

## Preface

**Athanasia Karakitsiou · Oleg A. Prokopyev**

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The International Workshop “Multilevel Optimization: Algorithms and Applications” took place in Chania, Crete (Greece) on May 15–17, 2005. The workshop, organized by Athanasios Migdalas, Panos M. Pardalos, Oleg A. Prokopyev and Pierre Hansen, was hosted by Decision Support Systems Laboratory at the Technical University of Crete (Greece). Scientific committee of the workshop also included Jacqueline Morgan and Peter Värbrand. Local organizers were Yannis Marinakis, Athanasia Mavrommati, Athanasia Karakitsiou, Iraklis Mandalianos and Kostas Karakiozopoulos.

A previous workshop took place in Rimforsa (Sweden) during November 19–24, 1995 and the book “Multilevel Optimization: Algorithms and Applications” (edited by A. Migdalas, P.M. Pardalos and P. Värbrand) was published by Kluwer in 1998.

The focus of the workshop was multilevel optimization, a recognized and important research area with many challenging and interesting problems. This special issue of the *Journal of Global Optimization* presents selected papers emphasizing some of the research directions discussed at the workshop.

The topics covered in the issue include monotonic approach for general bilevel programming problem (H. Tuy et al.), two-level optimization in multidimensional scaling (Antanas and Julius Zilinskas), bilevel optimization in stabilizing controller design (Y. Chang and N.V. Sahinidis), parametric global optimization for bilevel programming (Nuno P. Fasca et al.), bilevel multi-follower decision making in a referential-uncooperative situation (Jie Lu et al.) and two-level algorithmic approach for the vehicle routing problem (Y. Marinakis et al.).

We would like to sincerely thank all participants of the workshop, the authors and the referees for their work and contributions, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Global Optimization* Dr. Panos Pardalos and the Publisher for their help and the opportunity to prepare this issue.

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A. Karakitsiou  
Technical University of Crete, Chania, Greece  
e-mail: karakitsiou@ergasya.tuc.gr

O. A. Prokopyev (✉)  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA, USA  
e-mail: prokopyev@engr.pitt.edu