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**SECRETARIAT OFFICE OF THE WCTRS**

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Welcome to WCTR 2026!



Marc Ivaldi
CDT Toulouse
Conference Director

Dear Participants, Colleagues, and Friends,

It is an honor and an absolute pleasure to welcome you to Toulouse for the **World Conference on Transport Research (WCTR 2026)**, hosted at the historic **University Toulouse Capitole** from **July 6 to 10, 2026**.

This year is a historic milestone for our community as we gather **1,500 participants** from across the globe to celebrate the **50th Anniversary of the WCTRS**. Over the next five days, Toulouse- the beating heart of European aerospace and innovation—will serve as the global capital for groundbreaking transport research and policy debate.

An Unrivaled Scientific Program

To make the most of this landmark anniversary, we have put together an incredibly rich and diverse program designed to inspire and challenge:

- **1100 Lectern & 420 Poster Presentations:** Showcasing the very best and latest advancements in transport research across all modes and disciplines.
- **Inspiring Keynote Speeches:** Featuring world-renowned experts addressing the critical challenges and future trajectories of global mobility.
- **6 Industrial Insights Sessions:** Sponsored by our leading French partners and institutions, offering a direct bridge between academic excellence and cutting-edge industry applications.
- **Featured Plenaries & Events:** You won't want to miss the **Opening Reception**, our dedicated **International Session**, and, of course, the **50th WCTRS Anniversary Plenary Session**, where we will honor our rich history and look forward to the next half-century of innovation.

Experience French Hospitality & Gastronomy

A world-class conference deserves world-class networking. We have designed **three spectacular social events** to offer you the perfect backdrop to connect, collaborate, and enjoy the legendary regional French gastronomy:

1. **The Welcome Cocktail:** Kick off the week by reconnecting with old friends and meeting new colleagues.
2. **The Gala Dinner:** A prestigious evening celebrating our community with exceptional French cuisine.
3. **The Farewell Party:** Conclude a productive week on a high note with a relaxed, festive atmosphere.

Stay Connected: Download the Conference App

With such a packed agenda, managing your schedule is key. Every participant will receive instructions to download our **official conference application**. We strongly encourage you to use it to customize your personal program, navigate the sessions, explore the poster presentations, and maximize your time here in Toulouse.

Have a safe trip to Toulouse, and we look forward to seeing you at the Opening Reception!

Warmest regards,

Marc Ivaldi

WCTR 2026 Conference Director

International Transport Policy Plenary Session: Transport and Supply Chain Policy Responses to the Deglobalizing and Fragmenting World

Date and Time: Monday, 6 July 2026, 16:20–18:20 (CEST).

Location: WCTR 2026 World Conference, Toulouse, France.

The International Transport Policy Plenary Session is organized and overall chaired by **Prof. Tae Hoon Oum**, WCTRS President and Sauder School of Business, University of British Columbia, Canada.

The session will focus on three major themes:

The plenary will be organized around three interlinked international policy themes, each coordinated by leading experts and partner organizations.

Theme I - Building Resilient Transport Systems

Funding, Governance, and Innovation for a More Shock-Resistant Global Transport Network

Transport and supply-chain systems are increasingly exposed to overlapping shocks—from extreme weather and climate events to pandemics, cyberattacks, and geopolitical disruptions. This theme focuses on how transport systems can be designed to absorb, adapt, and recover from such shocks.

- **Theme Leader: Dr. Jari Kauppila** (Head of the Research Center, International Transport Forum (ITF))
- **Contributors:**
 - **Prof. Lori Tavasszy**, Chair, WCTRS Scientific Committee and Professor, Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)
 - **Prof. Yoshitsugu Hayashi**, Executive Committee Member, Club of Rome; and Professor, Tokai Gakuen University, WCTRS Past President
 - **Prof. Aseem Kinra**, Professor, Global Research Institute for Net Zero and Beyond, Heriot-Watt University
 - **Dr. Wei-Shiuen Ng**, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- **Policy Recommendations: Theme Leader Dr. Jari Kauppila and Prof. Tae Hoon Oum** will jointly chair the Policy Recommendations, with all contributors presenting recommendations

Theme II — Deglobalization, Tariffs, and Chokepoints

Reconfiguring Global Supply Chains for Transport Resilience.

Global transport networks are being reshaped by protectionist trade policies, rising tariffs, geopolitical tensions, and repeated chokepoint disruptions. Firms and governments alike are reassessing long-standing just-in-time strategies in favor of robustness, diversification, and strategic buffers.

