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Preface

The International Conference on Nonlinear Programming and Variational Inequalities was held during December 15–18, 1998 at the City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. About 200 scholars from as many as 29 countries and regions attended the conference. It consisted of 26 invited talks and 166 contributed talks. The conference was preceded by two 5-day workshops, one focusing on Nonsmooth and Smoothing Methods and another one on Error Bounds and Applications in Mathematical Programming. Twenty eight invited participants exchanged and discussed their recent works in the workshops.

This special issue contains 12 papers with a wide spectrum covering general nonlinear programming problems, L_p -norm approximation problems, variational inequality problems, equilibrium problems, complementarity problems, semi-infinite programming problems and stochastic programming problems. The methods involved include quasi-Newton methods, interior point methods, smoothing methods, homotopy methods, etc. All papers were presented in the conference and reviewed by at least two independent referees.

The conference was sponsored by Croucher Foundation, K.C. Wong Foundation, Hong Kong Pei Hua Education Foundation Limited, Hong Kong Mathematics Society and Liu Bie Ju Center for Mathematical Sciences at the City University of Hong Kong. Their generous supports are gratefully acknowledged. We wish to express our gratitude to all conference organizing committee members, invited speakers, session organizers as well as the organizers of the two workshops for their contribution to the success of the conference. We greatly appreciate the support from the referees of all submissions to this issue for their careful and insightful review. Special thanks go to Peggy Chan for being the conference secretary and for her managerial work through the whole review period in preparing this issue.

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