire necessity of career enhancing workshops. Keeping these requirements in mind, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Indore (https://www.iimidr.ac.in/), organized a one-week summer school to prepare participants for the challenges resulting from the pressures of ongoing economic, digital, organizational, environmental and societal transitions. Located in the heart of India, in the state of Madhya Pradesh, known for its rich cultural, educational and spiritual heritage, this institute offered the students a vista of experiences ranging from grassroot level to top notch corporate setups. Driven by the need of competitive education and growing corporate demand, Premium management institutes of India have started a unique program of training the working professionals from research, education and corporate backgrounds for a short duration of time. IIM organizes this event every year for a period of 1-2 weeks. Society of Operations Management and Indian Institute of Management, Indore, conducted this event in June 2019 with a focus of providing in-depth insights with hands on training in the field of Large-Scale Optimization in MILP and MINLP problems. The candidates were encouraged to participate with full enthusiasm and were requested to install AMPL and the CPLEX community package software, Python and/or Visual studio C++ on their laptops.

The seven-day workshop "Summer School on Large Scale Optimization" during 15th-22nd of June 2019 was designed to provide to early researchers, analyst and teaching professionals a platform for engagements in investigations, and facilitate awareness raising on increasing avenues in the field of Operational Research. The sessions provided valuable insights on scope and challenges of research opportunities and operational complexities in the developing countries. India being a developing country faces its own set of challenges in the field of Operational Research education. Academicians, researchers, and professionals often faced the challenges of irrelevance or inadequacies of data, over-emphasis on quantitative data leading to unmanageable or incomplete models, resulting in unsuitable or undesirable course of action. Developing countries could discard the traditional methods and opt for Operational Research models, aimed at specific problems of the respective country for concrete outcomes. This formed the premise for the workshop which witnessed a participation of more than 30 candidates from various backgrounds. This seven-day workshop was a unique initiative undertaken by IIM and provided the participants a considerable time period for optimum exposure and learning.

Indore is the first city to have both IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) and IIM. Organized by IIMs and IITs from all over India, the workshop included prominent speakers from varying backgrounds of management and technology from premium educational institutes of India. The sessions were presided over by the expert faculty members like Prof. G. Srinivisan (IIT-M), Prof. Yogesh Aggarwal (IIM-L), Prof Saurabh Chandra (IIM-I), Prof. Sachin Jaiswal (IIM-A), Prof. Anshuman Mahajan (IIT-B), Prof. Amit Vatsa (IIM-I), Prof. Hasmukh Gajjar (IIM-I).

Updated scientific information on *Efficient Mathematical Modelling in Integer Programming, Mixed Integer Programming, Mixed Integer Non Linear Programming, Lagrangian Relaxation, Column Generation, Dantzig-Wolfe Decomposition, Benders Partitioning, Cutting Planes, Valid Inequalities and Heuristics*, was imparted to the participants.

Multiple sessions were organized for a period of seven days to share knowledge on interventions, strategies or tools that can enhance the quality and coverage of Operational Research in the fields of education and industrial setups. Categorized according to experience and background of the participants, the sessions offered an exemplary atmosphere for discussions, comparisons, decision making backed by reasoning, maximum knowledge absorptions, and conversion of abstracts into frameworks. This was a way to encourage PhD and "Fellow Program in Management" participants, especially, in corporate setups, to understand the value of research education and its role in bringing changes in policies and practices. Adequate focus was given to qualitative and quantitative research methods, analysis using IBM CPLEX. Python and optimization software packages for first-time participants or those who were new to the research field.

Experts with international reputation having communicative and conceptual expertise and clarity created an encouraging collaborative and immersive environment for meaningful communications among participants. Towards the end of the seven-day program, two days were given to the participants, encouraging them to deliver their presentations, and deal with complex case scenarios. This offered them an excellent opportunity to learn from their own mistakes and get feedback from the best minds.

Participants presented on various topics about recurring themes of supply chain challenges, forecasting related to uncertain situations of demand and supply, routing issues of shipping cargos, and multiple other topics. Participants bonded well with each other, forming groups for healthier discussions after the sessions resulting in many memorable friendly moments. The participants were contended with judicious use of their time and resources. The workshop concluded with an interesting tour of the historic city of Indore. The event ended with a Gala Dinner. It arranged and created wonderful memories for participants encouraging them to engage in similar research opportunities in future, too.

Enjoying community between professors and doctoral students in Indore; from the left, the 3rd: Prof. Dr. Sadia Samar Ali, the 5th: Prof. Dr. Amit Vatsa, the 6th: Prof. Dr. Saurabh Chandra, and the 7th: Prof. Dr. Sachin Jaiswal.

Summer School on Large Scale Optimization in Indore; sitting: Prof. Dr. G. Srinivisan; kneeling: the 1st: Prof. Dr. Sachin Jaiswal; standing, in 1st row, from the left, the 1st: Prof. Dr. Sadia Samar Ali; standing, in last row, from the left, the 1st: Prof. Dr. Amit Vatsa, the 2nd: Prof. Dr. Saurabh Chandra; the remaining ones are doctoral students.

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Report on 16th World Congress on Business and Entrepreneurship Development in a Globalized and Digitalized Era Celebrated in New Delhi, India

Current managerial education requires scholars to stay relevant and keep pace with constantly evolving field of education. It is imperative that these candidates receive quality education exposure, and necessary scholarships and collaborations for continuation of their educational journey. This happens when they find suitable knowledge gaining and sharing platforms and enter the right network for strengthening their professional ties. Business and academic conferences, workshops and seminars have assumed importance as they provide unique learning opportunities, career building options and allow scholars to become research active and confident through exposure to the right audience. *Academy for Global Business Advancement* (AGBA) has been showing keen interest in these activities over past decades through collaborations with world-class business and educational organizations.

