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WCTRS Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, July 23rd, 2024

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees

STC:

- 1. Tae Oum
- 2. Laetitia Dablanc
- 3. Hongchang Li
- 4. Junyi Zhang
- 5. Füsun Ülengin
- 6. Ozay Ozaydin
- 7. Maria Attard
- 8. Antonio Musso
- 9. Hideki Nakamura
- 10. Martin Dresner
- 11. Masanobu Kii
- 12. Martin Trepanier
- 13. Aseem Kinra
- STC ex officio member:
 - 1. Giovanni Circella

Observers:

- 1. Fred Amonya
- 2. Guershom Kitsa
- 3. Jody Labao
- 4. Varameth Vichiensan
- 5. Orla McCarthy
- 6. Victor Cantillo
- 7. Stéphanie Risser

Apologies

- 1. Allen Kun Wang
- 2. Sergio Rodolfo Jara Diaz

- 14. Ali Huzayyin
- 15. Jaehak Oh
- 16. Chikage Miyoshi
- 17. Marc Ivaldi
- 18. Susan Shaheen
- 19. Pierluigi Coppola
- 20. Haixiao Pan
- 21. Joel Shon
- 22. Haijun Huang
- 23. Xiaowen Fu
- 24. Yoshitsugu Hayashi
- 25. Daniel Sperling

- 8. Thobias Sando
- 9. Wei-Shiuen Ng
- 10. Caroline Almeras
- 11. Hermann Maier
- 12. Chuntao Wu
- 13. Grant Matson



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1. Opening, agenda, minutes – Tae Oum

- a. Started the meeting with introductions and welcome to the meeting.
- b. Minutes of the STC Meeting:
 - i. Motion to approve: Approved No votes in opposition

2. President's report on WCTRS - Tae Oum

- Tae provided an update on the transition of the secretariat from the University of Leeds to UC Davis
 - i. Transition was successful
 - ii. Website is in the process of being updated
 - 1. Please send comments to Grant Matson (gamatson@ucdavis.edu).
 - iii. Discussion of UC Davis goals for the secretariat
- b. Update on the taskforces:
 - i. Subway Efficiency Benchmarking:
 - 1. Completed the first-year report and tabled in the Montreal Conference
 - 2. Beijing Jiaotong University's School of Business and Economics has agreed to take over benchmarking work
 - a. Prof. Hong Chang Li is the taskforce representative to oversee the work
 - 3. TF work team was formed with the goal or producing a second TF report before the 2026 conference
 - a. This team will consist of Dr. Shuli Liu, and four PhD and graduate students

ii. Covid-19:

 Yoshi Hayashi and Junyi Zhang successfully completed the taskforce work



- Tae hopes to make changes to address the challenges faced by the transport and supply chain logistics systems caused by the deglobalizing world economy
- iii. Chartered Education & License Program:
 - 1. Needs reformulations because China's Education ministry removed all financial incentives for Chinese universities from offering extra curricula courses or programs.
 - 2. Martin Dresner is looking for new opportunities outside of China.
 - 3. T&F Journal Sustainable Transport and Livability
 - a. Two aspects of the T&F proposed agreement that Tae strongly opposes:
 - The publisher grants the WCTRS the limited, nonexclusive right to affiliate with the journal worldwide during the term in accordance with the terms/conditions set out in the agreement
 - 1. Tae's Response: "For Transport Policy, we have an exclusive collaboration agreement with Elsevier. Whatever reason T&F are not happy with us, they can invite another society to help them on the same journal. This is unacceptable to the WCTRS."
 - ii. The appointment of all editors, and the editorial policy of the journal, shall be the sole responsibility of the publisher, the publisher may consult with the WCTRS at the publisher's discretion
 - Tae's Response: "For Transport Policy, WCTRS president and Publication Vice Chair SCC are directly involved in



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searching/evaluating the EiC, Editors and Associate Editors, and the WCTRS Steering Committee approves them before submitting the names to Elsevier to appoint."

b. All of this considered, Tae is unable to approve the contract as it is provided. If T&F were able to address this issue, then he would sign the agreement – until July 23, 2024, after which he will not open this idea

iv. Comments:

