WORLD CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT RESEARCH

SOCIETY

SECRETARIAT OFFICE OF THE WCTRS

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MINUTES OF

MEETING Of THE WCTRS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17th July 2013, 14.30 till 15:45

Windsor Hotel Barra, Rio de Janeiro

Members participating estimated to be 120

Minutes recorded by Guenter Emberger & Paul Timms

# Agenda

1. Welcome, apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Lisbon meeting
3. Matters arising
4. The Society’s professional activities (Anthony May: ADM)
5. Transport Policy (Roger Vickerman: RV)
6. Case Studies in Transport Policy (Rosário Macário: RM)
7. Financial matters (Yves Crozet: YC)
8. Membership fees for 2016-2019 (ADM)
9. Administrative matters (ADM)
10. Nomination and election of President (Alain Bonnafous: AB)
11. Future plans (Next President)
12. Nomination and election of Steering Committee
13. Any other business

# 1. Welcome, apologies

Anthony May (President) (ADM) 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 Lisbon

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 2010 to 2013.

Overall objective: “To stimulate the interchange of research in all aspects of transport and from all parts of the world”

Specific objectives 2010-2013

* To enhance the scientific quality of our outputs
* To involve the Society more actively in contributing to international policy
* To complement, benefit from links with, other international organisations
* To support young researchers to enable them to become active in international research
* To provide additional services to members within budget limits

The Rio conference provides some key indicators of progress against these objectives. There is evidence of scientific activity with 1060 papers and 860 delegates. A two track submission system was applied with full review or non-review. 65% of papers sought review which will lead to potential inclusion in the selected proceedings, shortlisting of papers for consideration in special issues of journals (potentially 20+) and consideration for prizes. 12% of papers were presented as posters.

The Society currently has 15 active SIGs with two new ones introduced since 2010:

* Transport Security (SIG-14)
* Urban Traffic Control (SIG-15)

Additional proposals for SIGs are welcome. Most of the SIGs have been active between conferences with 26 conferences/workshops organised since 2010 and 31 journal special issues.

The Society has been 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-9, SIG-10, SIG-11, SIG-12). The Society has provided inputs to each International Transport Forum through the contributions of several SIGs.

Links with TRB are established through collaborations between SIGs and relevant TRB committees with mutual membership of high level committees. Discussions on similar arrangements are underway with AET/ETC.

In the ERTRA (European Transport Research Area) WCTRS has obtained an observer status.

Members were invited to identify other international organisations with which we should collaborate.

The Society has contributed to policy in areas including

* Transport and Climate Change
  + - UNFCCC, Cancun, Durban, Doha
* Urban Transport in China
  + - SIGs 1, 7, 9, 10, 11: Shanghai: September 2010
* Transport and Society
  + - ITF, Leipzig, May 2011
* Seamless Transport
  + - ITF, Leipzig, May 2012; Gothenburg, April 2013
* Transport Finance
  + - ITF, Leipzig, May 2013
* Maritime Transport
  + - Antwerp, May 2011 and May 2012
* Air Transport
  + - Sydney; Tainan; Montreal, March 2013; Bergamo, June 2013
* Rail Transport
  + - Lille, May 2011; Madrid; Denmark, May 2013

## Encouraging young researchers

ADM reported that the young researcher’s activities were a great success. The WCTR-Y conference on Sunday (the day before the WCTRS RIO conference) was a clear signal. The provision of a 60% rebate on membership fees attracted 242 students to become a member of the WCTRS. Further activities to encourage young researchers are the Young researchers’ prize for those under 35.

## WCTRS-Y initiative

* Y-I: Young researchers’ conference held on Sunday
* Y-II: Four student grants awarded; special session today
* Y-III: Young researchers’ on-line facility launched including a job portal and newsletter

# 5. Transport Policy (RV)

Roger Vickermann (RV) summarised the current situation. There occurred a significant improvement in performance, submissions went up by +20% in last 12 months (295), downloads went up by +10% (246,000), Citations went up by +30% (1366), impact factor went up to 1.541 (5 year 2.161) and the decision times down to 27 weeks to 1st decision and 59.7 weeks to final acceptance (which still is planned to be improved). Additional a survey revealed that author satisfaction went up from +20 to +52 in 2 years.

RV announced editorial changes for the journal.

# 6. Case Studies in Transport Policy (RM)

Rosário Macário (RM) reported that a new Journal named “Case Studies in Transport Policy” was established earlier this year. 18 papers were submitted since February 2013. The 1st issue will consist of 5 papers.

RM announced the following next steps: the production of special issues; agreements with universities; and active conference participation.

# 7. Financial matters (YC)

Yves Crozet (YC) presented the Society’s finances (see Annex 1).

The balance at end of June 2010 was around 140,000 Euros. Around 10,000€ of this is set aside as a gift which generates bank interest to fund the Transport Policy Prize of the Society.

The membership income increase through the Lisbon conference and there was a substantial increase in the Elsevier contract. This enabled WCTRS to finance the WCTRS-Y initiative and to move forward to employ a full time secretary. It has to be mentioned that the membership income from Rio is lower than compared with Lisbon so that there is a strong need to encourage past members to renew their membership. The key test will in the year 2015 where the balance in December 2015 should be significant higher than one year’s costs.