As a part of their annual practices of continuation of excellence in educational exposure, AGBA (http://www.agba.us) brought together entrepreneurs, government officials, business professionals, researchers, academic scholars, corporate delegates, industry practitioners, consultants, and heads of major government-owned and private enterprises from across the world, for their 16th World Congress. The event was organized in the national capital of India, New Delhi, during **July 1-3, 2019**. It witnessed enormous national and global participation from well-established and reputed organizations in the field of power, hospitality, telecom, finance, education, civil and corporate administration.

AGBA co-organized this conference with Indian Institute of Management Rohtak (State of Haryana), India (http://www.iimrohtak.ac.in/), and Millikin University, Decatur, (http://millikin.edu/tabor) Illinois, USA, GIFT Society (India) (http://giftsociety.org/) and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (https://home.iitd.ac.in/).

Special Issues of globally acclaimed journals like The Journal of Business Research (Special Issue) (https://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-business-research/call-for-papers/ thematic-literature-reviews-bibliographic-and-meta-analyses); European Journal of Business (Special Issue) (https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/services/authors/calls-for-papers?id=8578); Service Industries Journal (Special Issue) (https://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-business-research/call-for-papers/ thematic-literature-reviews-bibliographic-and-meta-analyses); Journal of Strategic Marketing (Special Issue) (https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0965254X.2019.1572272) were main publishing supporters of the conference.

Three days events were organized at two different hosting venues: Indian Institute of Technology Delhi campus in Hauz Khas, and Jaypee Vasant Continental, a 5 Star Hotel in Delhi https://www.jaypeehotels.com/hotel/jaypee-vasant-continental-new-delhi.

The objectives of this interactive platform were to foster critical interactions on ever evolving and complicated business scenarios through presentations, research papers and business discussions. It also meant to strengthen connections between experts and doctoral students to broaden their research learning domain and offer them excellent professional networking platform. The conference intended to enrichen the faculty experience through one-to-one mentoring of selected doctoral students by globally renowned scholars and by offering them opportunities to publish in Scopus indexed journals. Participants were encouraged to explore study abroad

programs, joint degree programs with overseas universities and global internships, global fellowships such as US Fulbright Scholar Program and to explore opportunities to publish in a McGraw Hill sponsored "Monograph Book".

The theme of the conference was "Business and Entrepreneurship Development in a Globalized and Digitalized Era" and covered all major functional areas of Business Administration and modern OR, e.g., Accounting, Economics, Commerce, Operations, Finance, Information System, Management, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, International Business, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Business Law, Corporate Social Responsibility, Ethics, Agricultural Economics, Healthcare Management, and Recreation Resource Management.

The conference started on July 1 with its inauguration ceremony followed by welcome address by esteemed academic and corporate dignitaries. This was followed by 16 Faculty Development workshops in three modules throughout the day along with coffee/tea breaks and lunch. The events scheduled for first day were organized at IIT Delhi and covered workshops on themes of Development of American style doctoral program; design of "Executive Doctoral Program" for working professionals; development of world-class research model; crafting a world-class manuscript for publication in Scopus and Thomas Reuters ISI indexed journals; learning use of NEW statistical techniques in business research and to employ NEW pedagogical tools in teaching; Techniques of writing local cases and integrating cases in teaching; Techniques of earning AMBA, EQUIS, and AACSB accreditations. The first day events of conference were chaired by Don Capener, Sanjay Dhir, Dheeraj P. Sharma, Shivendra K. Pandey and Viput Ongskakul.

The second day witnessed paper presentations by almost 500 research scholars in 25 parallel sessions on broader themes of business management and educational research. The sessions chaired by Prof. Sadia Samar Ali had 28 scholars who presented their work on the themes of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy. More than 200 scientific papers were presented by authors from 20 different nationalities. The proceedings of the day culminated with Award Ceremony chaired by Dr. Christopher J. Marquette, Conference Director and Program Chair, Millikin University, USA. A tour of the beautiful national capital was organized in the evening to offer cultural and culinary delights to the participants. On the third day of conference one-on-one mentoring was provided to the selected doctoral candidates by the patron of AGBA and other esteemed dignitaries. Awards were distributed in the categories of "Best Paper Award" in each category, "2019 AGBA Best Doctoral Dissertation Award", "2019 AGBA Distinguished Entrepreneur Award", "2019 AGBA Distinguished Dean Award", and "2019 AGBA Distinguished Corporate Leader Award". The conference concluded with a vote of thanks by Zafar U. Ahmed, AGBA's President and CEO, which was followed by a Gala Lunch for all the dignitaries and selected participants from USA, Europe, Middle East, and Central Asia.

Latha Karunakaran (India), Evaline Jerotich Bartoch (Kenya) and Sadia Samar Ali (Saudi Arabia) (from left to right)

An MBA scholar (Indonesia), Prof Ibu Sylvi (Indonesia), Nandita Raj (India) and Sadia Samar Ali (from left to right)

Latha Karunakaran (India), Sadia Samar Ali and a student coordinator (IIT Delhi, Delhi) (from left to right)

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Report on Smart and Sustainable Supply Chain Management Successfully Analyzed in Konya, Turkey, City of Antiquity and Modernity

Lean & Green Supply Chain Management Lab at Konya Chamber of Commerce (KTO) Karatay University (https://lgscmlab.karatay.edu.tr/index.html) was founded in 2017 under the directorship of Dr. Turan Paksoy, professor at Department of Industrial Engineering of Konya Technical University. One of the main objectives of the Lean & Green Supply Chain Management Lab is to provide a virtual environment for professionals, academics and students who are dedicated to enhancing their studies on lean and green manufacturing philosophy and techniques. Furthermore, the lab offers technical consultancy services to companies that are practicing lean and green manufacturing in the region. The lab organizes an annual international workshop series to bring together professionals who discuss the current trends that will shape the future of supply chain management. Since classical antiquity when it was called Iconium, Konya has been a center of culture and economy.