- **Theme Leader: Prof. Thierry Vanellander** (Professor at University of Antwerp - Faculty of Business and Economics)
- **Contributors:**
 - **Prof. Yasmine Rashed**, Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport
 - **Prof. Cassia Galvao**, Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG)
 - **Prof. Bambang Brodjonegoro**, Dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute, (ADB), former Minister of National Development Planning (Pappenas), Indonesia and Former Minister of Finance, Indonesia.
 - **Prof. José Holguin-Veras**, William H. Hart Professor, Past President of the Pan-American Society of Transportation Research, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute - New York
 - **Prof. Claudio Ferrari**, University of Genoa
 - **Prof. Alessio Tei**, University of Genoa
 - **Prof. Christa Sys**, University of Antwerp
 - **Prof. Patrick Jochem**, University of Antwerp / DLR German Aerospace Center
 - **Prof. Michele Acciaro**, Copenhagen Business School
- **Policy Recommendations: Prof. Thierry Vanellander and Prof. Tae Hoon Oum** will jointly chair this policy recommendations with all contributors listed above in the podium.

Theme III — Aviation at a Crossroads: Freedoms of the Air and the Future of Global Connectivity

International aviation relies on the long-standing framework of the Freedoms of the Air, particularly overflight and technical landing rights. Recent geopolitical developments and airspace closures have challenged these foundations, leading to longer routes, higher costs, increased emissions, and disruptions to passenger and cargo networks.

- **Theme Leader: Prof. Martin E. Dresner** (Dean's Professor of Supply Chain Management, R.H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland).
- **Contributors:**
 - **Dr. Hans-Martin Niemeier**, European Aviation Conference Institute
 - **Dr. Joel Shon**, China Airlines(Board Director), Yang Ming Marine Transport Corporation (Independent Director), International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association (Past President), WCTRS Steering Committee member
 - **Dr. Chika Miyoshi**, ATRS, formerly IATA and Cranfield Univ, WCTRS Steering Committee member
 - **Mr. Francois Cabaret**, Head of Global Market Forecast - Airbus
 - **Prof. Volodymyr Bilotkach**, Co-Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Air Transport Management; Associate Professor, Purdue University

- **Policy Recommendations: Prof. Volodymyr Bilotkach and Prof. Tae Hoon Oum** will jointly chair this policy recommendations with all contributors listed above on the podium

The session will conclude with final remarks summarizing the main insights and policy recommendations emerging from the session.

“Between blackbox and digital twin – data-driven and future AI-based transport operations” – Special Session @WCTR2026

WCTR 2026 is approaching fast, and we are looking forward to an exciting week of exchange and discussion!

Special Interest Group B3 **“Freight Transport Operations and Intermodality”** is excited to organize a special session exploring data-driven approaches and the role of AI in future transport operations. The session will feature highly relevant presentations and provide a forum for discussion on emerging research, practical applications, and future developments:

- Exploring AI Opportunities in Complex Rail Delivery: Building an Integrated Freight-Passenger Urban Corridor – Eric Shen (TRB, USC)
- Simulation Adaptation Across Ports: Methodology and Insights from Houston – Erin Mitchell (MIT)
- Freight Logistics Optimization Works Program – Thomas Koch (MIT)
- Why a lot of data still does not mean decision-ready information – Max Preisinger (TUDa)

We are also delighted to continue our long-standing collaboration with the Transportation Research Board and the TRB Truck Transportation Committee (AT014) in organizing this event.

Join us on 7 July 2026, from 16:20 to 18:00, in Room 09. We look forward to welcoming you and discussing the future of data-driven and AI-based transport operations!

We are happy to continue our long-standing collaboration with the Transportation Research Board and TRB Intermodal Freight and Truck Transportation Committee AT014 for this event!

SIGA4 : High-Speed Rail –Policy, Investment and Impact

The Special Interest Group A4 (SIGA4) on High-Speed Rail – Policy, Investment and Impact will feature a comprehensive programme of sessions during WCTR 2026, highlighting recent research and international perspectives on high-speed rail planning, policy, investment, technology, and socioeconomic impacts.

