ASOR AWARDS 2007

ASOR Ren Potts Award 2007

The Ren Potts award of the Australian Society for Operations research is intended to recognise individuals who have made outstanding contributions to theory and/or practice of OR in Australia. It is a national award restricted to Australian residents only. The nominations must be submitted by the ASOR chapters with supporting evidence to justify the nomination. Nominations, in first place, are considered by a Sub-committee and then approved by the ASOR National Committee. This award is conferred at a special ceremony as part of the ASOR National Conference.

In 2007, Prof. Charles Pearce from South Australia Chapter and Prof. Pra Murthy of Queensland Chapter are joint winner of ASOR Ren Potts Award 2007. Congratulations to both Prof. Pearce and Prof. Murthy. The awards were conferred in Melbourne on December 4, 2007 during ASOR Conference dinner.

Prof. Charles Pearce

Prof. Pra Murthy

Professor C.E.M. Pearce; Elder Chair of Mathematics, University of Adelaide SA 5005, Australia

Charles Pearce was born in 1940 in Wellington, New Zealand, where he studied for his first degree, in Mathematics and Physics. He then won a scholarship to the ANU, where he obtained a Ph.D. in Mathematical Statistics. Following a period working in England, in 1968 he joined the University of Adelaide, where he currently holds the Thomas Elder Chair of Mathematics.

Charles addressed challenging OR problems from his earliest work. Major early interests included road traffic, urban planning and telecommunications. His work on

telecommunications has continued throughout his career. Some of his other ongoing work has been in the areas of signal processing and the design of active vehicle suspensions. Recently he has worked on so-called stochastic resonance, which is relevant to the bionic ear and is at the cutting edge of nanotechnology.

Much of his work builds on stochastic models. This complemented the deterministic modelling of Ren Potts at Adelaide. The two-pronged approach enhanced the growth of a strong OR school at Adelaide.

Charles has taught a variety of OR courses and trained over 20 successful Ph.D. students. He has been active in ASOR since the 1970s and organized three national ASOR conferences in South Australia. He has served as Australian representative on APORS and IFORS and served a period on the Editorial Board of APJORS. He is foundation Editor-in-Chief of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ANZIAM Journal) and was Editor-in-Chief of its precursor, the Journal of the Australian Mathematical Society, Series B, from 1993. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Industrial and Management Optimization.

In recent years, Charles has been involved in contract work for DSTO on a number of projects.

Professor D. N. P. Murthy; Division of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Queensland, Q 4072, Australia.

Pra Murthy obtained B.E. and M.E. degrees from Jabalpur University and the Indian Institute of Science in India and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. He is currently Research Professor in the Division of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Queensland. He has held visiting professorial level appointments at several universities in the USA, Europe and Asia and was a Senior Scientific Advisor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology from 2000 – 20005. His current research interests include various aspects of new product development, operations management (lot sizing, quality, reliability, maintenance), and post-sale support (warranties, service contracts). He has authored or coauthored 25 book chapters, 160 journal papers and 140 conference papers. He is a coauthor of *Mathematical Modelling* (Pergamon Press, London, 1990), *Warranty Cost Analysis* (Marcel Dekker, New York, 1994), *Reliability: Modelling, Prediction and Optimization* (Wiley, New York, 2000), *Weibull Models* (Wiley, New York, 2003) and *Warranty Management and Product Manufacture* (Springer Verlag, London, 2005). He is co-editor of *Product Warranty Handbook* (Marcel Dekker, New York, 1996), *Case Studies in Reliability and Maintenance* (Wiley, New York, 2002) and *Complex System Maintenance Handbook* (Springer Verlag, London, 2008). He is on the editorial boards of eight international journals and has run short courses for industry on various topics in technology management, operations management and post-sale support in Australia, Asia, Europe and the USA.

ASOR New Researcher Encouragement Medal 2007

Last year (October 6, 2006), the ASOR National Council established an encouragement medal for new researchers who have completed a research degree at Master or PhD level in OR or in a related field with significant contribution to the advancement of OR from any Australian university. Normally candidates will be considered who completed all requirements for their degree between the two consecutive ASOR National conferences.

Dr Van Ha DO

This year, the winner for ASOR New Researcher Encouragement Medal is Dr Van Ha DO who completed his Ph.D. in Operations Research from University Technology Sydney (UTS) in 2007. Dr Do obtained his Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Mathematics also from UTS. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematical Engineering from the National University of Hanoi, Vietnam. Currently Dr Do is a casual tutor/ lecturer in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at UTS. The award was conferred in Melbourne on December 4, 2007 during ASOR Conference dinner.