The 2nd International Annual Workshop on Lean and Green SCM was held on November 21, 2019 (https://lgscmlab.karatay.edu.tr/workshop.html). This focused event was titled *Industry 4.0: Digital Transformation* and aroused considerable interest from the academic and business world. After the Opening Speeches by the President of Konya Chamber of Commerce Karatay University, Dr. Bayram Sade, and the director of Lean & Green Supply Chain Management Lab, Dr. Turan Paksoy, Invited Speakers addressed the audience: Dr. Sercan Demir gave his presentation on "Industry 4.0: Digital Transformation", which was followed by the talk on "Block Chain Technology in Supply Chain Management" by Dr. Abdullah Yildizbasi, and a presentation on a Model Smart Factory by Mr. Mustafa Izzet Otgün.

In his opening speech, Dr. Paksoy said: "...First of all, [...] Lean-Green Supply Chain Management [...] forms the theme of our laboratory. In order to become more competitive in the global market, respond quickly to customer needs and gain an advantage in an international business environment, many business managers focus on increasing the efficiency of Supply Chain Management (SCM)."

A supply chain is a professional business network consists of various actors such as suppliers, manufacturing facilities, distribution centers and distribution channels between them, transforms raw materials into final products, and organizes the delivery of these final products to customers. Increasing impacts of climate change, environmental awareness of societies and legal regulations enacted by the governments, decreasing resources and profit margins; increasing need and importance for sustainability have become more evident in the past few decades. In this process, SCM has been transformed into a cyclical and sustainable structure by collecting used products from the end-users. Hereby, the concept of "Closed-Loop Supply Chain Management" or "Sustainable SCM" emerged.

Due to increasing environmental awareness and the importance of sustainability, sustainable SCM has started to gain more attention from academicians and practitioners. This structure, in the literature called as the Sustainability **Triple Bottomline Approach**, is built upon three main columns: environmental, social and economic factors. Recent researches show that the integrated use of sustainable tools and methods creates a synergy in organizations and simultaneously increases both operational and environmental performance. This is not surprising indeed, because one of the most popular economic paradigms used for continuous improvement

is Lean Manufacturing, and one of its main objectives, the reduction of waste (materials, water, energy, etc.), directly overlaps with the green philosophy.

On the other hand, competition in the market and cost pressures are increasing day by day, and businesses are trying to adapt to new technologies and new approaches in order to respond to increasing customer needs, to expectations of speed and flexibility. These technologies, which managers and businesses benefit from, were first addressed in Germany under the name *Industry 4.0* in 2011 to define the name of an era. Since then, all these technologies have drawn the attention of executives in the manufacturing and service industries, due to their ability to quickly collect, analyze, and make changes in the decision making process of business and supply chain management.

Thus, SCM has evolved into a new concept **Smart and Sustainable Supply Chain Management**, namely, **SCM 4.0**. SCM 4.0 includes connecting several physical items such as sensors, further newest devices and enterprise resources with each other and with the Internet; it uses emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS), Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Blockchain Technology (BCT), and Cloud Systems. The concept of SCM 4.0 can be defined as the inclusion of social and environmental thinking in all SCM activities, such as product design, workplace organization, supplier selection, on-site logistics, packaging, transportation, and product recycling, by using Industry 4.0 tools.

Smart and Sustainable SCM's philosophy and techniques eliminate environmental waste and make businesses more environmentally friendly by minimizing the use of natural resources through encouraging the reuse and recycling of raw materials, materials and products. Furthermore, this philosophy contributes to social development by automating repetitive and creativity-free jobs by developing business environments and new job descriptions suitable for human nature/creation. That philosophy also improves the economic performance of businesses by reducing production times and costs, and improving product quality and on-time delivery performance.

As a result, the concepts of SCM and environmental management have gained attention increasingly, especially in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as they provided competitive advantages in strategic organizational practices. Indeed, today, Smart and Sustainable Supply Chain Management (SCM 4.0) has emerged as an important approach for organizations that want to enhance their competitiveness with the help of the disruptive technologies of the Industry 4.0 era, and strive to make social and environmentally sustainable business in their markets.

In this workshop, we drew a comprehensive conceptual framework for Smart and Sustainable SCM and discussed the latest developments and practices of Digital Transformation and Industry 4.0 in terms of theory and practice.

Now, organizer Prof. Turan Paksoy expresses his respect and gratitude to Rector Prof. Dr. Bayram Sade, to Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Selcuk Oztürk, and thank all the speakers and participants for their support to our Laboratory and our meeting. The workshop ended with a Closing Session, including speeches, handing-over of honorary plaques, and a cheerful photo session. The attendees gladly agreed to meet again in Konya in 2021!

Prof. Dr. Bayram Sade (Rector of KTO Karatay University)

Prof. Dr. Turan Paksoy (Director of the Lean&Green SCM Lab)

Participants of 2nd International Annual Workshop on Lean and Green SCM'2019.