Co- Chairs



Professor Emeritus Yoshitsugu Hayashi
Nagoya University, Japan



Dr. K E Seetha Ram
ADB Institute and The University of Tokyo, Japan

Organizing Team Members



Prof. Werner Rothengatter



Prof. Hironori Kato



Dr. Shreyas Bharule



Dr. Ayushman Bhatt



Dr. Vicka Kharishma Badir

The SIGA4 programme schedule includes the **International Transport Policy Plenary Session** on 6 July 2026. **Professor Bambang Brodjonegoro**, Dean of the ADB Institute, will participate in the plenary session. This will be followed by the **First Lectern Session on 8 July**, chaired by **Prof. Hironori Kato** (The University of Tokyo, Japan); the **Special Session on 9 July**, chaired by **Professor Emeritus Werner Rothengatter** (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany); and the **Second Lectern Session on 10 July**, chaired by **Dr. Ayushman Bhatt** (Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand).

Across these sessions, participants will explore research on high-speed rail finance, technology, planning systems, institutional mechanisms, and the assessment of direct and wider socioeconomic benefits through case studies from France, Japan, China, South Korea, India, and other countries. The programme will also feature a panel discussion on the state-of-the-practice and state-of-the-art of high-speed rail development, providing a platform for exchanging ideas and international experiences.

SIGA4 also offers a publication opportunity through a **Virtual Special Issue (VSI) on Planning Studies of High-speed Railway** in Asian Transport Studies. The VSI aims to compile state-of-the-art original research on the planning systems of high-speed railways across different countries and expand the existing knowledge base in this field. Particular emphasis will be placed on the Asia-Pacific region, where ambitious HSR projects continue to emerge.

More information at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/special-issue/333649/planning-studies-of-high-speed-railway>

Guest editors: Hironori Kato, K E Seetha Ram, Ayushman Bhatt

Submission deadline: 31 January 2022

We look forward to welcoming you to the SIGA4 sessions at WCTR 2026 in Toulouse, France.

WCTRS – Y 2026 Updates

Registration for the WCTRS-Y conference is open!

We invite you to secure a spot and join this exciting opportunity to connect, share ideas, and engage with the global transport research community. To complete your registration, please visit the following link: <https://www.wctr2026.fr/registration>

For participants requiring a **Letter of Invitation (LOI) to support visa applications**, please submit your request through the following link: [\[LOI for visa application\]](#). Ensure you do so well in advance of your travel dates to allow processing time.

Meet the WCTRS-Y 2026 Organizer

[Dr Kailin Chen](#) is a research associate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Imperial College London. Her research sits at the intersection of mathematics, statistical modeling, data science, and air transportation. Her recent work addresses a central question faced by airport operators: what drives airport performance, and how much does each factor matter? This question is challenging since airport performance is shaped by many interacting factors, from runway configuration and airspace constraints to weather, demand patterns, and surface congestion. To address this, Kailin's work applies causal inference to uncover the unbiased underlying mechanisms driving capacity and delay, supporting effective operational decision-making.

Kailin's upcoming work investigates sustainable aviation, terminal airspace traffic management, and flight delay propagation. She will present at the World Conference on Transport Research (WCTR) in Toulouse this July. Looking forward to connecting with researchers, practitioners, and industry partners interested in data-driven, evidence-based approaches to improving aviation systems. A detailed profile can be found at <https://chenkailin.weebly.com/> or meet her at the WCTRS-Y Conference in Toulouse, France, in July 2026.

Check her recent works: [\[WCTRS-Y Organizer - Dr. Kailin Chen\]](#)

Career Insights: Advice from Prof. Alison Conway

We are delighted to present [Professor Alison Conway](#), a leading researcher in the field of urban freight and city logistics. She shares valuable advice for young researchers on developing a meaningful and impactful academic career.

Professor Conway encourages early-career researchers to avoid limiting themselves to overly narrow specialisations early in one's career. She highlights that many valuable research opportunities emerge through interdisciplinary collaborations, conferences, and informal professional networks. She emphasises that researchers should think creatively about how they communicate the impact of their work, as transportation research often contributes across multiple areas, including sustainability, economics, safety, and user experience.

According to Professor Conway, research quality, clarity, and visibility should be prioritised over simply increasing publication numbers. Communicating research effectively, seeking constructive feedback, and engaging with both academic and professional communities are essential steps toward creating meaningful contributions. She also highlights She emphasized the value of participating in specialized research communities, mentoring

networks, and small-scale professional activities, which often serve as important stepping stones to future collaboration and leadership opportunities.

Looking toward the future, Professor Conway identifies Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an important key force influencing research practices, particularly in writing, communication, and collaboration. She encourages young researchers to actively engage with these changes while continuing to build broader professional skills.

