

## Editorial Introduction

This is a special issue of the Brazilian Journal of Operations and Production Management that presents some of the best papers of the International Conference on Production Research - ICPR Americas 2006.

The third edition of the ICPR was held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 30th July to 2nd August, 2006. The general theme of the conference was Rethinking Operation Systems: New Roles of Technology, Strategy and Organization in Americas' Integration Era. The event was organized by the Brazilian Association of Production Engineering (ABEPRO), and the Industrial & Systems Engineering Graduate Program (PPGEPS) of the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PUCPR). Besides these organizations, the event was also sponsored by the International Foundation for Production Research (IFPR), Federação da Indústrias do Estado do Paraná (FIEP), Universidade da Indústria (UNINDUS), Banco do Brasil, Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES), FESTO, HSBC, Revista PM, and Conselho Regional de Engenharia, Arquitetura e Agronomia do Paraná (CREA-PR).

About 200 papers were submitted coming from Americas and abroad. The conference received papers from Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, England, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, Russia, Turkey and United States. This confirmed the success and the growing prestige this event is getting among worldwide community.

A double-blind review process selected around 100 papers for oral presentations (allocated in 5 technical sessions) and 30 papers as posters. Among them, best ones were selected and the authors were invited to submit a more robust article. Then, these papers were double-blind reviewed and some of those that achieved the higher marks were selected to be part of this issue.

### **In this Issue**

The subject of the first paper, by Martín G. Marchetta and Raymundo Q. Forradellas (National University of Cuyo, Argentina), is feature recognition to create a manufacturing process plan, in such a way that learning is embedded in plan libraries in order to achieve plan recognition. The second paper, by Luis E. Quezada, F. Córdova, P. Palominos (University of Santiago of Chile, Chile) and Christopher O'Brien (University of Nottingham, England), deals with performance measurement in manufacturing firms, proposing a model to formulate manufacturing strategies in small and medium companies. This paper is followed by the study of Carlos Montoya and Gonzalo Mejía (University of Los Andes, Colombia). It is dedicated to solve

workforce scheduling problems proposing a heuristic algorithm for this purpose. The subject of the fourth paper, by Sıtkı Gözlü and Aylin Coskun (Istanbul Technical University, Turkey), surveys eighty Turkish consultancy firms to define criteria of success in consulting operations. In the last paper of this issue, Eduardo Yamasaki Sato (University of Sussex, England), Dario Eduardo Amaral Dergint and Kazuo Hatakeyama (Federal Technological University of Paraná, Brazil), bring a study related to the dynamics of capabilities in an environment of technological change in the telecommunications industry.

We expect to have brought relevant issues as well as innovative approaches in the research of production/industrial engineering and operations management communities not only in the Americas but also from overseas.

We would like to thank ABEPRO Executive Board and the BJOPM Editorial Board for this opportunity.

This issue closes with ABEPRO's executive and ABEPRO's Editorial Board (NEA).

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