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Report on Conference Ergonomic Methods in Practice
Many faces of ergonomics
February 17-18, 2020, Zielonka, Poland

On February 17-18, 2020, a scientific conference entitled Ergonomic Methods in Practice was held - http://pterg.poznan.pl/news/. The participants of the conference were scientists dealing with issues in the area of human factors and ergonomics. During this year's edition of the event, organized by the Poznan branch of the Polish Society of Ergonomics and the Department of Applied Ergonomics at Poznan University of Technology in Zielonka (near Poznan, Poland), scientists gathered from many research and scientific centers of Poland, Finland, Turkey, the USA and India. Poznan Branch of Ergonomics is mainly supported by members of Faculty of Engineering Management, Poznan University of Technology, https://fem.put.poznan.pl, and it is an example of the development of cluster-based science. Initiated by Prof. Dr. Leszek Pacholski and Prof. Dr. Edwin Tytyk, actions to reinforce the role of Human Factors in management and technical-engineering dimension resulted in supplying Poznan with the largest number of ergonomists from all centers in Poland. Currently, Ergonomic Design grown at Poznan University of Technology gains a new dimension thanks to the methodical approaches of mathematics and operational research. A significant role in this area played Professor Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber, whose wide range of interests and willingness to take on new challenges allowed to increase the scientific impact of ergonomics center of Poznan. This combination of areas of research seems to be beneficial to all sides of scientific cooperation and at the same time allows you to create new areas of scientific research.

Organizers in action: Prof. Dr. hab. Eng. Marcin Butlewski and Dr. Eng. Krzysztof Hankiewicz, with participant Prof. Dr. hab. Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber (from left to right)

Presentations during the conference, lectures and workshops conducted ergonomic design for persons with disabilities were an excellent opportunity to highlight the wide range of issues related to ergonomics. Workshops carried out by Dr. Eng. Katarzyna Jach were very popular and allowed participants to familiarize themselves with the complexity of the issues of universal design concepts and usability. Designing for people with different levels of disabilities may be performed in many ways, but only the connection of understanding the existence of the problem (the sphere of scientific and practical awareness of it) with an appropriate methodology allows for obtaining practical and scientific results. Ergonomics permits to combine science with industry practice concerning the management of business enterprises, as shown in the introductory presentation on practical and theoretical problems in the selection of ergonomic evaluation methods in production by Prof. Dr. hab. Eng. Marcin Butlewski and MSc. Wiktoria Czer-

necka. The authors showed how ergonomics can be used to improve production processes in an enterprise, allowing for practical application of the phrase management by ergonomics. So far, this issue was treated only as a slogan, but a combination of risk management methods enables for a practical and scientific consideration of this problem. A very interesting lecture given by an international team led by Prof. Dr. hab. rer. nat. Gerhard Wilhelm Weber, which concerned the ability to recognize early signs of heart disease. Recognition signals from our body will mean much more than the current effectiveness of coping with diseases of civilization. These researches require a combined expertise in the fields of medicine, mathematics and machine learning techniques. This study is not the only example of the construction of early-warning systems, based on the knowledge from human body. This trend will certainly still grow in the near future. We live in a world of information, yet many of its sources remain undiagnosed. During the conference there were also presented the latest techniques in the field of pilot's stress recognition and the possibility of transferring these experiences for machine operators. Despite the significant development of knowledge of man, there is still much to be done in this regard. Interdisciplinary research characteristics for ergonomics allows taking on new challenges.

At the end of the first day of the conference was organized campfire, during which the participants continued their scientific discussions. One of the most important outcomes of the conference is to develop a new stream of research which is the ergonomic early-warning systems. This theme met with great interest. So far, this subject was undertaken on the basis of qualifications symptoms that were subject to human activities. Application in the area of machine learning techniques and logical-mathematical apparatus will significantly improve the efficiency of decision making systems. It should be expected in the near future reports regarding many further areas in the application of ergonomic early-warning systems.

Cheerfully together after a day of conference presentations

Ergonomic conferences give new chances as scientists combine ideas from different areas. Strong support came this time from mathematicians, Prof. Dr. hab. rer. nat. Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber, with PhD students MSc. Marta Kanczurzewska and MSc. Selma Gütmen, and Cand. MSc. Sabu Sibin (from right to left)

Friends from Wroclaw and Lodz Politechnics attended the Conference in Zielonka: Dr. Eng. Alekandra Sopinska and Dr. Eng. Katarzyna Jach (from left to right)

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Report on The World Speech Day Morocco-2020: an OR Guidance for Post Covid-19 Period

Inspiring Women's Perspectives

The World Speech Day Morocco-2020 (WSD Morocco-2020) has chosen to combine voices and perceptions and invite women from all over the world to imagine together the world of tomorrow: The resilient society we hope for after Covid-19. The WSD Morocco-2020 has been hosted in University of Mohammed Premier Oujda, in Morocco under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Saida Belouali (University of Mohammed Premier Oujda) with the theme "Women's perspectives on world post Covid-19" on June 17, 2020 at 15.00 (GMT + 01: 00). Due to the globally difficult times, the event has been organized online (https://meet.google.com/gny-tjrp-kbt). The official languages of the WSD Morocco-2020 have been in English, French and Arabic and, preferably, with English subtitles during the sessions.

The opening speech was given by the Rector of University of Mohammed Premier Oujda, Prof. Dr. Yassine Zarhloule. Besides, the chairman and the founder of the World Speech Day platform, Simon Gibson, said that this event, which was attended by experts from different countries of the world, with different perspectives, will help everyone in the period after Covid-19.

