

Forewords



Tour around Habana Vieja

The 5th International Conference on Operations Research was hosted by Universidad de La Habana and was co-organized by Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia. Madrid. IMU. DAAD and Hans Seidel Foundation gave financial support to the conference as well as different national institutions. It took place in March, 2001.

By the time the conference ended 200 delegates have been involved in delivering invited lectures, contributed papers and participating in 2 Round Tables with a goofed number of mathematicians, statisticians, operation researchers and other specialists with leadership in the thinking of the their respective themes.

The conference was a success in both the quality and the organization. The traditional Cuban hospitality as well as some random events were coloured by the good humor of the delegates. It will be long remembered the unexpected heavy rain at the time the Welcome Party, which was the provocateur of changes in the use of the open place where its development was planned. The Conference's Dinner was unaffected and the "under the stars" restaurant selected by the organizers where a live show took place was ellogiated by the assistants.

The Program Committee managed to bring in a series of first rated contributors with Prof. Steven Smale at the head of them. Contributors came fom Asia, Latin America, Canada, USA and Europe, with strong contingents from Germany and Spain. Prof. B. Wegner, the Editor in Chief of Zentrallblatt für Mathematik, headed a Round Table on new trends in publications.

The success of the conference has been a strong statement to the senior competence, get up and go and energy of the organizers and a great step in affirming the role of these series of Havana OR's Conference in bringing together specialist from all over the world in the Latin American region.

Some of the presented papers are being published in this volume of the journal. This is the first issue.

Prof. Sira Allende
Chair Organizing Committee of the Conference