



Conference Report
**The International Conference on Multidimensional Finance,
Insurance and Investment**
ICMFII'2013

*College of Business Administration, University of Bahrain
November 25-27, 2013*



This conference is sponsored by



This conference is endorsed by

The International Society on Multiple
Criteria Decision Making



The Institute for Operations Research and
the Management Sciences - MCDM section





Opening Ceremony

The College of Business Administration at University of Bahrain has organized on 25-27 November 2013, with the co-sponsorship of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making and the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences - MCDM section, the International Conference on Multidimensional Finance, Insurance and Investment (ICMFII'13). The ICMFII'13 is the fifth of the series of conferences and provides an international forum for presentations and discussion of research in all areas of Finance, Insurance and Investment. The first conference was held in Helsinki in 2005 and chaired by Pekka Korhonen, Jaap Spronk and Ralph Steuer. The second edition of this scientific event took place in Montreal and was organized by Belaid Aouni in 2007. The third edition was organized by Alejandro Balbas in Madrid in 2009. The 2011 edition of the ICMFII held on April 14-16, 2011 in Hammamet Tunisia and chaired by Fouad Ben Abdelaziz. The 2013 edition held in the college of Business Administration at the University of Bahrain and chaired by Minwir Al-Shammari. ICMFII'13 received 128 manuscripts and after a peer review process, by national and international reviewers, 64 were accepted to be presented in the conference program. The conference program features a broad international representation from 23 countries, including: Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, KSA, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Spain, Taiwan, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, UK and USA. The accepted papers include both theoretical and application research works from very diverse areas related to quantitative modeling, Multiple criteria decision making, Finance, Insurance and Investment.



Keynote Speakers

Keynote Speeches:

This year's conference invited 3 international speakers. The first invited talk, entitled "Markowitz Bi-Criterion Portfolio Selection to the Tri-Criterion Case" was given by Ralph E. Steuer (University of Georgia, USA). Professor Ralph presented the recent progress that has been made in the tri-criterion area on computing efficient surfaces and the avenues of research opportunities that this opens up in the field of portfolio selection. Graphs were employed wherever possible. The second invited talk, "Goal Programming Model for Multi-Attribute Financial Portfolio Selection: A Glorious History and Promising Future" was given by Belaid Aouni (Laurentian University, Canada). Professor Belaid notified the significant increase in publications related to the use of goal programming in portfolio selection where in most decision-making context, the financial decision maker will be looking for the portfolio of the best compromise that take into consideration his/her preferences. The aim of the second invited talk was to discuss some new perspectives related to the application of the goal programming models within the field of multi-attribute financial portfolio selection. The last invited talk entitled "Multiobjective stochastic portfolio selection models" by Fouad Ben Abdelaziz (NEOMA Business School, France) who gave a short talk which stimulated a lengthy discussion about uncertainty and mathematical programming models used for portfolio selection. Professor Fouad asserted that the previously described models for portfolio selection should consider the random nature of rate of return, liquidity and risk. He noted that the way of measuring risk (as presented later on by Meryem Masmoudi) can be stochastic. Each of the invited speakers did a great job and their talks were followed by lengthy discussions.



Conference Lunch



Conference Dinner (Golden Tulip, Manama, Bahrain)



After the plenary Keynote Speeches, 64 papers were presented and discussed in the following special sessions which were as follows:

- Portfolio Selection
- Foreign Direct Investment
- Islamic Banking
- Multiple Objective Programming
- Financial Modeling
- Stock Exchange Market
- Risk and Corporate Governance
- Performance Measures
- Economic Issues
- Control, evaluation and Forecasting
- Invited Session in Marketing and Supply Chain Management



Al-Salam Hall (0-44) at the College of Business Administration



Shaikh Abdulaziz Hall



Hall 0-47 at the Administration Lobby

Sightseeing tour (27 November 2013)



