



**Operational Research Society of Singapore**

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# **34<sup>th</sup> ORSS AGM**

## **President's Address**

**Lai Kah Wah**

**18 Apr 09**



## Bottomline UpFront (1)

- Founded 1975, still alive [kicking?]
- Financial Status
  - I&E (aka P&L): surplus (again!)
  - Balance Sheet:
    - Healthy; “NAV” or “NTA”  $\approx$  \$900 [c.f. \$850 last year]
    - Consistent ~5% CAGR since 2006
    - Slow and steady, amidst the storm
  - Details in **Honorary Treasurer’s Report**
  - We can certainly afford to spend more, to advance ORSS’ objectives
  - Welcome suggestions..



## Bottomline UpFront (2)

- Membership & Activities
  - “Organically growing” life membership base, at least as listed
  - Reviewed, renewed contacts, Dec08 – Mar09: >60% responded
  - Similar types and spread of activities; ad-hoc (opportunistic); though decreased frequency
  - Details in **Honorary Secretary’s Report**
  - Thus far, activities restricted to OR-related and members-centric..



## External Relations (Local)

- Government (incl Military)
  - Sizeable representation
  - Organisation basis..
- Academia
  - Significant representation
  - Individuals..
- Other organisations
  - Started partnership with NPS Alumni
  - INCOSE? “Recce-ing”
- Industry
  - Stalwarts: ILOG (now part of IBM), IDSC
  - PDT/AIMMS



## External Relations (Overseas)

- IFORS
  - Stated: 45 countries, 25 000 persons
  - Elise del Rosario: IFORS president 2007-09
  - Regular correspondence...
- APORS
  - Council for 2007-2009
    - President: MORSM (Han Chun Kwong)
    - VP: ORSJ (Tatsuo Oyama)
    - Secretary: ORSS (Sim Cheng Hwee)
  - Han CK uncontactable; on medical leave
    - Consequently, APORS2009 shifted to Jaipur, India
    - ORSS on International Advisory Committee
- Reduced email correspondence with ORSNZ, ORSJ, ASOR.



## Reminder: ORSS Objectives

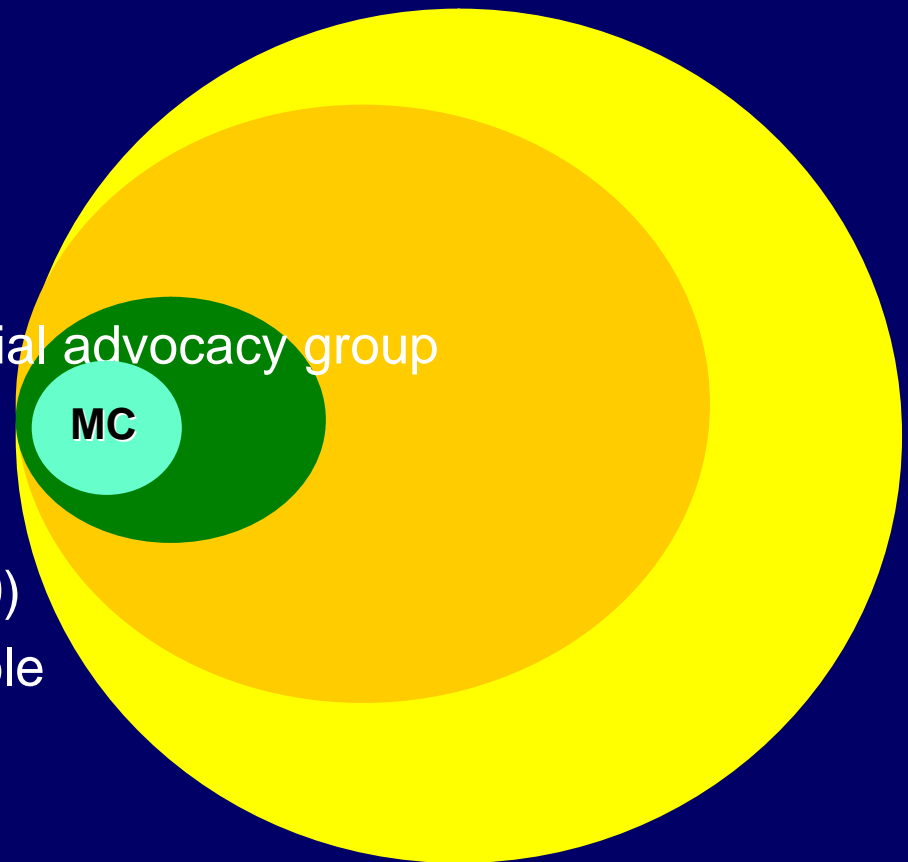
2 The objects of the Society shall be: -

- 2.1 To promote the practical use of OR in industry, commerce and public administration.
- 2.2 To contribute to the development of OR in general.
- 2.3 To propagate the knowledge of OR in Singapore.
- 2.4 To foster in the broadest sense the comprehending training and education of OR.
- 2.5 To promote theoretical and applied research in OR.
- 2.6 To develop the exchange of information and co-operation through its association with kindred societies.
- 2.7 To establish guidelines on the competence and specialisation of OR.



# Outlook

- Selective efforts
  - Organising joint activities (talks, industrial visits)
  - Email updates instead of newsletter
  - MC meetings
- Office-bearers
  - Mix
    - Recent controversy at a social advocacy group
  - Succession
    - Treasurer (2009)
    - President & Secretary (2010)
    - Rest of MC – consultative role





## Some Items to work on (1)

- ORSS website
  - Sunsite still accessible, but not updated
  - A trim site maintained at PacNet. Room to grow.
  - Awaiting Singapore Polytechnic student project to revamp; possibly Oct 09
- APJOR
  - Editor-in-Chief
  - To recognise A/Prof Zhao Gongyun's contributions



## Some Items to work on (2)

- Trends for 2009
  - Joint events with NPS Alumni. E.g. visits
  - With SCS, IES chapters?
- 36<sup>th</sup> MC onwards
  - Office holders from academia, or at least an advisory committee, for...
  - Last hosted APORS 2000. To consider bidding for APORS 2012?
  - Look out for IFORS 2017



## Case: OR Applications for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Jan 2009

- Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics. Washington, DC
- “Based on its inquiry the Task Force arrived at the following observations:
  - OR represents a **powerful tool** to help improve the quality of investment decision making by illuminating key issues, assumptions, and sources of information.
  - OR is **applied inconsistently** throughout the Defense and ISR communities and each lacks standard OR processes and practices, and consistent organizational models or commitments.
  - OR and the use of it can be **strengthened** in the Defense and ISR communities through effective **institutionalization**.
  - The utility of OR can be more firmly established through appropriate **test cases**.”

*Probably similar findings and recommendations in some other sectors?*

*Also, reference Prof John Buzacott's 17 Apr09 talk at NUS B-School.*



# Rounding Up: Some Thoughts

- ORSS KPIs:
  - Membership size and mix
  - Financial status and projections
  - Participation, involvement
  - Reputation, perception by others
  - ?
- Epilogue:
  - Few SG societies can boast a 34-year history. Many have disappeared, disintegrated or were subsumed in that time.
  - Will we still be relevant to the community that we live in?
  - ORSS as chapter in related larger, umbrella societies?