

The 7th International Symposium on Generalized Convexity/Monotonicity - - C.S.Lalitha and S.Schaible

Generalized Convexity 7 of the international Working Group on Generalized Convexity (WGGC) was hosted by the Hanoi Institute of Mathematics, Vietnam National Center for Natural Sciences and Technology (NCST) at Hanoi, Vietnam during August 27-31, 2002. Generalized Convexity 1 through 6 were held at Vancouver/Canada (1980), Canton/USA (1986), Pisa/Italy (1988), Pecs/Hungary (1992), Luminy/France (1996) and Samos/Greece (1999), respectively. For the first time the Symposium was held outside North America and Europe reflecting the growing activities in the Asia-Pacific region in recent years. It was endorsed by the Pacific Optimization Research Activity Group.

During the opening ceremony on the first day the participants were extended a warm welcome by N.D.Cong, Deputy Director, Hanoi Institute of Mathematics, D.V.Minh, General Director, NCST, S.Schaible, Chairman of WGGC and D.T.Luc, Co-chair, Organizing Committee. This was followed by an invited talk and parallel sessions. About fifty presentations, including the invited talks, were made during the five days of the Symposium. The invited talks were presented by R.Burkard (Austria), B.Mordukhovich (USA) and H.Tuy (Vietnam). Apart from the meetings of the Scientific Committee of WGGC the General Assembly of WGGC was held during the conference. Refereed Proceedings of the Symposium will appear in a volume with Kluwer Academic Publishers to be edited by A.Eberhard, N. Hadjisavvas and D.T.Luc. For program details of GC7 we refer to the web page at www.math.ac.vn/conference/gcm7/ and for WGGC activities to www.genconv.org.

The aim of the symposium was to provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of new ideas in the field of generalized convexity and generalized monotonicity and their applications in optimization, control, stochastics, economics, management science, finance, engineering and other related topics. The purpose of the symposium was fulfilled as GC7 was well represented by researchers from many parts of the world. There was a noticeable increase in the number of participants from the Asia-Pacific region. Collaboration of researchers from various countries has been an integral part of the research work carried out by members of WGGC, and this was reflected by the presentations made during the conference. The

sense of being a part of a large family of researchers with common interests was really overwhelming. The credit of new joint works in the near future would go to the organizers of the conference and the participants who made this symposium a great success.

WGGC sponsored activities have been led by its Scientific Committee comprised of S.Schaible, Chair (USA), R.Cambini (Italy), J.P.Crouzeix (France), N.Hadjisavvas (Greece), S.Komlosi (Hungary), D.T.Luc (Vietnam, France) and J.E.Martinez-Legaz (Spain). Some of the main sponsors of GC7 were the Vietnam National Center for Natural Sciences and Technology, the Hanoi Institute of Mathematics NCST, the Vietnam National Program for Basic Research in Mathematics, the Vietnam National Project “Selected Problems of Optimization and Scientific Computing” and The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Italy.

Apart from the excellent academic atmosphere the participants had the opportunity of enjoying dinner with Vietnamese traditional music, exploring the city of Hanoi, watching the amazing puppet show at the Water Puppet Theater and tasting Vietnamese cuisine at the Banquet with a first-rate performance of Vietnamese instrumental and vocal music. The conference concluded on August 31 followed by a cocktail party, and it was time to say goodbye. Some of the participants stayed on for a two day tour to a beautiful spot at Ha Long Bay near the sea. After a journey of about three hours from Hanoi by bus the participants reached Ha Long which is surrounded by many small islands of various shapes. The next day this marvelous spot, famous for its amazing limestone cliffs, numerous caves, and unbelievable scenic beauty, was covered in a five hour boat trip between islands. During the course the boat stopped, and many had a fabulous time enjoying a swim followed by lunch served on the boat.

The organizers did an excellent job of arranging a comfortable stay in Hanoi and providing the facility of using the library and internet services for all participants throughout the day. A copy of the group photograph is now a valuable document to cherish the memories of a wonderful time in Hanoi.