- 1. Junyi Zhang
 - a. Mentioned that the taskforce on Transport and Logistics
 Amid Global Crisis and Disasters has been reformulated.
 - i. Call for papers proposed in June for the journal Transport Policy and approved
 - ii. Call will be distributed to WCTRS members soon.
 - Abstract submission deadline: End of December
 2024
 - iv. Recruitment for taskforce members will follow.
 - b. Additionally, Junyi mentioned the scheduled COVID-19
 Taskforce publications
 - Research Handbook on Transport and COVID-19 by Junyi Zhang, Ying Jiang, Yoshitsugu Hayashi (2024), Edward Elgar Publishing
 - ii. COVID-19 & Pandemics, Lifestyles, HumanMobilities, and Cities: A Perspective of PlanetaryHealth by Junyi Zhang et al. (2024), Springer
 - Contact: Junyi Zhang
 (zjy890321@seu.edu.cn)



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3. Journals – Hai-Jun Huang, Xiaown Fu

- a. Transport Policy Hai-Jun Huang (presented by Xiaown Fu)
 - i. CiteScore has increased from 10.7 to 12.1 while Impact Factor is now 6.3 (previous 6.8), which is lower than last year but in line with the reduction seen in all transportation journals of the past year
 - 1. Details on the change are available in the presentation slides
 - ii. New editors appointed by Elsevier:
 - 1. Jason Cao, University of Minnesota, USA
 - 2. Giovanni Circella, University of Ghent, Belgium
 - 3. Andre de Palma, Cergy Paris Universite
 - 4. Luigi dell'Olio, University of Cantabria, Spain
 - 5. Ying-En (Ethan) Ge, Chang'an University, China
 - 6. Changmin Jiang, UIBE, China
 - 7. Juan de Dios Ortuzar, PUC, Chile
 - 8. Michael Smart, Rutgers, USA
 - 9. Hangjun Yang, UIBE, China
 - 10. Zhongzhen Yang, Ningbo University
 - iii. Performance is ahead of last year on all key statistics
 - iv. Desk rejection rate is currently 66%
 - v. Majority of submissions are from mainland China
 - vi. TP is a highly cited journal, even more than TR Part A
- b. Case Studies on Transport Policy Xiaowen Fu
 - i. On track to have more submissions than 2023 (estimate of 1000)
 - 1. There has been a 50% increase in submissions.
 - ii. Desk Rejection rate is around 60% (increase from 37% in 2022) and acceptance rate at 20%
 - iii. Impact Factor is 2.4, last year it was 4.5
 - 1. In line with other transportation journals



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- 2. Increase in publications drives this number down
- iv. 2023 saw a significant increase in submission but speed was maintained, with similar levels expected for 2024 but speed is expected to decrease
 - 1. 2023 speed stayed the same due to an increase in editors
 - 2. 2024 needs more editors to maintain this same level of speed
 - a. Need to get new editors onboard
- v. All editors are 100% voluntary, suggested that a minimal incentive is in order to show appreciation for this hard work
- c. Taylor and Francis Journal Update
 - i. This was presented in the President's Report section of the STC

4. Scientific Committee Report – Lori

- a. No report was received, but Giovani Circella suggested proceeding without it since many members got the full report in the SCC meeting.
- b. Tae Oum used the time to give a brief update on the education program. No questions were asked.

5. International Partner Organizations

- a. TRB Caroline Almeras (ECTRI), Christo Xenophontos, Bill Anderson
 - i. Apologies for co-chairs not being able to join
 - ii. Update on 2024 activities and changes in staff
 - iii. Launched call for proposal for workshops
 - 1. Focusing on congestion pricing and beyond
 - iv. A note to please make suggestions for speakers
 - v. WCTRS is asked to consider being a co-sponsor for the international reception
 - vi. Please keep the WCTRS events on the ICC calendar file (link provided in presentation)
 - vii. Held Mid-Year Meeting at TRA Conference in April
 - 1. Hybrid meeting with 60 attendants