See her full career advice here: [\[Career advice - Prof. Alison Conway\]](#)

Young Scholar Fellowship Spotlight

We are pleased to feature [Prachiti Shinde](#), a Ph.D. candidate at Aston University, United Kingdom. Her research focuses on education and training in the railway sector and is funded by the PhDs EU-Rail Program (Horizon Europe and Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking). Motivated by the goal of contributing to a sustainable and efficient railway system, Prachiti's research addresses the widening skills gap in the railway industry caused by rapid digitalization, aging workforce, and the mismatch between industry needs and the existing education system.

She emphasized the importance of initiative, preparation, and mentorship. She developed a fully structured mini research proposal with a literature review, methodology, expected outcomes, and a three-year timeline and highlighted how early guidance from experts helped refine her research direction and strengthen her confidence.

She advises future fellowship applicants to focus on solving real-world transportation challenges, demonstrate curiosity, and clearly communicate the importance of their proposed research. Through the fellowship, Prachiti has strengthened her international research network, collaborated with academic and industry experts across Europe, and gained opportunities to publish and present her research globally. She also highlights the importance of communities such as WCTRS-Y in supporting young researchers through mentorship, collaboration, and shared learning.

Read his full story about winning fellowships: [\[Young Scholar - Prachiti Shinde\]](#)

Young Scholar Publication

We continue to highlight outstanding research across various transport fields. We have created a document that collects the most recent publications by WCTRS Young Scholars.

You can access it here: [\[Young scholar publication May 2026\]](#).

If you recently published a paper, book chapter, or conference article, feel free to contact us and send us the details. We will include it in the file and upcoming newsletters.

Job Opportunities

We regularly update the list of job opportunities with newly available positions at universities, research institutes, and international organizations. This month's highlights include **PhD positions, postdoctoral fellowships, and professorships**, with vacancies featured from **Europe**.

Explore the latest openings and discover where your next chapter could begin: [\[Vacancies May 2026\]](#).

Workshops – We Want Your Input!

We regularly update our list of free online workshops and courses available to the community. To explore the latest opportunities, please visit the following link: [\[Free Workshops\]](#).

We also invite you to contribute. If you are aware of any relevant workshops, training sessions, or courses that could benefit fellow members, please share them with us at wctrs-y2026@outlook.com. Your recommendations will help us create a richer, more diverse, and engaging program for everyone.

Help Shape the WCTRS-Y Career Development Session at WCTR 2026

The WCTRS Young Initiative (WCTRS-Y) is organising a Career Development Session (CDS) as part of the Young Conference activities at WCTR 2026. The session is intended to support young transport researchers by addressing key topics related to academic and professional development.

To help us design the session, we invite young researchers to complete a short survey on their interests, preferred session formats, and topics they would like to see discussed.

Survey link: <https://forms.office.com/r/cGDg0YL2kU>

The survey takes approximately 3–5 minutes to complete. Your feedback will help us create a more engaging and valuable experience for participants attending both in person and online.

Thank you for your support.

Third International Conference on Clean Mobility and Energy (CME 2026)

 Ghent, Belgium |  15–16 September 2026



More information and submission details:

<https://cme.its.ucdavis.edu/call-abstracts>

2nd World Symposium on Sustainable Transport and Livability (WSSTL 2027)

Following the successful first Symposium in Bengaluru in 2025, the **2nd World Symposium on Sustainable Transport and Livability (WSSTL 2027)** will be held at **TU Wien**, in the heart of Vienna, Austria, from **30 March to 2 April 2027**.

Organised by **TU Wien**, in collaboration with the **International Group on Sustainable Transport and Livability (IGSTL)**, the symposium will bring together sustainability enthusiasts from around the world to exchange ideas and shape the future of sustainable transport and livable cities. The interdisciplinary event will convene experts, policymakers, urban planners, researchers, and industry leaders dedicated to advancing sustainable transport and enhancing quality of life.

The symposium series is supported by **Sustainable Transport and Livability (TSTL)**, the partner journal published by Taylor & Francis, ensuring that the knowledge shared during the symposium has a lasting global impact. Participants from both developed and developing economies are invited to contribute to discussions on creating a more sustainable and livable world.

Find out more about the conference [here](#).

Reminder: Call for Papers – Submission Deadline Extended

The Second World Symposium on Sustainable Transport and Livability (WSSTL 2027) welcomes paper submissions that further knowledge on the linkages between sustainable transport and the livability of cities, particularly in relation to policy, planning, design, and engineering interventions.

