

INFORMS 2012 highlights



Valentina Ferretti at the Grand Canyon, Arizona

The INFORMS annual meeting took place last month in sunny and fascinating Phoenix, Arizona, USA, October 14-17, 2012.

The general theme of the Conference was informatics rising and if you were not lucky enough to attend it, you can update yourself on all of its interesting sessions by following this link:

<http://meetings2.informs.org/phoenix2012/>.

With about 4000 participants coming from all over the world, the Conference covered the broad landscape of Operation Research and practice and brought together different research areas, applications and perspectives into a truly international meeting.

Taking into account that the mission of the IJAHP is to advance the use, education and development of the Analytic Hierarchy/Network Process (AHP/ANP) for decision-making, it is worth highlighting that this year there have been three AHP/ANP sessions during the INFORMS meeting. In a nutshell, the first AHP/ANP session, titled "AHP/ANP applications" and chaired by Professor Birsen Karpak, took place on Sunday the 14th and brought together contributions ranging from spatial ANP in the context of undesirable facilities location problems (Ferretti V.), to the evaluation of the performance of the Brazilian financial managers through the AHP (Autran L.F. and Andrade R.), to the evaluation of emergency distribution centers (Ozaydin O. and Topcu I.), to Cloud Computing Vendor Selection for the City of Pittsburgh (Mu E. and Stern H.). The second AHP/ANP session, titled "Applications of the Analytical Network Process" and chaired by Professor Orrin Cooper, took place on Monday the 15th and included contributions concerning moral and ethical decision-making processes (Adolphson D. and Cooper O.), the ability to measure intensity of preference (Sava G.M. and Vargas L.G.), fuzzy AHP and multi-objective problems (Meng C., Son Y.J. and Xu D.), and criteria weights dependencies from the alternatives (Cooper O. and Liu G.). The third AHP/ANP session, titled "AHP/ANP for sustainability" and chaired by Professor Birsen Karpak, took place on Wednesday the 17th and brought together research and applications in the information system field (Taraszewski S. and Karpak B.), for third party logistic companies evaluation (Bayazit O. and Karpak B.), in the sustainable supply chains domain (Karpak B. and Lamb C.) and in the women owned small businesses field (McMahon A. and Karpak B.).

All these sessions have the merit of having provided very interesting applications in many different fields, thus stimulating the debate on further research concerning methods to make better decisions and supplying important cues for future developments.

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