- 2. Looking for partner proposals for next year's meeting (2025, 2026)
- viii. Leadership Team Meetings updates
 - ix. Please use the link in presentation for additional information on TRB
 - x. Giovanni Circella will now be the TRB representative for WCTRS
- b. ITF (International Transport Forum) Orla McCarthy
 - i. ITF Summit 2025:
 - 1. Planning for the 2025 event will start in September (Matt Ireland is the new event manager)
 - 2. Plan will not be finalized until 2025
 - ii. Sessions include using resiliency in infrastructure, transport, cybersecurity, workforce, and development
 - iii. "Spotlight on Research" sessions:
 - 1. Designed to bring together researchers and policymakers to discuss issues relevant to the Summit's theme
 - 2. Three sessions are planned for the 2025 Summit
- c. WB (World Bank) Binyam Reja
 - i. No report given
- d. AET (Association of European Transport) Hermann Maier, Board Chair or Pierluigi Coppola
 - i. European Transport Conference 2024:
 - 1. Will be in Antwerp, Belgium on 18th-20th of September, 2024
 - ii. Transport and Mobility Forum:
 - Started during COVID pandemic and will continue a free monthly webinar series, along with in-person workshops at ETC, and a hybrid meeting each spring
 - a. Program will be published shortly
 - b. Welcome to contributions, please send them via email if you would like to present



- e. EASTS (Eastern Asia Society for Transportation Studies) Prof. Fujiwara,
 President
 - i. Prof. Akimasa Fujiwara of Hiroshima Univ of Japan, replaces Dr. Jaehak
 Oh, as the president of EASTS
 - ii. Collaboration will continue and improve with the next leadership team.
 - iii. 30th anniversary of EASTS this year, November 11th, will be held in Tokyo, Japan
 - 1. Tae Oum may be in attendance
 - 2. It is a 1-day symposium
 - iv. Next conference will be held in Indonesia in 2025
 - 1. They have started the call for papers
- f. CODATU Cooperation for urban mobility in the developing world Ali Huzayyin, VP; Varameth Vichiensan
 - i. Previous conference papers are published in CSTP
 - ii. Next conference will be held in 2025 in Marseille, with details to come.
 - 1. SIG H5 of WCTRS will arrange some sessions
 - iii. Training is available on urban mobility for decision makers, in the form of short-courses and online classes.
 - iv. Sustained promoting the initiative 'Mobilize your City', launched in COP21 to assist development cities with urban mobility planning
 - 1. Including 69 cities in 31 countries
- g. Club of Rome Yoshi Hayashi
 - The club is changing, one of two presidents changed from Sandrine Dixson-Declève to Paul Shrivastava
 - ii. Second president will change later this year by vote
 - iii. Will develop new impact hub, but progress has been slow
 - iv. Held a jointly organized event one and a half years ago (CoR and WCTRS)



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- v. Would like to collaborate in the reforming of the COVID-19 taskforce
- vi. Yoshi will provide detailed report to Tae Oum, as well as updating the new president on WCTRS partnership
- h. UNESCAP Wei-Shiuen Ng
 - i. Intergovernmental organization that does research
 - ii. New bi-annual report coming out this year focusing on the Asia-Pacific region
 - iii. Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport:
 - 1. Aligned with the three pillars of sustainability economic, environmental, and social
 - 2. Seven Thematic Areas

Thematic Areas

- 1. Regional land transport connectivity and logistics
- 2. Maritime and interregional transport connectivity
- 3. Digitalization of transport;
- 4. Low carbon mobility and logistics
- 5. Urban transport
- 6. Road safety
- 7. Inclusive transport and mobility
- iv. Linked provided to join their network
- v. Obtaining UNFCCC Observer Status (outside of her work as UNESCAP)

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	Required Supporting Documents	Status			
1	Letter of application from the head of the organization.	Ø			
	Copies of certified articles of association, bylaws, statutes, or constitution detailing the mandate, scope and governing structure of the organization.				
3	Certificate of incorporation/registration/establishment of the organization is sued by a government authority in the country where your organization's headquarters is located.				
	Certificate of the non-profit and/or tax-exempt status of the organization issued by a government authority in the country where your organization headquarters are located. Alternatively, an organization may prove its non-profit status by providing a copy of the relevant law/regulation certifying the non-profit status of the organization due to its legal nature.				
5	A financial statement of the organization of the most recent accounting year, including income and expenditure breakdowns.	0			
6	List of the names of all donors and other funding sources in the last two years.	N/A			
7	Evidence of competence in the matters covered by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The evidence should not be older than 12 months	•			
	List of networks your organization is part of and/or affiliations with other organizations involved in climate change activities.	•			
9	In the case of research institutes, including universities, evidence of academic independence or academic freedom of your organization (e.g. relevant sections of state law, certificate from a 3rd party institution that certify independence at a law.	N/A			