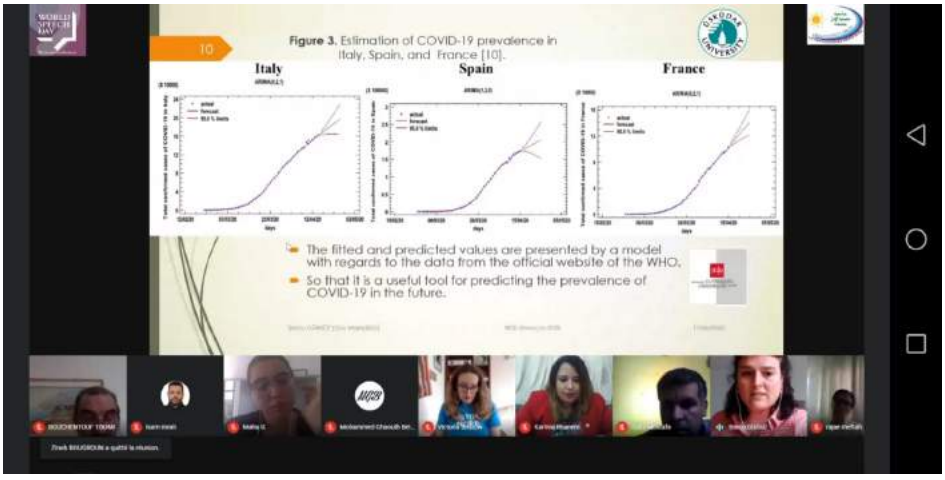
The WSD Morocco-2020 was mainly about understanding our "new normal" life styles, and the inspiring invited speakers from Morocco, Tunisia, France, Egypt, Norway, Haiti, Saudi Arabia, USA, Germany and South Africa who work in different fields of science and OR, introduced their experiences and studies during Covid-19 times to support people through guidance (https://www.facebook.com/World-speech-day-of-Morocco-2020-102451098057544/).

The official poster of WSD Morocco-2020 including the participants

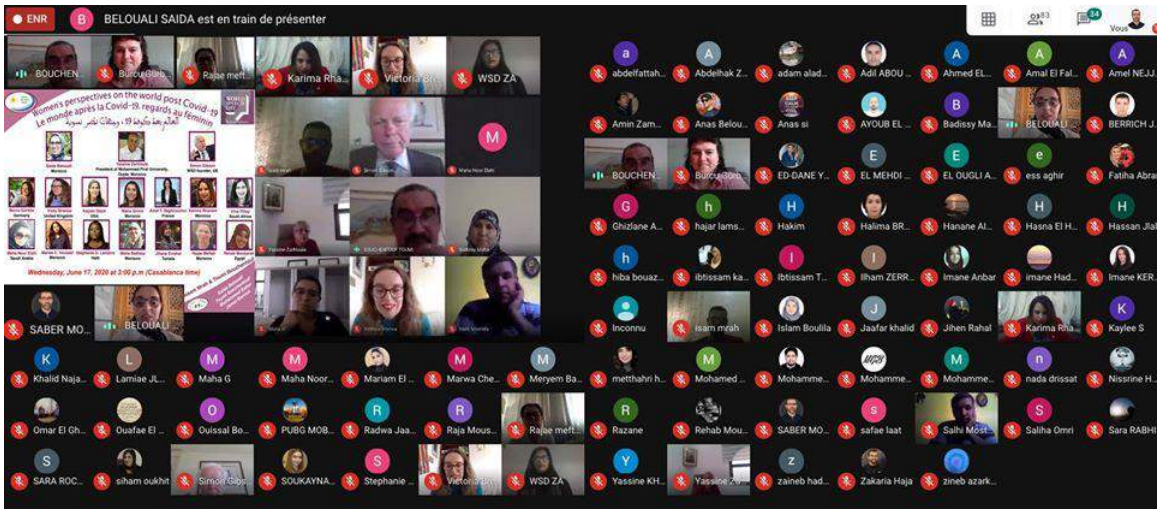
While Prof. Belouali and Vino Pillay (National Ambassador WSD South Africa) talked about the importance of communication and understanding of us, Kaylee Steck, who is officer and responsible for exchange programs at AMIDEAST, mentioned the current meaning of communication and change. Assist. Prof. Dr. Maha Gmira (School of Digital Engineering and Artificial Intelligence (EIDIA), Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes) made a very successful presentation on digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence applications after Covid-19. Vicky Bristow (PhD Candidate, MED School-University of East Anglia) emphasized the importance of unity and solidarity while addressing the "psychology" of Covid-19. Prof. Dr. Amal El Fallah Seghrouchni (Laboratoire d'informatique de Paris 6 (LIP6), Sorbonne University) provided information on ethical and "artificial Intelligence" practices.

At the event, Burcu Gürbüz (Post-doctoral Research Associate Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz, and Assist. Prof. at Usküdar University, Istanbul, Turkey) gave a talk titled *A Mathematical Approach to Covid-19*. She explained how Operational Research studies and mathematical applications in Biology have played an important role in medicine, healthcare and biology during the Covid-19 period. She also elaborated how OR techniques are useful and very important for making convenient decisions and strategical planning. Besides, some studies show that OR-based ideas play a crucial role to support academics, practitioners and policy makers with many topics in sectors such as supply chains, epidemiology, healthcare, social science, economy, logistics, resource allocation, agriculture, retail, energy, medicine and technology. In addition, she shared her personal experiences in academic life during the Covid-19 period, in particular at digital platforms and as a female academician. She gave messages regarding her "positive thinking" style and about holding on to her work which could play an important role in overcoming this period. Finally, her speech gained a lot of attention and she answered questions of listeners interested.

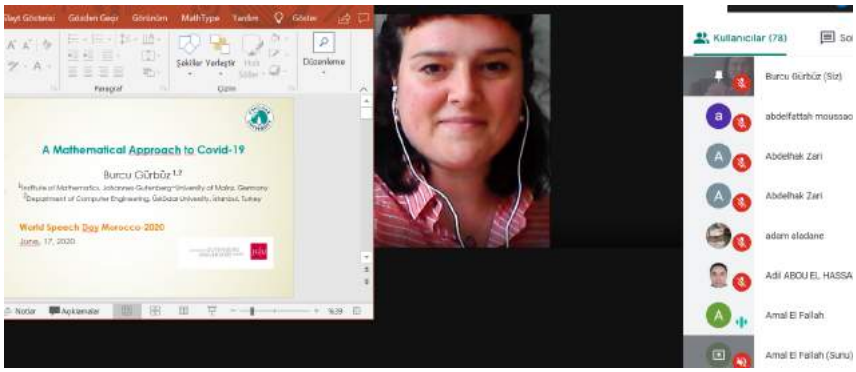
The World Speech Day (www.worldspeechday.com/) is a platform that encourages people to talk and share their ideas by organizing open events in more than 100 countries. The platform, which provides people with an environment which shows that they can build bridges with "world citizenship", also carries out joint studies with the British Council.



