

Message from the President, *Yoshitsugu Hayashi*



Enhancing WCTRS's contributions to Researchers and for Global Society

WCTRS started in Rotterdam in 1977 as a forum for transport researchers and practitioners. It was authorised as an international academic society registered under the Swiss Law in 1986. It now involves eminent scholars and practitioners covering all modes of transport, all approaches from engineering, economics to policy making as well as from practice to theory, and all regions of the world, including developing, emerging and developed countries. This integration of researchers and practitioners across all modes, disciplines and continents makes WCTRS unique in its contribution to the world of transport research.

Meeting the needs of young researchers

Young researchers in particular need to be able to publish in the major academic journals in order to develop their careers. For WCTR14, WCTRS has substantially reformed the process for publishing the best papers from WCTR conferences. All papers submitted for review are graded, and those judged worthy of publication are offered to the editors of major journals. In addition to the Society's **two official journals** we now have **24 partner journals** in which highly rated papers submitted to WCTR Shanghai will be published principally in special issues. We will soon start a **WCTRS book series published by Elsevier**, which will further expand the opportunities to publish.

To support this, we have introduced a **Conference Management System (CMS)** for WCTR14 in Shanghai and subsequent World Conferences, which ensures consistency in registration for conferences, payment of membership fees, abstract and full-paper submission, session organisation, paper review and journal publication.

We have also substantially expanded our **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**. We now have 30 SIGs, each of which has played a central role in reviewing papers, structuring conference sessions and commissioning journal special issues. SIGs provide an opportunity for collaborative research activities between conferences, and we expect them to play a leading role in the development of the Society's Book Series.

The WCTRS Young Initiative (WCTRS-Y) was launched at WCTR13 in Rio, and has since been expanded. The next WCTRS-Y conference will be held in Shanghai on 10th July, immediately before the main conference. Four grants have been awarded to outstanding research proposals by young researchers, for papers to be presented in the main conference, and young researchers themselves are coordinating dedicated newsletters and job information.

Delivering solutions to global problems for international and domestic societies

Until the 20th century, it was a common idea that developing countries might follow the pathways of developed countries. But, the perceptions of "well-being" among people in less-developed regions may actually be superior, and we should learn from each other.

In the 21st century, all countries in the world are facing common problems such as economic and energy crises, global warming, extreme weather, lack of resilience to disasters, an aging society, pressures of urbanisation, aging infrastructure and lack of security in transport systems.

These problems threaten people's well-being and quality of life. Solutions to them are to be found by setting ourselves common objectives, identifying new policy approaches, and understanding more fully the transferability of results between countries. Therefore, we as transport researchers and practitioners need to share our knowledge and experiences.

In this sense, the Society's SIGs are becoming more and more important both in intensively promoting our research and its international policy implications. We are able to contribute beyond any individual nation's interests, by providing advanced and universally applicable knowledge. SIG events should involve not only researchers but also government officers, NPOs, and private firms.

To this end WCTRS is promoting a system of **Supporting Organisational Membership**, so that practitioners in transport firms and public organisations can gain benefits by joining in the WCTRS activities.

I would like to encourage all members to register in SIGs through the WCTRS website and actively participate in their activities in WCTR Shanghai 2016 and beyond, as well as to promote WCTRS to non-members and local and global society. Future activities will be announced in our **Newsletters**, on the WCTRS **Website** as well as on **Facebook**.

Yours sincerely

Prof. Dr.-Eng. Yoshitsugu Hayashi
[\(See Profile for Prof. Hayashi\)](#)