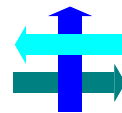


**WCTRS/WCTR  
Current Operating Practices  
2016**



**8 WCTRS Young Researchers'  
Initiative**

## **8. WCTRS-Young researchers' Initiative**

### **8.1 Background**

In 2011 WCTRS launched an initiative for young members of the society, namely the “WCTRS-Young Researchers Initiative”, (WCTRS-Y). The initiative aims at training, and boosting, young members of the society to gain experience and competence in undertaking activities of the society, excelling in transport research and, in addition, to encouraging new young researchers to join the WCTRS. This is done through three activities.

- **Activity Y-I**: “**WCTR-Y**”; a one-day mini WCTR to be organised by young researchers (paper authors, referees, session chairs and conference chair) under full guidance of the STC.
- **Activity Y-II**: “**WCTRS Ph.D. Students' Grants**”; for Ph.D. students' members.
- **Activity Y-III**: “**WCTRS-Young Online Facility**”.

The initiative is organised and run under the STC, which appoints one of its members to lead the process; namely WCTRS-Y Leader. Outlines of the above mentioned activities and eligibility conditions for application are summarized in the following sections.

The first Edition of the WCTRS Young Researchers' Initiative, (WCTRS-Y Ed-1), with activities Y-I Ed-1, Y-II Ed-1 and Y-III Ed-1, started in Rio de Janeiro during WCTR, July 2013 with a recognized success. In July 2016 WCTRS-Y Ed-2 with its three activities accompanied the WCTR held on Shanghai; again with remarkable success. Therefore, the STC is committed to continue future Editions of the initiative.

### **8.2 Outlines of the WCTRS-Y Activities**

#### **Activity Y-I: WCTR-Y**

- **Aim**: Young transport researchers to be trained (on-the-job) and get acquainted with scientific aspects of conference organisation, meet colleagues, learn from seniors, attend the main WCTR and register as members of WCTRS.

- WCTR-Y is to be run totally by young researchers under guidance of the STC through the WCTRS-Y Leader.
- Accordingly, WCTR-Y is not to be taken as an ordinary usual conference organised for young people; it is rather a conference organised by WCTRS STC as an educational tool for on-the-job training of young members of WCTRS on conference organisation and to prepare them for taking charge of future higher level duties and activities of the society.
- The conference generally takes the following form:
  - Sunday before each WCTR; closing before welcome cocktail.
  - One theme / one room / no parallel sessions.
  - 4 Sessions / 12 to 16 papers.
  - Participants: 30 to 120+; depending on confirmed registration of young researchers to attend the main WCTR.
  - Theme: Young researchers propose three generic themes and STC approves one.
- Main principles and operating rules are:
  - Two volunteers from STC members (or other WCTRS members guide the event: Conference Co-Advisors (CCAs); names to be proposed by the WCTRS-Y Leader, depending on the subject area of the approved theme and their time availability, and to be approved by the STC.
  - The process is to be managed by young researchers; Conference Chair (CC) and two Conference Organising Volunteers (COVs), Paper Referees (PRs) and Session Chairs (SCs).
  - Interested young members of WCTRS can apply through the society Website by completing a special Application Form in which they indicate, in addition to other personal information, their choices of the task(s) they wish to participate in for Y-I from among those in the above bullet.
  - CC and COVs take charge of the process (call for papers, choice of PRs, preparation of WCTR-Y programme, choice of SCs, etc.) guided by the WCTRS-Y Leader and the CCAs.

- To ensure paper quality, the CCAs should review and approve the result of papers review made by the PRs.
- Time slots are to be allocated to the CCAs and the WCTRS-Y Leader in the closing session of WCTR-Y; to give educational advice on the performance of CC, COVs, PRs and SCs and their general assessment of the event.
- The WCTRS-Y Leader, assisted by the CC jointly with COVs, writes short note on the event to be included in the issue of the News Letter of WCTRS that appears after the WCTR main conference.
- Upon recommendation of the CCAs, high quality papers can be eligible for Prizes offered in WCTR through Chair of the PSC and/or for journal publication through the SCC-VC Publications according to the respective rules for each case. Those should be sent to the Chair of PSC and the SCC-VC Publication by WCYRS-Y Leader in due course.
- The WCTRS-Y Leader submits a short note on the event to the STC after it ends.
- Registration and Honoraria for the Volunteers
  - No registration fees for attending "WCTR-Y".
  - Registration in the main WCTR is compulsory for attending and participating in WCTR-Y.
  - Currently, WCTRS offers compensation honoraria of \$1000 per person, to CC and each of the two COVs, to be paid immediately after the end of holding "WCTR-Y" based on recommendation from the WCTRS-Y Leader and the approval of the STC.
  - The above amount of the honoraria can change according to available fund, and the approval of the STC, and shall be announced on the Website of the Society and indicated in the Application Form for each WCTR-Y.

