Foreword

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The Fifth International Conference on Integration of AI and OR Techniques in Constraint Programming for Combinatorial Optimization Problems (CPAIOR 2008) was held in Paris, France, May 20–23, 2008. This volume of the *Annals of Operations Research* contains expanded versions of papers that first appeared at that conference.

The purpose of this conference series is to bring together researchers in constraint programming, artificial intelligence, and operations research to explore ways of solving large-scale, practical optimization problems through integration and hybridization of each area's different techniques. Through the years, this research community is discovering that the fields have much in common, and there has been tremendous richness in the resulting cross-fertilization.

This volume shows the breadth and depth of research that results from these interactions. The papers range from theoretical improvements in constraint programming, through algorithmic methods in networks flow, to applications of a range of techniques for problems of practical interest. They represent the best and most innovative work in this area.

We would like to thank the authors, referees, and editorial staff that took part in putting together this volume. This issue could not appear except for the efforts of a large number of people and we are grateful for their time and enthusiasm.

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