Dr. Burcu Gürbüz (JGU Mainz and Usküdar University) gives her speech. From left to right: Prof. Toumi Bouchentouf, Mr. Isam Mrah, Assist. Prof. Maha Gmira, MSc. Vicky Bristow, Ms. Karima Rhanem, Mr. Mostafa Salhi, Dr. Burcu Gürbüz, MSc. Rajae Meftah



Participants of WSD Morocco-2020, photo taken by Prof. Saida Belouali



Dr. Burcu Gürbüz and the list of the participants of WSD Morocco-2020

World Speech Day of Morocco-2020
Women's perspectives on the world post Covid-19
Le monde après la Covid-19, regards au féminin
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. (Casablanca time-GMT +01:00)
Language: Arabic, English, French.
Platform: Google Meet
https://meet.google.com/gny-tjrp-kbt
https://www.facebook.com/World-speech-day-of-Morocco-2020-102451098057544

Call for chapters

CALL FOR FULL CHAPTERS

https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/books/index.htm

Full Chapter Submission Deadline: 15th November, 2020

Sustainable Meta-heuristics Optimization: Innovation in Business and Technology

A book edited by Professor Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber (Poznań University of Technology, Poland), Dr. Ugo Fiore (Parthenope University, Italy), Dr. J. Joshua Thomas (UOW Malaysia, KDU Penang University College), Dr. Pandian Vasant (University Technology Petronas, Malaysia)

Introduction

Meta-heuristics are technique that is transforming the world of operational research, analytics and data science. Novel Optimization of this new methodology is still unclear, however, and there is a need for research on the various tools and applications and techniques of optimization in the field of business and industry.

Objective of the Book

Meta-heuristics Optimization: Innovation in Business & Technology provides details on cutting hedge methodologies utilized in business and industrial sectors. It gives a holistic background on innovative optimization applications, focusing on main technology sectors such as 5G networks, Industry 4.0, automation and robotics. It discusses topics such as hyper-heuristics algorithmic enhancements and performance measurement approaches, and provides insights into the implementation of meta-heuristic strategies to multi-objectives optimization real-life problems in business, economics and finance. With this book, readers can learn to solve real-world sustainable optimization problems effectively using the appropriate techniques from emerging fields including artificial intelligence, hybrid evolutionary and swarm intelligence, hyper-heuristics programming, and classical mathematical and many-objectives optimization. This innovative book will provide extensive huge benefits to new and young research scholars from all over the world.

Meta-heuristics Techniques and Optimization Strategies in business and industry world will highlight topics including big data analytics, 5G technology, and industry 4.0. This book is ideally designed for managers, IT experts, data scientists, practitioner, researchers, academicians, natural scientist, applied mathematicians, statisticians, and post graduates seeking current research on sustainable optimization methods and their application in the business and industry sectors.

Target Audience

This book will be very useful for managers, executives and post graduates students at the universities as well as college students. It can be served as a valuable library reference as well as the general interested public.

Recommended topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

Meta-heuristics Algorithms
Deep Learning
Hybrid Systems

Artificial Neural Networks
5G Networks
Industry 4.0
Financial Engineering
Big-Data Optimization
Differential Evolution
Evolutionary Algorithms
Fuzzy Logic
Swarm Intelligence
Human-Computer Interaction
Operational Research
Automation and Robotics
Drone Technology
Artificial Intelligence
Quantum Computing
Covic-2019
Data Technology
Agro-Engineering
Real-world applications in business and industry

Submission Procedure

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit the full chapter on or before 15th November 2020. Authors will be notified by 15th December 2020 about the status of their full chapters. All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis. Contributors may also be requested to serve as reviewers for this project.

Note: There are no submission or acceptance fees for manuscripts submitted to this book publication, *Sustainable Meta-heuristics Optimization: Innovation in Business and Technology*. All manuscripts are accepted based on a double-blind peer review editorial process.

Publisher

This book is scheduled to be published by Emerald Publishing Limited.
https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/books/index.htm

Important Dates

15th November, 2020: Full Chapter Submission
15th December, 2020: Review Results Returned
30th December, 2020: Final Acceptance Notification
24th January, 2021: Final Chapter Submission

Inquiries can be forwarded to

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CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTERS

Book Title: Advances of Deep Learning in Smart Cities and Industry 4.0

Publisher: Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Submission: https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=adlsci40

Editors

- Prof. Dr. Vasiliki Geropanta, Technical University of Crete, Greece
- Prof. Dr. Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber, Poznan University of Technology, Poland
- Dr. Joshua Thomas, UOW Malaysia; KDU Penang University College, Malaysia
- Dr. Pandian Vasant, University of Technology PETRONAS, Malaysia

ABOUT THE BOOK

Advances of Deep Learning in Smart Cities and Industry 4.0 is a collection of innovative research on the methods and applications of deep learning strategies in the fields of business, economics, finance, science, engineering and urban – spatial design. While highlighting topics including data hybridization, computational modeling, and artificial intelligence, this book is ideally designed for engineers, IT specialists, data analysts, data scientists, engineers, architects, researchers, academicians, and policy makers seeking current research on deep learning methods and its application in the smart technology industry.

Deep learning is a method that is transforming the world of data and analytics. Optimization of this new approach is still unclear, however. Moreover, there is a need for research on the various applications and techniques of deep learning in the fields of artificial intelligence and machine learning.

