INFORMS 2014 Highlights

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The INFORMS 2014 Conference took place in sunny and welcoming San Francisco, one of the most fascinating cities in beautiful California. This conference was a huge success with more than 5000 participants and many interesting events, including the 50th anniversary of Decision Analysis!

The conference theme, "Bridging Data and Decisions," reflected the broad scope of what was covered, from data analytics to new optimization and analysis methodologies to models and practical applications pertinent to numerous industries and research fields. In addition, a very distinguished group of keynote and plenary speakers headlined the program.

The four days of the Conference (November 9-12) 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. In particular, several interesting studies dealing with the AHP and ANP were presented. To name a few inspiring ones, Magda Gabriela Sava, Jerrold May and Luis Vargas proposed a study dealing with sensitivity analysis for Analytic Network Models; Daisuke Amano and Yasutaka Kainuma suggested the development of a customer satisfaction function based on Kano's Quality Model and the AHP; Halil Cobuloglu and Esra Buyuktahtakin developed a stochastic AHP Model for Sustainable Biomass Crop Selection; Lin Su, Bing Gou, Xia Wang and Xin Zheng evaluated the degree of city-production integration of Shanghai High-tech industrial park by applying the fuzzy AHP; William Fox proposed modeling and sensitivity analysis to MADM overlay and used the AHP to find node influences in the Noordin Dark Network; and Fesseha Gebremikael, Iddrisu Awudu and Khalid Bachkar developed a deterministic model using the AHP for agriculture feed processing supply chain modeling.

All the presentations highlighted a wide tool box, extending the AHP into exciting new directions and relevant applications for business and society which bridge the gap between research and practice. In conclusion, this shows that the AHP community had strong presence at the INFORMS annual meeting. Let's start thinking about contributing to the next meeting which will take place in Philadelphia this autumn!

Valentina Ferretti in Point Reyes, heading north from San Francisco after the Conference