# 8. Membership fees (ADM)

The Steering Committee (STC) agreed to maintain the membership fees at €120 (€48 for Students and €72 for developing countries). It was stated that the membership fees from Rio and Elsevier contract will permit the employment of a full time secretary from January 2014 onwards and still leave reserves of €85k at the start of year 2016. It was stated that these decisions will have effects on finances till 2019.

In order to be able to react flexibly on financial issues for the period of 2013 to 2016 the Steering Committee has proposed a prolongation of the flexibility rule granted by the General Assembly in Lisbon to increase membership fees if necessary, up to a 20% maximum increase. The General Assembly voted unanimously in favor of this proposal.

# 9. Administrative matters (ADM)

The President repeated the overall objectives of the society and introduced the following specific objectives for the period 2010-2013:

* To maintain the efficient working of the Society and the Secretariat
* To increase membership numbers, particularly in developed and developing countries currently under-represented
* To ensure that the Society has reserves to cover at least one year’s operational costs
* To ensure that members are fully involved in the Society’s decision making

The current contract for secretariat services with LET, Lyon runs till January 2014 and covers 15h/week secretariat support (by Jean-Noel Mabiala), website maintenance, financial management and Committee support. The STC plans to make this a full time post to reduce the pressures on voluntary contributions, with detailed arrangements to be determined by January 2014.

The website ([www.wctrs.org](http://www.wctrs.org/)) has recently been upgraded and tested by selected members.

The access to the member’s section will be available for new members by late July 2013 and will terminate in November for those not renewing.

Members are requested to keep their contact details and information on their research expertise up to date to be able to be contacted by the WTRCS and for use by Transport Policy, CSTP editors and others.

The membership for the Period 2010-13 was 1432 from 70 countries. The membership list from Rio will be confirmed by September 2013. Provisionally there are 862 members from 65 countries.

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 using the collaboration of Country and Area Representatives. It was proposed that membership fees be reduced to 67% of the three yearly total from October 2013 and to 33% from January 2015. This was approved.

The President reported that a new contract with Elsevier had been signed regarding the Society’s patronage of for Transport Policy which Elsevier owns and for Case Studies in Transport Policy which WCTRS owns.

The new financial terms are that Elsevier pays the Society for editorial services for TP €21k p.a. rising to €25k and royalty for CSTP from 2017of 10% on first $100k, rising to 20% for royalties over $200k. The new journal access terms are that all members have free on-line access for both journals. Information how to access these journals online will be provided to members every three months.

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.

# 10. Nomination and election of WCTRS President (AB)

Alain Bonnafous proposed the motion from the Steering Committee for a new President to be elected because the current President Antony May will step down after his 6 year period.

Yoshi Hayashi (YH) was proposed as new President by Bruno Santos. The motion was seconded by Samer Madanat.

The proposal was approved unanimously, so that Yoshi Hayashi was elected as the new President of WCTRS for the period 2013 till 2016.

# 11. Future Plans (New President Yoshi Hayashi: YH)

Yoshi Hayashi (YH) made an acceptance speech in which he thanked ADM for his efforts as past president and also thanked the Steering Committee. He summarised the history of the Society and made comments about developing and developed countries, and how there are transport problems associated with development. He suggested that the SIGs should be more active in developing countries.

YH outlined three initiatives to be undertaken during his presidency:

1. To strengthen the activities of the SIGs in local regions and in partnership with international organizations, for example those concerned with climate change;
2. To encourage more special issues of publications associated with the Society;
3. To launch a newsletter.

YH thanked the local organisers of the conference (in particular Rômulo Orrico) and thanked Rosário Macário as Chair of the International Programme Subcommittee. He declared that WCTRS will fully promote diversity in the country of diversity (i.e. Brazil).

# 11. Nomination and election of Steering Committee (President YH)

The president set out the proposal for the composition of the Steering Committee for the forthcoming term as follows:

Manfred Boltze, Yves Crozet, Laetitia Dablanc, Martin Dresner, Jonathan Gifford, Yoshitsugu Hayashi, Ali Huzayyin, Sergio Jara-Diaz, Rosário Mácario, Samer Madanat, Anthony May, Kazuaki Miyamoto, Antonio Musso, Rômulo Orrico Filho, Tae Oum, Haixiao Pan, Stephen Perkins, Panos Tzieropoulos, Fusun Ulengin, Roger Vickerman

The proposal for the Steering Committee was approved unanimously. Specific Appointments approved were:

* Secretary General: Yves Crozet (YC)
* Chairman of Scientific Committee: Manfred Boltze (MB)
* Editor in Chief TP: Roger Vickerman (RV)
* Editor in Chief CSPT: Rosário Macário (RM).

YH proposed that the Steering Committee have the powers of cooption of new members, covering replacements if nominees resign and for up to three additional members to increase geographic representation. Karen Lucas (from the floor) suggested an amendment that gender and age balance should also be taken into consideration when coopting new members to the Steering Committee. This amendment was approved unanimously as was the amended proposal.

The Scientific Committee stands down at the end of the conference. The new Committee will include all Topic Area Managers and SIG representatives. It was noted that it is important to ensure that it provides a more representative coverage in terms of subject area, age, gender and geography. Nominations are warmly welcomed, by the 1st of September, to be sent to YH and MB. Recommendations will be passed on to STC in January 2014.

# 11. Any Other Business

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

# Annex 1: Finances