### **Activity Y-II: WCTRS Ph.D. Students' Grants**

- Aim: to inspire Ph.D. students who are members of the WCTRS to excel and compete for transport research, to be stimulated to submit papers for WCTR and to enjoy sound benefits from society membership.
- Types and Number of Grants:
  - One WCTRS Innovation Grant (currently = \$ 4000).
  - Three WCTRS Prestige Grants, each (currently = \$ 2000).
- The above amounts of the grants' payments can change according to available fund, and the approval of the STC, and shall be announced on the Website of the Society and indicated in the Application Form of Y-II.
- Transport Research topics of the grants are to be proposed by the applicants and approved by STC. Topics related to the applicant's Ph.D. thesis are allowed but not obligatory.
- The grants are supplementary; i.e., "additional" incentive from the society offered to the winning Ph.D. students who are already registered for the degree in Universities and could be receiving finance from other source(s).
- Main principles and operating rules are:
  - Grants will be offered through a "Call for Proposals" on the Website of the society.
  - Each proposal will be peer reviewed by two referees from the members of the STC to be recommended by WCTRS-Y Leader and approved by the STC. In addition, and to facilitate a comparative assessment of the proposals, the Secretary General of the society (being responsible of WCTRS budget) shall act as a generic reviewer of all the proposals.
  - The procedure to examine the reviewers' reports will be performed by the WCTRS Leader, in consultation with the WCTRS President, and the results will be approved by the STC.
  - The best proposal will be granted the "Innovation Grant", while the three proposals next to the best will be granted the "Prestige Grants".

- In cases of proposals with equal merit, priority in awarding the grants will be given to the younger applicant.
- In case no satisfactory proposals are submitted, STC can withhold awarding the grant(s).
- Payment to grant holders:
  - Down payment: 30% of the grant amount upon official awarding by STC.
  - Conditional final payment: 70% of the grant after official acceptance of a paper based on the research topic of the grant in the next WCTR and registration and attendance of the winning applicant, personally, of the conference. In cases when this condition is not satisfied this payment installment shall be withheld. This will be judged by the WCTRS-Y Leader and reported to the STC.
- The four grants' research papers are to be presented in a an Special Session (SS) in WCTR, chaired by the President of WCTRS and organised by the WCTRS-Y Leader, subject to the rules of the SSs of the conference.
- High quality papers based on the grants can be eligible to Prizes offered in WCTR via the PSC Chair and for journal publication through SCC-VC Publications according to the respective rules for each case.

### **Activity Y-III: WCTRS Young Online Facility**

- Aim: Offering an online facility for young members of WCTRS through the Website of the society as an additional benefit of membership, as for example,
  - Producing a New Letter on which they advertise vacancies of Post-Doctoral posts in Universities and jobs for young researchers in transport research institutions worldwide and interviewing seniors of the WCTRS committees, announcing updates on Y-I activity, featuring the winners of Y-II activity grants, etc.
  - Establishing Facebook or mailing group to facilitate exchange of knowledge and discussions on transport research.
  - Etc., as the young members themselves propose.

- Two volunteers from WCTRS young members should volunteer to run this actively and the applicants are to be approved by the STC.
- WCTRS Secretariat shall arrange technical IT and logistic support to the volunteers, if needed.
- WCTRS currently offers \$ 1000 as honoraria for the two volunteers (each \$ 500) to compensate for the time.
- The above amount of the honoraria can change according to available fund, and the approval of the STC, and shall be announced on the Website of the Society and indicated in the Application Form for each WCTR-Y.
- STC should approve this compensation after recommendation from the WCTRS-Y Leader.

### **8.3 Eligibility conditions**

#### **A) General conditions for application/participation in each of the three activities:**

- Fully paid members of WCTRS.
- Age < **35** years on the opening day of the next WCTR.

#### **B) Additional “activity-specific” eligibility:**

- For activities I & III: Post Graduate in transportation, Post Doctor in transportation or full time researcher in transport research institutions, laboratories or Universities; at least until the opening day of the next WCTR.
- For Activity II: University Postgraduates registered for Ph.D. in transportation at least till the opening day of the next WCTR.