

Dear President, dear Xudong,

I am pleased and honoured to write this letter to congratulate the Operations Research Society of China (ORSC) on its 40th anniversary.

I have learned that China's first operations research team was established in 1956, before the foundation of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) in 1959. The ORSC became a member of the IFORS in 1982, a couple of years after its foundation.

The results obtained by the ORSC in few decades are amazing, the first one being its size that has reached the impressive number of 2300 members. The international exposure of the ORSC has constantly increased in the most recent decades. An increasing number of high quality papers by Chinese authors appeared in international journals. The IFORS has awarded top prizes to Chinese researchers for their remarkable results. The ORSC's flagship academic conference gained reputation with keynote talks of well-known international speakers. The two Chinese language journals issued by the ORSC gave rise to the *Journal of the Operations Research Society of China*. In 1999, the ORSC hosted the 15th conference of the IFORS in Beijing, which was attended by about 1,000 representatives from 49 countries and regions.

I congratulate the ORSC for its growth, for its development into a society fully integrated in the international community, for its contributions to the theory and application of operations research. In 40 years the ORSC has become one of the largest and most successful OR societies in the world. I also congratulate you personally for your commitment and ability in leading the ORSC and ask you to please extend my congratulations to each and every member of the ORSC for their contributions.

Looking forward to meeting you and many other members of the ORSC around the world in the next years, on behalf of the IFORS community I send to the ORSC my warmest wishes for a bright future.



M. Grazia Speranza

IFORS President