TRB Annual meetings January 2018

**ABE60 (5) TRANSED Planning Working Group (Subcommittee)**

The TRANSED Planning Working Group/ Subcommittee met on January 9th (1:30 PM – 3:15 PM).

The meeting provided the opportunity to update Members on the planning, scheduling, and the scientific committee progress for TRANSED 2018 in Taipei from the Eden Social Welfare Foundation.  The recent visit of scientific committee members was showcased. The solicitation of bids to host the 2021 TRANSED conference was discussed.

Below are summary notes from the speakers’ presentations and related discussion points:

Subash Vashishth (Svayam) presented: website and TRANSED 2015

* Provided an update on the status of the website where information about TRANSED can be found. There is now a Facebook page as well. Swayam is also promoting TRANSED through blogs and twitter.
* Only abstracts and short papers submitted to TRANSED 2015 are accessible on the Secretariat website but there is no backup. There is still a possible issue regarding the quality of the papers that are accessible.
* Action: it was recommended that a letter should be drafted to request that papers that have full abstracts be shared or at least available if requested.
* Swayam is sponsoring accessibility awards in 2018 and seeking nominations

Eileen Lu (Eden Social Welfare Foundation): TRANSED 2018

* An introductory video on the preparatory meetings for TRANSED2018 was shown and will be uploaded on the committee website.
* TRANSED2018 planning is ongoing in five different cities in Taiwan. A Mayor’s accord was signed on accessible infrastructure related to design and three other specific dimensions.
* The preparation committee is getting technical support from four universities and/or research centers, industry centers and NGOs.
* The selected venue is TICC World Trade Center which has accessible facilities.
* The conference website is up and a call for paper was launched during the first week of January
* Further outreach from the scientific committee, respective and extended networks and other regional conferences on mobility and disability is taking place
* A list of suggestion and feedback was received from disabled users on accessibility of conference facilities which are being considered by the organization committee.
* Service provision/ paratransit for very specific locations and/or needs is being reviewed. Eden has vast experience in operating buses and specialized services.
* Hotel venues’ staff may be needed to be trained about where to go and about how to access transportation.
* Eden will send a list of items for which support is needed, including a request for recommendation on keynote speakers and specifically on the support from the Scientific Committee on when and how to best intervene to support the conference.
* It was proposed that Eden may prepare a press kit to promote information on the conference – this could help TRB and related organizations and networks help promote the conference.
* Thirty-two subtopics of the conference have been identified as well as the main theme, which is ‘connecting the world with accessible transportation’
* Eden is still waiting for feedback on program and themes.

TRANSED 2021

A call for letter of interest was issued. No responses that were received were considered responsive to the call for interest for the next TRANSED conference.

Several options were discussed: (1) more lobbying to TRB (this would include a review of TRB rules, the kind of partnership being sought moving forward); (2) continue existing organization.

A discussion raised the following points:

* More support from TRB would give more credibility
* Organizing the conference still requires a local partner and helps derive local benefits
* In the future, TRB would help handle all logistics related to the conference. TRB would work with local host; TRB would support budget estimation, financing and cover financial risks.
* It was advised that TRANSED should continue to be floating and not hosted in the US.
* It was suggested that Europeans with the upcoming review of their Disability Legislation have not yet hosted and Europe as a geographic area could be a promising next conference location to consider.
* The role of the Permanent Secretariat for TRANSED was discussed, including its function to support the organization and hosting of the conference.