

## PREFACE

Dear conference participant,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 30<sup>th</sup> MME 2012 Conference organized by the Czech Society of Operations Research, Czech Econometric Society in cooperation with the Silesian University in Opava, School of Business Administration in Karviná. The conference offers you the opportunity to meet the operations research and econometric community in the Czech Republic and also many researchers coming from Slovakia, Poland and other seven countries. It also offers you an exposure to the evolution of the several areas that compose Operational Research, Econometrics, and generally mathematical methods applied in economics to keep you updated on our continuously evolving dynamic disciplines. During the conference you will certainly meet old and new colleagues, exchange ideas, develop new projects. You will also feel and enjoy the special atmosphere of the eastern Ostrava-Karviná region of the Czech Republic.

Beside the scientific programme which includes more than 190 papers, the social programme is also very rich. Let me invite you particularly to the excursion offered by the organizers to Vítkovice Steel (part of the city of Ostrava), where production of iron, coal and agglomerates in so-called Bottom area (Dolní oblast) has been already terminated. Part of this strategic locality was proclaimed National Cultural Monument together with Hlubina coal mine. Here you can visit the original blast furnace, coal mine tower or the gas storage transformed into modern concert hall and other interesting sites.

This conference Proceedings is divided into two parts and includes 179 papers selected from more than 200 papers submitted to the conference programme committee. All published papers have been subjected to a strict reviewing procedure of two independent referees. A positive feature is that our Proceedings includes 33 papers published exclusively by young researchers – mostly doctoral students and more than 30 papers with young scientists as co-authors.

I am confident that you will find the 30<sup>th</sup> MME 2012 Conference stimulating, rewarding and pleasant and that you will enjoy your stay in Karviná.

In Karviná, September 2012

Prof. Dr. Jaroslav Ramík  
Chair of the programme committee