- 1. Still need a few of the remaining documents
- 2. It is important to get a status update on climate change because all SIGs have some element that works on this topic
- 3. Can access to COP meetings
 - a. Can set up side events
 - b. Can be part of the process and get materials directly
- 4. Secretariat to provide the remaining items
- i. Air Transport Research Society (ATRS) Martin Dresner
 - i. Had their conference earlier this month is Lisbon
 - 1. 405 participants
 - ii. 72 paper sessions
 - iii. Sustainability in Air Transport was most popular topic, being 20% of all presentations
 - iv. Two special issues will be opened, and a new journal will be started
 - v. Next conference will be in Hong Kong in July, and all STC members are welcome
- j. Pan-American Society of Transportation Research Victor Cantillo
 - i. Introduced their Board directors, 265 members
 - ii. Next conference will be held May 2026 in San Diego, California, USA.
 - iii. It will also organize monthly webinars
 - iv. Presented the Latin American Transport Studies scientific journal
 - v. Partner Organizations:























- k. ADBI (Asian Development Bank Institute) Seetha Ram (presented by Yoshi Hayashi)
 - i. Has been working on high-speed rail, aligning with SIG A4
 - ii. Bringing scientific research to real-world applications
 - iii. In India HSR is focusing on quality-of-life improvements
- CCTA-WCTRS collaboration issue President of CCTA, Jin Mao, Hongchang Li
 (STC member) (presented by Hongchang Li)
 - i. Over 3,000 organizational members, as large as TRB in China
- m. ICTPA (Int'l Chinese Transportation Professionals Association) Joel Shon
 - i. No report
- n. ATRA (African Transport Research Alliance) Neil Pedersen, Marg Akofio
 Sowah, and Thobias Sando
 - i. The organization's objective is to advance African transport and research
 - ii. 2023 ATRA Roundtable Dialogue:
 - 1. In partnership with the World Bank
 - 2. Had a roundtable discussion in Washington, DC to identify critical issues
 - 3. 200 people participated in the hybrid event
 - iii. Engaged in the TRB workshop to discuss key topics
 - iv. Have established an advisory board to help direct the organization on strategic advice and leverage their networks



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- v. Next meeting is at TRB (Sunday workshop)
- vi. No official meeting set yet, will update STC
- o. IATBR (Int'l Association for Travel Behaviour Research) Giovanni Circella
 - i. This is a new partner organization
 - ii. IATBR is the leading organization for connecting research in travel behavior worldwide
 - iii. It hosts a triannual conference
 - iv. 2024 IATBR Conference (Vienna, Austria)
 - 1. Approx. 500 participants
 - 2. Record number of submissions
 - v. The next event will be in 2027 in Sidney, Australia

6. Preparations for WCTRS 2026 -Marc Ivaldi

- a. Brochure
 - i. Available at the link https://www.tse-fr.eu/fr/conferences/2026-wctr-2026
 - ii. Requested to share with potential sponsors and others that might be interested in participating in the conference
 - iii. Sponsorship is not divided into specific levels, which allows for flexibility in tailoring offerings to what sponsors are able to contribute
 - 1. Too early to start this request with sponsor; we will begin during the sponsor's budgeting year
- b. Online Flagship Research Panel:
 - i. Virtual Meeting at 15:30 CEST on November 7th, 2024
 - ii. All WCTRS Members will be invited to attend
 - iii. Objective is to engage with all the WCTRS members and remind them of the upcoming conference, inform them of the spirit of the conference, and encourage them to write quality papers.
 - iv. Chief Technical Officer at Airbus has agreed to participate in this panel



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- Might have to reschedule to early December to accommodate her schedule
- c. Professional Conference Organizer (PCO):
 - i. Call for Proposal was sent out and many organizations are interested
 - ii. Currently searching for the right software/service to meet all needs of the WCTR scientific program and registration
 - iii. Will be selected by the end of July, under strict confidentiality, so no detailed updates at this time
 - iv. There will be an onboarding session for the SIGs after the selection.
 - v. 23 companies were reviewed to select the vendor, which:
 - 1. Provides a complete software solution for:
 - a. Scientific aspects
 - b. Registration
 - c. Web and Smartphone application
 - 2. Is still within budget, even accounting for high inflation
- d. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):
 - i. The CSR plan is currently being designed; it will address reducing carbon footprint, enhancing resource efficiency, supporting local communities, promoting sustainable practices, and monitoring and reporting.

