



**WORLD  
CONFERENCE ON  
TRANSPORT  
RESEARCH  
SOCIETY**

**SECRETARIAT OFFICE OF THE WCTRS**

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**MINUTES OF  
MEETING OF THE WCTRS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**14th July 2010**

**Centro de Congressos, Lisbon.**

**Participants:**

Estimated to be 300

**Minutes:**

Recorded by Dr Greg Marsden

**1. Welcome, apologies**

Tony May (President) introduced himself and explained the purpose of the meeting as a three yearly business meeting with the opportunity to ask questions and influence the direction of the Society.

No apologies for absence were received.

**2. Minutes of the General Assembly in Berkeley**

The minutes of the meeting were approved without amendment.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. The Society's professional activities (ADM)**

The President introduced the objectives of the society and specifically the objectives for 2007 to 2010.

- Overall objective: "To stimulate the interchange of research in all aspects of transport and from all parts of the world"
- Specific objectives 2007-2010
  - To enhance the scientific quality of our outputs
  - To improve the efficiency of the working of the Society
  - To increase membership numbers and coverage

- To involve the Society more actively in contributing to international policy
- To provide additional services to members
- To ensure that the Society at least breaks even.

The Lisbon conference provides some key indicators of progress against these objectives. There is evidence of increased scientific activity with 1300 papers and 1400 delegates. A two track submission system was introduced with full review or non-review. 58% of papers sought review which will lead to potential inclusion in the selected proceedings, shortlisting of papers for consideration in special issues of journals and consideration for prizes. In particular the President noted that Eddy van de Voorde has increased the link with high quality journals which has led to the potential for up to 14 Special Issues.

The Society currently has 13 active SIGs with three new ones introduced since 2007:

- Transport Economic Regulation (SIG-4)
- Travel Behaviour (SIG-12)
- Rail Transport (SIG-13)

There is also one current proposal on Intelligent Transport Systems and other proposals are welcome. Most of the SIGs have been active between conferences with 14 conferences/workshops organised since 2007 and 15 journal special issues.

The Society has been building collaborative links with various international bodies in a variety of ways. With CODATU, EASTS, IATBR there have been joint sessions in each other's conferences (SIG-1, SIG-7, SIG-11, SIG-12). The Society has provided inputs to each International Transport Forum through the contributions of several SIGs. The President expressed thanks to Steve Perkins in enabling the Society to feed into the ITF Forums. Links with TRB are being developed through collaborations between SIGs and relevant TRB committees with mutual membership of high level committees. Discussions on similar arrangements are underway with AET/ETC. Members were invited to identify other international organisations with which we should collaborate.

The Society has contributed to policy in areas including

- Transfer of research to policy
  - Lyon seminar, 2008
- Transport and Climate Change
  - ITF, Leipzig; SIG-11: Nagoya, Copenhagen
- Transport and Globalisation
  - ITF, Leipzig; SIG-2: Antwerp; SIG-8: ATRS
- Transport and Innovation
  - ITF, Leipzig; SIG-10: Gothenburg.

Current plans include

- Urban Transport in China
  - SIGs 1, 7, 9, 10, 11: Shanghai: September 2010
- Transport and Society
  - ITF, Leipzig, May 2011

In particular Yoshi Hayashi led the SIG11 contribution to developing a policy briefing on transport and climate change which fed into the Copenhagen climate change summit. The forthcoming seminar on Urban Transport in China will link policy development to the Society's membership strategy by seeking to raise awareness among Chinese academics of the activities of the Society.

Limited financial resources meant that the provision of additional member services has been confined to encouraging young researchers. A 60% rebate has been provided on membership fees for students. As a result there were 446 registered student members at the conference. A young researchers' prize for those under 36 was to be awarded. Other initiatives were under discussion and younger researchers were invited to feed in their ideas.

## **5. Transport Policy**

In the absence of the Editor in Chief, the President summarised the current situation. The Society took over Transport Policy 12 years ago. Over that period there has been a 10 fold increase in activity under the stewardship of Moshe Ben-Akiva and John Preston. Both Moshe and John are standing down. The President expressed the thanks of the Society to both of them and this was warmly endorsed by the attendees.

## **6. Financial matters**

Alain Bonnafous presented the Society's finances (see Annex 1). Alain confirmed that the finances had been audited by Eddy van de Voorde and had been approved.

The balance at end of June 2010 was around 30,000 Euros. However, around one-third of this is set aside as a gift which generates bank interest to fund the Transport Policy Prize of the Society. It was noted that it typically costs between 22000 and 29000 Euros per year to run the Society. The degree of flexible assets is currently less than one year of running costs. The only salaried member is Jean-Nöel Mabiala who is contracted for 15 hours a week. The President expressed his thanks to Jean-Nöel and colleagues at the Secretariat for showing great flexibility and commitment well beyond the core funded time. Owing to the success of the present conference the Society will be in a stronger financial position over the next three years.

## **7. Membership fees**

The forecast financial outlook was not seen to be secure midway through the 2007-2010 period and so the Steering Committee took the decision to use the flexibility granted by the General Assembly to increase membership fees by 20%. The President thanked the local organising committee for being able to incorporate this change in their planning. Discounts for developing countries (40%) and research students (60%) were secured.

The President noted that, while the Society's finances appeared stronger, decisions taken now affected the financial position until 2016. He announced that the Steering Committee had recommended that it again be given the flexibility to increase the membership fees by up to 20% if justified. A motion to this effect was proposed by Laetitia Dablanc and seconded by Samer Madanat. 4 members voted against, 12 abstained and the motion was overwhelmingly carried.