The readers across the globe are looking for wonderful material in order to provide the researchers the sufficient training of cutting-edge computation and intelligent deep learning optimization techniques to solve the complicated real world current problems. Compared with the other books, this book has a good combination of the theory introduction of advance meta-heuristics algorithm and hands-on artificial intelligence and machine learning projects. The selected demonstration problems are the hot topics in the smart cities and industry 4.0 fields. Therefore, it will become a good reference book for the young and new research scholars across the globe.

The suggested book will include the state of the art considering a number of evolutions in the domain never published before: The evolution of user-system interaction in relation to Automation, Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence from a human perspective and the role of these technologies in the post COVID period.

Recommended topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

Machine Learning and IoT
AI simulation design for IoT devices in Smart Applications
Autonomous Systems for Industrial Informatics Applications
Computer and Machine Interface in Smart Cities Applications
Cognitive Computing and Data Analytics Techniques for Smart Cities
Deep Learning for Unstructured Data (text, images, audio, video) generated by Smart Cities Applications
New Machine Learning Algorithms for Smart Cities
IoT for City Development, Intelligent Districts
Smart technologies, swarm fabrication and digital media for space and construction
Intelligent Vehicles and its Navigation for smart environments
Theoretical progress of smart cities and smart technologies in urban – spatial design.
Theoretical Progress of New Deep Learning Algorithms for Smart Cities
Semantic Models for Industrial Applications in Smart Cities
Optimization Algorithms for Deep Learning Problems
Measuring Deep learning in Operational Research practice

Target Audience

Policy makers, chief executive officers, governmental staff, academicians, research officers, post-graduates, scientist, educationist, industrialist, business leaders, entrepreneurs, engineers, city planners and decision-makers.

Submission Procedure

Authors are invited to submit the full chapter on or before 10th March 2021. Authors will be notified by 15th April 2021 about the status of their full chapters. All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis. Contributors may also be requested to serve as reviewers for this project.

Note: **There are no submission or acceptance fees for manuscripts submitted to this book publication**, ***Advances of Deep Learning in Smart Cities and Industry 4.0***. All manuscripts are accepted based on a double-blind peer review editorial process.

Guidelines for Book Chapters

Full chapters of 10000 to 12000 words are expected to be submitted and all authors must consult guidelines for manuscript submission at http://www.cambridgescholars.com/t/AuthorFormsGuidelines

Submission can be done online using following link on easy chair

URL: https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=adlsci40

Important Dates

10th March, 2021: Full Chapter Submission
15th April, 2021: Review Results Returned
22nd May, 2021: Final Acceptance Notification
24th June, 2021: Final Chapter Submission

ABOUT PUBLISHER

Cambridge Scholars Publishing is an independent academic publisher, committed to providing a forward-thinking publishing service that champions original thinking, whilst ensuring the authors at the heart of everything.

Founded by former lecturers and researchers from the University of Cambridge, publish original academic work across a wide range of subjects in four key areas: Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS); Health Sciences (HS); Physical Sciences (PS); and Life Sciences (LS).

Publications are marketed worldwide and sold through international booksellers and distributors including Amazon, Blackwell, Baker & Taylor, YBP and Ingram, and are widely purchased by academic libraries. In addition, the distribution partnerships are in key geographical territories such as the USA, China, India and the Middle East.

Indexing

Editors will submit the book to all leading databases including SCOPUS and BCI (WoS/ESCI) after publication.

Inquiries can be forwarded to

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CALL FOR FULL CHAPTERS

Scrivener Publishing

Full Chapter Submission Deadline: 10th May, 2021

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence in Renewable Energy and Climate Change

A book edited by Professor Valeriy Kharchenko (*Federal Scientific Agro-engineering Center VIM, Russia*), Anirban Banik (*NIT, Agartala, India*), Professor Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber (*Poznań University of Technology, Poland*), Dr. J. Joshua Thomas (*UOW Malaysia, KDU Penang University College)*, Dr. Pandian Vasant (*University Technology Petronas, Malaysia*)

Introduction

The rise in population and the concurrently growing consumption rate necessitates the evolution of clean energy systems to adopt current analytic and computational technologies such as big-data, IoTs and 5G technology to increase production at a faster and smoother scale. While existing technologies may help in energy processing, there is a need for studies that seek to understand how modern approaches like operational research, artificial intelligence, machine intelligence, hybrid technologies and advances in mathematics can aid to sustain clean energy and climate change processes while utilizing energy sources efficiently and productively.

Objective of the Book

The edited book on Introduction to *Artificial Intelligence in Renewable Energy and Climate Change* is an essential publication that examines the benefits and barriers of implementing computational models to clean energy systems, global warming, climate change, and energy sources as well as how these models can produce more cost-effective and sustainable solutions. Featuring coverage on a wide range of topics such as classical and nature-inspired optimization and optimal control, hybrid and stochastic systems, this book is ideally designed for engineers, scientists, industrialist, academicians, researchers, computer and information technologists, sustainable developers, managers, environmentalists, government leaders, research officers, policy makers, business leaders and students.

This book aims to be a delight for practitioners in the field of sustainable renewable energy sustainability and their outstanding impacts on how to face global warming and climate change.

Target Audience

This book is ideally designed for scholars and engineers, industrialist and government leaders, computer scientists and information technologists, sustainable developers and managers, environmentalists and research officers, academicians and researchers, policy makers and business leaders, and the youth.