7. Special Issues and Proceedings Progress Report

- a. Special Issues Ozay Ozaydin
 - i. TA-A Four special issues ongoing, one is considering a book
 - 1. If there were not enough papers for a special issue, they were moved to regular issues
 - ii. TA-B One is finalized, three are still ongoing
 - 1. If there were not enough papers for a special issue, they were moved to regular issues



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- iii. TA-C One issue was cancelled due to lack of papers; others are still ongoing
- iv. TA-D No response from the chair, this needs to be addressed
- v. TA-E One special issue is ongoing, with papers under review
- vi. TA-F Special issues are ongoing with papers under review
- vii. TA-G All work is ongoing, with around 50 papers
- viii. TA-H Work is ongoing
- ix. TA-I No response from the chair for update, only four papers pending, so turnaround should be quick.
 - 1. Report will be provided shortly by the chair
- b. Twelve special issues have been concluded
 - i. AB papers in issues that were too small have been included in the regular issues

8. Procedia

- a. Transfers all papers in Procedia to publication is progressing positively
- b. Second review has been completed

Papers with decision (242 papers)

Accepted C papers	CONTRACT ON THE CONTRACT OF TH	accepted	and the second s	Not yet received
199	50	245	211	34

- c. Eleven papers are still under second review, five papers waiting on SIG Chair
 - i. Martin Trepainer has asked SIG Chairs
- d. Three papers from WCTRS-Y
- e. Expecting 259 Procedia papers



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- f. Expecting the Procedia to be published by the end of this summer
- g. The website is being updated with new information to generate interest in special issues

9. WCTRS-Y - Laetitia Dablanc

- a. Laetitia is ending her role with WCTRS-Y role in April 2025, after selecting the next team of young members for the Young Conference in Toulouse, and new social media managers are selected in April 2025
 - 1. New leadership will be selected the STC Chair (President)
 - ii. Already working together for planning of WCTRS-Y timeline
 - iii. Will add the new virtual meeting session to the timeline
 - iv. Need to reevaluate the PhD grants, two options were provided
 - 1. PhD grants are mature enough to be turned over to the Prize committee (and not be organized by WCTRS-Y anymore)
 - 2. PhD grants remain within the WCTRS-Y and the next leader proposes a strategy to reinforce the educational purpose of the grants and the special session
 - 3. We can discuss this in the next meeting under the new leadership
 - 4. Additional topics regarding the PhD Grants:
 - a. A decision needs to be made on PhD grants, which are intended to support young members financially and otherwise in writing and presenting high-level papers in Toulouse
 - Some PhD students perceive the grants as prizes and may feel frustrated by a lack of a focused audience during the Special Session
 - She proposes changes to the PhD grant process and have discussed this with Tae; the decision can be postponed to the next STC meeting



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10. Digital Marketing – Maria Attard

- a. Social Media Maria Attard
 - i. Facebook, Twitter/X, YouTube, LinkedIn.
 - ii. We are currently in the lull between conferences and should begin updating all the branding on our pages as we prepare for the upcoming Toulouse conference
 - Requested logo and other branding imagery so pages can be updated
- b. WCTRS Research Newsletter Ashish Verma
 - i. Monthly publishing since Feb 2021
 - ii. Summary of updates on the newsletter was provided
 - iii. Newsletter contract with Ashish ended in June, will need a new contract to continue work
 - 1. If a budget issue appears, there will be consideration of a bimonthly release instead of monthly

11. Country-Regional Council

- a. China Haixiao Pan, Hong Chang Li, Chuntao Wu
 - i. Promotion through Diverse Channels:
 - 1. Use WCTRS, ITEA, TSTE 2024, CCTA, China Railway Society, China Technical Economics Society, and other channels
 - ii. Cooperation with CCTA:
 - 1. Focus on starting with journal and meeting cooperation due to changing political/economic environments
 - 2. Aim to attract practitioners
 - iii. Transport Policy Special Issue:
 - 1. Organize a special issue (TP SI) and call for papers among Chinese scholars
 - 2. Reward the best paper with a prize from CCTA



