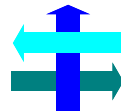


**WCTRS/WCTR  
Current Operating Practices  
2021**



**8 WCTRS Young Researchers'  
Initiative**

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

### **8.1 Background**

In 2011 WCTRS launched a pioneer 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 encourage 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 who are members of the WCTRS (being the papers' authors, papers' referees, sessions' chairs and conference chair) under full guidance of the STC.
- **Activity Y-II**: “**WCTRS Ph.D. Students' Grants**”; for Ph.D. students' who are members of the WCTRS.
- **Activity Y-III**: “**WCTRS-Young Online Facility and Social Media Management**”; undertaken by young members of the WCTRS.

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 after a brief background on the initiative.

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-13, July 2013 with a remarkable success. In July 2016, WCTRS-Y, Ed-2, and in May 2019, WCTRS-Y, Ed-3, with their three activities Y-I, Y-II and Y-III, accompanied WCTR-14 and WCTR-15 held in Shanghai and Mumbai, respectively: both, 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, who are members of the WCTRS, to be trained (on-the-job) and get acquainted with scientific aspects of conference organisation, networking with colleagues, learn from seniors and attend the main WCTR. An additional implicit important aim is to encourage new young researchers to join the WCTRS to enjoy the sound benefits from society membership.
- WCTR-Y is to be run totally by young researchers under guidance of the STC through the WCTRS-Y Leader.
- WCTR-Y is not to be taken as an ordinary common conference organised for young researchers. WCTR-Y 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, presented by those who formally applied to participate in activity Y-I as explained below.
  - A closing session including:
    - a) interactive period organized by the young organisers of Y-I, as approved by the WCTRS-Y Leader, with the conference senior Conference Co-Advisors, (CCAs), (for the choice and role of the CCAs see ‘main principles and operating rules’ given below), and possibly a guest from WCTRS members.
    - b) a time slot to the CCAs and the WCTRS-Y Leader to give ‘Educational Notes’ to the young organisers of Y-I on their performance and conduction of Y-I.
  - Participants: 30 to 120+, depending on confirmed registration to attend the main WCTR.
  - Theme: Young researchers, who formally applied to join Y-I, propose three ‘generic’ themes and STC approves one.

- Main principles and operating rules are:
  - Two volunteers from STC members guide the event as 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 who applied to participate in Y-I, to take charge of one or more of the following tasks:
    - ‘1’: Conference Chair (CC),
    - ‘2’: two Conference Organising Volunteers (COVs),
    - ‘3’: Authors of Papers,
    - ‘4’: Papers’ Referees (PRs), and/or
    - ‘5’: Sessions’ Chairs (SCs).
  - Interested young members of WCTRS should formally apply through the society Website in due course, by completing a special Application Form in which they indicate, in addition to other personal information and experience, their preferred choices of the task(s) they wish to participate for Y-I, from amongst those given in the above bullet (i.e., ‘1’ to ‘5’). Multiple choices are allowed.
  - The CC, the two COVs, the Authors of Papers, the PRs and the SCs should only be from amongst those who formally applied to participate in Y-I based on their preference of participation indicated in the Application Form.
  - After examination of the received Application Forms, the WCTRS-Y Leader decides the accepted Applicants and assigns the tasks among them.
  - Once selected by the WCTRS-Y Leader, CC and COVs take charge of the process: asking the Applicants of Y-I who indicated a wish to write papers for Y-I in the Application Form to directly submit their full papers around the generic theme, send the papers to the Applicants who indicated a wish to be papers’ reviewers, i.e., the PRs, preparation of WCTR-Y day programme, choice of SCs from amongst the Applicants who indicated a wish to chair sessions, etc.