Submissions are particularly encouraged in the following areas:

- Sustainable Transport and Well-being
- Sustainable Transport and Health and Happiness
- Sustainable Transport and Quality of Life, Equity and Social Justice
- Sustainable Transport and Safety, Accessibility, Affordability and Environmental Quality
- Sustainable Transport and Disaster Resiliency
- Other aspects of Sustainable Transport related to Livability and Quality of Life

The symposium also welcomes research focusing on specific groups, including minority groups, mobility-impaired people, children and young people, and the elderly, as well as studies addressing rural areas and remote communities. Contributions from both developed and developing economies with the potential for transferability to other locations are encouraged.

Cross-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and trans-disciplinary research is particularly welcomed. Submissions may include empirical studies, theoretical research, case studies, review articles, and conceptual or discussion papers, using either quantitative or qualitative approaches, with an emphasis on transferring research into practice.

New submission deadline: 31 July 2026

Papers must be submitted to the partner journal, **Sustainable Transport and Livability (TSTL)**. During submission, authors should select the **WSSTL 2027 Special Issue**.

To get an overview of the Symposium timeline please follow this [link](#).

WCTRS SIG G2 and F4 as Conference Partners

WSSTL 2027 is proud to cooperate with **WCTRS SIG G2 (National and Regional Transport Planning and Policy)** and **WCTRS SIG F4 (Livability and Non-motorised Transport)** as Conference Partners.

SIG F4 promotes research on the connections between sustainable transport and urban livability, including policy, planning, design, and engineering interventions that shape these relationships. SIG G2 focuses on advancing knowledge in national and regional transport planning and policymaking to improve the economic, environmental, and social performance of passenger and freight transport systems.

Contact and Information:

Find more information about the Conference [here](#)

Want to contact the organising team please write us an email [here](#)

Membership of the WCTRS

The World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTRS) provides a forum for the interchange of ideas among transport researchers, managers, policymakers, and educators from all over the world from a multi-modal, multi-disciplinary, and multi-sectoral perspective.

Every three years, the Society holds the World Conference, where leading transport professionals from all countries and areas convene to learn from one another. WCTR Toulouse will be held from 6th-10th July 2026.

In addition to our [Special Interest Groups](#), which facilitate research activities and the exchange of ideas in 42 topic areas, the WCTRS has a number of Task Forces that conduct research into emerging issues in transport and aim to bridge gaps between research and policy-making.

All academics, practitioners, students, and interested individuals are invited to apply to become an individual member of the WCTRS. You can apply to join at any time by completing [this online form](#) and paying your membership fees [here](#).

The benefits of membership include:

- Access to a truly international network of transport academics and practitioners, which is the only such worldwide network, with over 1000 experts interested in transport research from over 80 countries.
- A wide variety of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), each dedicated to a specific academic topic, from mode-specific policy and modeling to solutions for climate change and disaster resilience. The full list can be found on the SIGs webpage.
- A free online subscription to the Society's two Journals: Transport Policy and Case Studies on Transport Policy.
- Online access to the proceedings of past conferences.
- Liaison with some 30 partner journals, which publish the best conference papers.
- Outreach to international organizations such as the International Transport Forum, World Bank, and UNFCCC conferences.
- WCTRS Young Initiatives, including the WCTRS-Y Conference, grants awarded to young researchers, and dedicated newsletters and job information.
- Opportunities to contribute to the planning of a future World Conference through participation in Special Interest Groups and other Society activities.

More details: [Click here](#)

Useful Information and Links

1. **WCTR 2026 – 17th World Conference on Transport Research, Toulouse, France (6–10 July 2026)**
For details : [Click Here](#)
2. **WCTRS – Young Researchers’ Initiative (WCTRS-Y)**
Opportunities for academic growth, networking, and professional development for early-career researchers
For details : [Click Here](#)
3. **Transportation Research Procedia on World Conference on Transport Research - WCTR 2023 Montreal 17-21 July 2023**
Open Access
For details: [Click Here](#)
4. **Publications by SIG A4-Handbook on High-Speed Rail and Quality of Life and Frontiers in High-Speed Rail Development**
Both books are free to download.
For details: [Click Here](#)
5. **Urban Mobility Research in India Transport: Selected Proceedings from the Research Symposium of the 16th Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo 2023**
For details: [Click Here](#)
6. **A new Transport Research and Education Network to help ESCAP member States achieve sustainable transport**
For details: [Click Here](#)

WCTRS society journals



[Transport Policy](#)



[Case Studies in Transport Policy](#)

WCTRS book series - For details, visit: [link](#)

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