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- 3. Discuss details with CCTA
- iv. Special Session at WCTRS Toulouse 2026:
 - 1. Organize a special session involving interested organizations
- v. Brochure and Promotion Materials:
 - 1. Create a Chinese version of WCTRS 2026 promotion materials
 - 2. Assign responsible institutions and individuals for this task
- b. Japan Shinya Hanaoka (to be presented by Hideki Murakami)
 - i. Presented list of major academic societies in Japan and reached out to them to promote WCTRS
 - Japan Society of Civil Engineers, Japan Society of Traffic
 Engineers, City Planning Institute of Japan, Applied Regional
 Science Conference, Japan Society of Transportation Economics,
 International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences, EASTS
- c. India Gopal Patil
 - i. No updates
- d. Thailand Varameth Vichiensan
 - i. No updates
 - 1. Varameth requested to step down from this position
- e. Brazil/Latin America Helena Cybis, Romulo Orrico
- f. MENA Ranal Mam, Ali Huzayyin
- g. Africa Fred Amonya
 - i. Infrastructure and debt are large issues in Africa.
 - 1. Infrastructure is a huge transportation factor

12. WCTRS-Swiss Registry Report – Andreas Wittmer

- a. The move to St. Gallen has been completed
- b. Waiting on the state tax document

13. Report of Secretariat at UC Davis - Daniel Sperling, Giovanni Circella, Grant Matson

a. The goals are to get up to speed and improve management



- b. Major Tasks:
 - 1. Website Internal team reviewing the full site
 - 2. Bank Exploring setting up a second bank for faster banking
 - a. Updates to STC will follow when available
 - 3. Visual updates to templates and documents
 - a. New templates to be sent out in coming weeks
 - 4. STC/SCC meeting planning for TRB 2025:
 - Initial work underway, adjusting plans based on feedback from last year
 - ii. Results/Status: The transfer was longer and more complex than expected, now that it is over we are back up to speed and will not have as many delays
- c. Financial transfer key details from UK to UC-Davis:
 - i. Transfers were complete and accounts in the UK were closed.
 - ii. UC Davis teams want to thank the Leeds team for all the hard work and great stewardship
- d. 2024 budget details:
 - i. Income:
 - 1. New membership payment system has been set up and will begin processing shortly
 - 2. Journal income is on par with expectations
 - ii. Expenses:
 - 1. Temporary website cost increase for short-term extension during the transition, will be reduced over the next years
 - 2. Newsletters will stop as of July
 - a. A contract extension will be necessary to continue past July
 - b. Tae Oum does not think we will stop in July. We discussed that the Research Newsletter will be reviewed in January



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2025. Research Newsletter continues. And the cost will remain the same until we have further review in January, 2025.

- e. 2024-2026 3-year cycle budget details (with comments by Tae Oum)
 - i. The 3-year budget was presented
- f. WCTRS Swiss Registration
 - i. One emergency payment to the Canton De Vaud was needed to close the registration
 - 1. Payment was made, and issue has been resolved
- g. Tae Oum commented on the increased cost from the UC Davis staff
 - i. Previously staff was roughly 30% of the budget, now it is 60%
 - 1. UC Davis will help to offset this by increasing individual membership and corporate membership
 - ii. Tae states that the staff bill should not be more than 50% of income
 - iii. Daniel confirmed that the secretariat needs a 50%-time staff person
 - 1. This will need to be reviewed again next year

14. Auditor's Report – Antonio Musso

- a. Conducted an independent audit for the 2nd Semester 2023 and 1st semester of 2024
- b. Documents reviewed:
 - i. Spreadsheets covering these periods from UC Davis and Leeds
 - ii. 3-year budget forecast
 - iii. Current budget with forecast
 - iv. Complete invoice list
- c. This audit is conducted in accordance with common auditing standards

15. Other Business

a. No additional comments

16. Next Meeting



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- a. Thursday, Jan 9th, 2025 TRB in person and online
- b. The WCTRS President's Reception is Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, and everyone is invited

17. End of Meeting

a. Meeting concluded