
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Ghaith Rabadi is an Associate Professor of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. He received his PhD and MS in Industrial Engineering from the University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida, in 1999 and 1996, respectively. He received his BSc in Industrial Engineering from the University of Jordan. He was awarded the NASA Faculty Fellowship in 2003 and the Fulbright Specialist Award in 2008. His research interest includes scheduling, operations research and modelling and simulation on which he published peer-reviewed journal and conference publications. He started the SchedulingResearch.com website.

We are excited for the appearance of the first two issues of the *International Journal of Planning and Scheduling* (IJPS). IJPS was established to promote and disseminate the latest theoretical and applied research in the areas of planning and scheduling in various fields of application. We aim for IJPS to become a common platform for researchers from academia, industry, government and non-profit organisations to share their latest knowledge and research in the field.

First, I would like to share with you our vision and motivation for establishing this journal. In general, planning and scheduling research is commonly published in the various Operations Research (OR) journals, which are also home to many other topics, and the competition for 'shelf space' has become severe. So, a specialised journal such as IJPS with its articulated objectives should be a welcome target.

It is probably safe to say that the vast majority of the current research in planning and scheduling focuses on developing and improving solution methods to well-known classical models. However, the basic models themselves and their assumptions are rarely questioned or even discussed, and the emphasis, to a great extent, has been on solution techniques. This has produced an immense amount of literature in which individual aspects of the problem are addressed in great depth at the expense of the larger context within the enterprise.

Despite a significant record of development in the research community, it is striking to note that the impact of this work in practice seems to be rather limited and there is often a major disconnect between the problems addressed by researchers and the solutions implemented by industry. Clearly, there is a need for better communication

between these two constituencies; practitioners need to become more aware of the capabilities of research-based approaches, while researchers need to be more aware of the needs of practitioners and the often-complex dynamics of the organisational environments in which solutions must be deployed.

It is the goal of the editorial staff to make IJPS a forum for a lively, interdisciplinary discussion of the entire range of issues surrounding planning, scheduling and their interrelations. Innovative research on solution algorithms for established models certainly remains of interest, and submissions from all areas of methodology are welcome. Papers that propose new models addressing novel aspects of both theory and practice that have not yet been addressed are strongly encouraged.

In addition to our emphasis on bridging the gap between theory and applications, we would like to highlight two important aspects in which we hope IJPS will play a significant role. First, publishing interdisciplinary research that can bring together models and methods from fields that take different approaches to solving planning and scheduling problems. For example, the OR and Artificial Intelligence (AI) communities tackle similar problems in different ways, which may render themselves more effective if a synergetic platform is developed and researchers from both fields collaborate. The second aspect is to welcome authors with rich educational knowledge in planning and scheduling to contribute to the field by publishing rigorous papers on innovative teaching and educational techniques.

The first two issues of the first volume include seven papers that went through a double blind review process. For a new journal, it is difficult to initially receive high-quality submissions from the general community in its first issues. Therefore, most of the papers were contributed by IJPS's editors and board members. We are thankful to all authors who contributed to these two issues as well as to the reviewers whose detailed and timely reviews ensured the quality of the accepted papers. We extend an invitation to researchers from all over the world to submit high-quality papers to future issues of IJPS.

We would like to thank the team at Inderscience Publishers for their continuous support to IJPS. Thanks specifically to Mohammed Dorgham, the Editor-in-Chief of Inderscience Publishers, Jim Corlett, Liz Harris, Darren Simpson and Sue O'Mara.

Finally, I am sincerely grateful for my editors and board members who accepted my invitation to join the staff at IJPS and support the journal's mission.