## **8. Administrative matters**

The President reported that a new contract for secretariat services had been signed with LET, Lyon which now runs until January 2014. The principal inputs are 15h/week secretariat support, website maintenance, financial management and committee support. Offers to host the Secretariat will be sought in 2012 for a minimum of six years.

The website ([www.wctrs.org](http://www.wctrs.org)) has recently been upgraded. Members are requested to keep their contact details up to date and will soon be prompted to provide information on research expertise using a keyword field search (for use by *Transport Policy* editors and SIGs as well as for member communication).

The procedures for increasing the membership were set out. In particular initiatives would be taken forward to contact non-renewing members and to target under-represented parts of the world, coordinated by Kazuaki Miyamoto. It was proposed that membership fees be reduced to 67% of the three yearly total from January 2011 to 33% from January 2012. This was approved.

The President reported that a new contract with Elsevier had been signed regarding the Society's patronage of *Transport Policy* through to December 2012. A 70% discount on subscription for members was available. It was noted that Yoram Shiftan had been appointed by Elsevier to replace John Preston.

Ali Huzayyin was warmly thanked for maintaining an up to date Current Operating Practices manual for the Society (which is available on the web) and for helping to ensure the Society continued to operate in accordance with this.

## **9. Nomination and election of WCTRS President (AB)**

Alain Bonnafous proposed the motion from the Steering Committee that Tony May be elected President for a further three years. The motion was carried without objections or abstentions.

Tony May responded by noting that the ability to lead a Society with the level of enthusiasm and support evident within WCTRS was extremely rewarding and he was grateful for that opportunity.

## **10. Nomination and election of Steering Committee (President)**

The president set out the proposal for the composition of the Steering Committee for the forthcoming term. This comprised six new members (marked with \*\* in the full list below).

Yves Crozet, Laetitia Dablanc\*\*, Jonathan Gifford\*\*, Yoshitsugu Hayashi, Ali Huzayyin, Sergio Jara-Diaz\*\*, Rosario Macario, Samer Madanat\*\*, Anthony May, Kazuaki Miyamoto, Romulo Orrico Filho\*\*, Tae Oum, Stephen Perkins\*\*, Werner Rothengatter, Panos Tzieropoulos, Fusun Ulengin, Eddy van de Voorde, Roger Vickerman, José Viegas.

The proposal for the new Steering Committee was approved.

Specific Appointments approved were:

- Secretary General: Yves Crozet
- Chairman of Scientific Committee: Yoshitsugu Hayashi
- Editor in Chief: Roger Vickerman.

Alain Bonnafous would become an honorary member, alongside Michel Frybourg, Trevor Heaver and Hideo Nakamura.

The Scientific Committee stands down at the end of the conference. The new Committee will include all Topic Area Managers and SIG representatives. Yoshi Hayashi and Tony May will review the composition of the Scientific Committee and try to ensure that it provides a more representative coverage in terms of age, gender, geography and topic area. To this end a nominations process will shortly be announced.

## **11. Any Other Business**

There being no other business, the President declared the meeting closed.

Annex 1: Finances

**WCTRS FINANCIAL SITUATION - STC & GA OF LISBON JULY 2010**

		2 007	2 008	2009	2010(06/30)	
1 - BALANCE	Balance at the end of last year (Y-1) (H Nakamura Price)		10 175 €	10 521 €	10 821 €	
	Balance at the end of last year (Y-1)	Line N°	24 589 €	8 869 €	49 019 €	30 596 €
			24 589 €	19 044 €	59 540 €	41 417 €
2 - REVENUES	Membership registration at WCTR	1	0 €	63 482 €	1 472 €	
	Membership renewing and new joining	2	3 101 €	3 676 €	2 035 €	500 €
	Subscription to TP (100 subscribers)	3	2 000 €			
	President reception Sponsoring	4		1 360 €	1 580 €	
	New prize sponsoring (H. Nakamura) Interests	5	10 000 €	356 €	300 €	
	Other revenues	6	45 €			
	Bank interests	7	783 €	1 511 €	483 €	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>			<b>15 929 €</b>	<b>70 385 €</b>	<b>5 870 €</b>	<b>500 €</b>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE AND REVENUES</b>			<b>40 518 €</b>	<b>89 429 €</b>	<b>65 410 €</b>	<b>41 917 €</b>
3 - EXPENSES	Transport Policy Journal (due to the publisher)	8	531 €	1 056 €	1 065 €	
	Membership Directory production & publishing	9			0 €	
	Committees meetings organizing	10	3 027 €	6 102 €	3 638 €	2 985 €
	Communication supports editing	11			0 €	
	Website management	12	732 €	2 392 €	400 €	0 €
	Travels for site selection sub-committee	13	2 025 €		0 €	0 €
	H. Nakamura Price	14			0 €	0 €
	SOM participation to Conference organizing	15	2 591 €		0 €	
	SOM participation to meeting	16		1 364 €	0 €	
	Secretariat office requisites	17		2 000 €	2 000 €	0 €
	Secretariat manager wages (15h/W)	18	12 304 €	16 375 €	16 400 €	7 962 €
	Bank commission and other charges	19	264 €	600 €	490 €	354 €
	Unforeseen expenses	20			0 €	0 €
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>21 474 €</b>	<b>29 889 €</b>	<b>23 993 €</b>	<b>11 301 €</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>BALANCE ON THE END OF THE PERIOD</b>		<b>19 044 €</b>	<b>59 540 €</b>	<b>41 417 €</b>	<b>30 616 €</b>