Bab Albahrain



Qalat al Bahrain site and museum



Albander Resort



Bab Albahrain



Qalat al Bahrain site and museum



Albander Resort

The half-day tour began in the Old Town and the historic heart of the city “Bab Albahrain”. Bab Albahrain is a historical building located in the Customs Square in Manama’s former central business district. It marks the main entrance to the Manama souq. Government Avenue, which runs in front of Bab Al Bahrain, contains many major banks and business establishments. The Gold City is a shopping complex for gold ornaments and is also located on Government Avenue. The trip continues into Qalat al Bahrain site and museum. Bahrain known as Dilmun in ancient times, Bahrain’s rich trading history is reflected in numerous archaeological sites, the most fascinating of which is the Bahrain Fort site that is registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The fort is located atop a 17.5 hectare artificial hill that has been built over more than 4000 years of continuous occupation. It is the site of the former capital of Dilmun and one of the most archaeological sites in the Arabian Gulf. The excavations over the past 50 years have revealed residential, public, commercial and military structures that testify to the importance of the site over the centuries. These findings are brought to life by an audio guide available at the site museum. The tour ends with a Lunch in one of the most beautiful restaurants in Bahrain in Albander Resort.

General Comments (Closing Ceremony)



Closing Ceremony

The conference Panel members are:

- Minwir Al Shammari (University of Bahrain, Bahrain)
- Ralph Steuer (University of Georgia, USA)
- Belaid Aouni (Laurentian University, Canada)
- Fouad Ben Abdelaziz (NEOMA Business School, France)
- Hatem Masri (University of Bahrain, Bahrain)
- Francisco Ruiz (University of Málaga, Spain)
- Davide La Torre (University of Milan, Italy)
- Mohammad Omar Farooq (Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance, Bahrain)

The Panel was very impressed by the high-quality of most of the research papers included in the conference program. They indicated that the papers presented have ambitious goals and significant potential to be published in international journals. The Panel found the conference program has a well-balanced portfolio of fundamental science papers, applied research papers, and large-scale industry projects. The Panel was particularly impressed with the efforts being performed and the use of modeling to support decision making in many of the papers, particularly those papers focused on economic issues related to Bahrain. Based on the progress made to date by the papers reviewed, the Panel was optimistic about the potential that has these research papers to improve the quality of decisions in the field of finance, insurance and investments.

Islamic Finance:

As part of their comments, the Panel also emphasized the importance of organizing such an international conference in Bahrain to further strengthen its position as an acknowledged international banking and financial hub and a world leader in Islamic banking. Conducting

seminars and conferences of global significance will boost the international confidence in the economic and financial sector of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Panel members noted the valuable addition of the Islamic Finance stream to the ICMFII'13. They also noted the need to fund many research projects to link between the literature in Islamic finance and the latest quantitative models. For example a multiple criteria Islamic portfolio selection model may be developed.

Recommendations:

While the majority of the recommendations provided by the Panel were technical in nature and specific to a particular research papers, please find in the following some important issues to be considered in the future by the ICMFII committees and the college of Business Administration at the University of Bahrain:

1. Maintain the stream on Islamic Finance within the main topics of the future ICMFII editions
2. For ICMFII, launching a bi-annual scientific Journal would be a significant addition
3. attract more professionals from the Bank sector and Insurance companies to link theory to practice.
4. develop a minor in the area of Islamic banking and finance in the college of Business Administration that embed professional training contents so that by the time a student receives his relevant Bachelor degree in Finance, the student will be ready to take the professional qualification exams.
5. enhance the collaboration with MCDM, INFORMS and other international societies in developing structured research programs and to benefit the research community both at the University of Bahrain and in Bahrain.



Conference Speakers



Student Support Committees

We would like to thank the following conference committee members:

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- Sabri Boubaker (Champagne School of Management, ESC Troyes, France)
- Seref Ahmed Turen (University of Bahrain, Bahrain)
- Walid Cheffi (Rouen Business School, France)

The ICMFII'13 was an excellent conference and a real research experience for all participants. We look forward to seeing you in the next edition of the conference will be in Turkey in 2015.

Finally, we would further like to thank the University of Bahrain Staff, faculty and students for their efforts in organizing the ICMFII'13.

Minwir Al Shammari
Conference Chair