- The submitted papers if not single authored, can only be co-authored if the co-author(s) is (are) from the Applicants of Y-I.
- To ensure papers' quality, the CCAs should assess and approve the result of papers review made by the young PRs and their assessment over rules those of the PRs.
- As mentioned earlier, a suitable time slot is to be allocated to the two CCAs and the WCTRS-Y Leader in the Closing Session of WCTR-Y; to give "Educational Advice" on the performance of CC, COVs, Authors of the Papers, PRs and SCs; and their general assessment of the event. Thus, concluding the achievement of WCTR-Y main Aim.
- The WCTRS-Y Leader, assisted by the CC and the COVs, writes, a brief on the event to appear in the Newsletter of WCTRS issued after WCTR main conference.
- Upon recommendation of the CCAs, high quality papers can be eligible for Prizes offered in the WCTR through the Chair of the PSC and/or for journal publication through the SCC-VC Publications, according to the respective rules for each case. Those papers should be sent by WCTRS-Y Leader to the Chair of PSC and the SCC-VC Publication in due course.
- The WCTRS-Y Leader submits a short note on Y-I to the STC in its meeting immediately after the event 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 \$1500 per person, to the 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 indicated in the Application Form for participating in Y-I.

### **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 encourage new young researchers to join the WCTRS to enjoy sound benefits from society membership.
- Types and Number of Grants:
  - One WCTRS Innovation Grant, currently = \$ 5000.
  - Four WCTRS Prestige Grants, currently each = \$ 3000.
- The above amounts of the grants' payments can change according to available fund, and the approval of the STC, and shall be indicated in the Application Form of Y-II that will be posted on the WCTRS Website in due course.
- 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., they are '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 an Application Form, to be posted on the Website of the society in due course.
  - Each proposal will be peer reviewed by two referees from the members of the STC recommended by WCTRS-Y Leader in consultation with the WCTRS-Y Advisor 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 third generic reviewer of all the proposals.
  - Reviewers' reports will be processed by the WCTRS-Y Leader, in consultation with the WCTRS President and WCTRS-Y Advisor, and the results will be announced by the WCTRS-Y Leader after the approval of the STC.

- The best proposal will be granted the “Innovation Grant”, while the four proposals next to the best, each will be granted the “Prestige Grants”.
- In cases of proposals with equal merit, priority in awarding the grants will be given to the younger applicants.
- 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 amount 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. The paper must be single authored by the Grant holder. In cases when any of the above conditions is not satisfied this payment instalment shall be withheld. This will be justified by the WCTRS-Y Leader and reported to the STC.
- The five Grants’ research papers are to be presented in a 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 WCTR.
- 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 and Social Media Management**

- Aim: Offering an online facility and social media interactions for young members of WCTRS as an additional benefit of membership, as for example,
  - Producing two or more Newsletters on which they advertise vacancies of Post-Doctoral posts in Universities and jobs for young researchers in transport research institutions and/or companies, ..., worldwide, and post interviews with seniors of

- the WCTRS committees, report on Y-I activity progress, feature the winners of Y-II activity Grants, report recent news on some SIGs of the society if possible, etc.
- Establishing social media, or mailing group for to facilitate exchange of knowledge and discussions on transport research, etc.
  - Etc., as the young members themselves propose.
  - This activity is to be run by two young members of WCTRS after examination of the applications. Y-III Application Form will be posted on the Website of WCTRS in due course. The two winning Applicants are to be decided by the WCTRS-Y Leader and 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 indicated in the Application Form for participating in Y-III.
  - STC should approve this compensation after recommendation from the WCTRS-Y Leader.

### **8.3 Eligibility Conditions**

- A) General conditions for application/participation in any of the three activities Y-I, Y-II and Y-III:
- Fully paid members of WCTRS before submission of the Application Form of any of the WCTRS-Y three activities, Y-I, Y-II and/or Y-III.
  - Age < 35 years on the opening day of the next WCTR.
  - Registration, and attendance, of the next WCTR conference.
- B) Additional “activity-specific” eligibility:
- For activities Y-I & Y-III: Post Graduate in transportation, Post Doctor in transportation or full time staff or researcher in transport research institutions, laboratories, or Universities; at least until the opening day of the next WCTR.



- For Activity Y-II: University Post Graduates registered for Ph.D. in transportation at least until the opening day of the next WCTR.