Recommended topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

Artificial intelligence, Machine intelligence, Metaheuristic algorithms, Hydropower, Renewable electricity, Solar PV, Bio power, Geothermal power, Ocean power, Wind power,

Bio-gas, Hydrogen, Global warming, Climate change, Renewable energy, Hybrid technology, CO2 minimization, Evolutionary algorithms, Swarm intelligence, Computational intelligence, Soft computing, Operational research, Data mining, Hybrid optimization, Bioenergy Recycling, Biofuel supply chains, Energy management policy, Energy efficiency, Energy-saving technology, Small hydropower plants, Thermal treatments, Remote sensing, Optimization theory and applications, Optimal control theory and applications, Stochastic optimal control theory and applications.

Submission Procedure

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit the full chapter on or before **10th May 2021.** Authors will be notified by **24th July 2021** about the status of their full chapters. All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis. Contributors may also be requested to serve as reviewers for this project.

Note: There are no submission or acceptance fees for manuscripts submitted to this book publication, *Artificial Intelligence in Renewable Energy and Climate Change*. All manuscripts will undergo a double-blind peer review editorial process.

Guidelines for Book Chapter Contributors and Authors

Full chapters of 10,000 to 12,000 words are expected to be submitted and all interested authors must consult the guidelines for manuscript submissions at **http://www.scrivenerpublishing.com/guidelines.php**.

Important Dates

10th May, 2021: Full Chapter Submission
24th June, 2021: Review Results Returned
6th July, 2021: Final Acceptance Notification
24th July, 2021: Final Chapter Submission

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CALL FOR FULL CHAPTERS

https://novapublishers.com/

Full Chapter Submission Deadline: 15th March, 2021

Advances of Machine Learning in Clean Energy and Transportation Industry

A book edited by Professor Valeriy Kharchenko (Federal Scientific Agro-engineering Center VIM, Russia), Dr. Vladimir Panchenko (Russian University of Transport, Russia), Professor Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber (Poznań University of Technology, Poland), Dr. J. Joshua Thomas (UOW Malaysia, KDU Penang University College), Dr. Pandian Vasant (University Technology Petronas, Malaysia)

Introduction

This book presents the latest research of the field of machine learning, discussing the real-world application problems associated with new innovative renewable energy methodologies as well as cutting edge technologies in transport industry. The requirements and demands of problem solving have been increasing exponentially, and new artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies have reduced the scope of data coverage worldwide. Recent advances in data technology (DT) have contributed to reducing the gaps in the coverage of domains around the globe.

Objective of the Book

Attention to clean energy in recent decades has been growing exponentially. This is mainly due to a decrease in the cost of both installed capacity of converters and a decrease in the cost of generated energy. Such successes were achieved thanks to the improvement of modern technologies for the production of converters, an increase in the efficiency of using incoming energy, optimization of the operation of converters and analysis of data obtained during the operation of systems with the possibility of planning production. The use of clean energy plays an important role in transportation industry, where technologies are also being improved from year to year – transportation industry is growing, and machinery and systems are becoming more autonomous and robotic, where it is no longer possible to do without complex intelligent computing, machine learning optimization, planning and working with large amount of ocean of data.

Target Audience

The book is a valuable reference work for researchers in the fields of renewable energy, computer science and engineering with a particular focus on machine learning and intelligent optimization as well as for postgraduates, managers, economists and decision makers, policy makers, government officials, industrialist and practicing scientists and engineers as well compassionate global decision makers.

Recommended topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

Machine learning, Quantum Optimization, Modern Technology in Transport Industry, Innovative Technologies in Transport Education, Systems Based on Renewable Energy Conversion, Business Process Models and Applications in Renewable Energy, Clean Energy, and Climate Change.

Submission Procedure

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit the full chapter on or before **15th March 2021.** Authors will be notified by 24th **April 2021** about the status of their full chapters. All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis. Contributors may also be requested to serve as reviewers for this project.

Note: There are no submission or acceptance fees for manuscripts submitted to this book publication, *Advances of Machine Learning in Clean Energy and Transportation Industry*. All manuscripts undergo a double-blind peer review editorial process.

Publisher

This book is scheduled to be published by Nova Science Publishers, Inc.
https://novapublishers.com/

Guideline for manuscript preparation is given below:

https://novapublishers.com/authors-central/

Important Dates

15th March, 2021: Full Chapter Submission
24th April, 2021: Review Results Returned
10th May, 2021: Final Acceptance Notification
24th May, 2021: Final Chapter Submission

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Contacts

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People wishing to submit an announcement to the EUROPT mailing list should address their message to europt.di@listgateway.unipi.it. The message will then be distributed upon approval by the EUROPT Managing Board.

For specific questions, the members of the Managing Board can be contacted:

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Editor's notes

Dear members of EUROPT, dear readers,

We present in this Newsletter the renewed EUROPT Managing Board, that has recently been elected for the term July 2020-June 2022. I feel really honored to still be part of this board. Our deep thanks go to Andreas Grothey who left the board, while a warm welcome goes to Miguel Anjos who joins the board. We will certainly do our best to contribute to the success of the EUROPT working group.

During last months, the COVID-19 pandemic has provided numerous unforeseen challenges to us all, affecting the scientific communities as well. Similarly to many other conferences and events that have been postponed or cancelled, our annual event, EUROPT 2020, could not be held in Toulouse as originally planned. We are now looking ahead and already working on keeping the workshop alive: EUROPT 2021 will be held in Toulouse, at ENAC (as it was expected for the 2020 edition), on July 2021. We are pleased to announce in this Newsletter the dates for EUROPT 2021. Please add these dates in your agenda!

In this Newsletter you can also find a call for site proposal, for ISMP 2024 and for ICCOPT 2022. Reports on past events involving our community members, that could be held before the pandemic situation, as well as one recent event (The World Speech Day Morocco) organized in "virtual mode", and calls for chapters complete the Newsletter.

Thank you to everybody who contributed to this Newsletter. Please keep on sharing valuable informations for the EUROPT community.

The Newsletter Editor

Sonia Cafieri

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