**Sub-Committee ABE60 (5)**

**Sub Committee on International Activities**

**Tuesday January 24th 2012**

**3.45 – 5.30 p.m.**

**Jay Room, Hilton Hotel, Washington DC**

**Minutes**

**Attendance**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Members** | **Friends and Visitors** |
| **Tom Rickert**, Co-Chair ABE60(1), Access Exchange International, USA **Meeting Chair****Ann Frye**, Co-Chair ABE60(1), Ann Frye Ltd, UK**Lalita Sen**, Co-Chair ABE60,Texas Southern University, USA**Russell Thatcher**, Co-Chair ABE60, TranSystems Corp, USA**Ling Suen**, ICSA Inc, Canada**Anabela Simões**. ISG-CIGEST, Portugal**Uwe Rutenberg**, Rutenberg Design Inc, Canada**Betsy Buxer**, MV Transportation, USA**Campbell McKee**, C N Unwin Ltd, UK**David Lewis**, HDR Inc., USA**Mohammed Yousuf**, FHWA, USA**Michael Winter**, FTA, USA**Kit Mitchell**, Retired, UK**John Schoon**, University of Southampton, UK | **Abha Negi**, Svayam, India**Subhash Chandra Vashishth,** Svayam, India**Shuchita Rawal**, Svayam, India**Rex Luk**, Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, Hong Kong**Karen Wolf - Branigin**, Easter Seals Project ACTION, USA**Nina Frid,** Canadian Transportation Agency, Canada**Christo Venter,** University of Pretoria, South Africa**Tina Uhlmann**, Institute for Transport Studies, Vienna, Austria**Betty Dion**, GAATES, Canada**Luc Lanthier**, Transport Canada**Beezy Bentzen**, Accessible Design for the Blind, USA |
| **Gerhard Menckhoff**, ITDP, USA |  |

**1. Introduction**.

The sole business of the Meeting was to discuss progress with preparations for Transed 2012 to be held in New Delhi from September 17th to 21st.

**2.** **Presentation on preparations for Transed 2012**

Abha Negi of Svayam, India gave a comprehensive presentation of the arrangements for Transed including details of venues, pre-conference workshops, post-conference tours and for the structure of the conference itself. The presentation is attached.

The overarching theme for the Conference would be***: Seamless Access for All: Universal Design for Transport Systems and Infrastructure - a key element in the creation of liveable cities.***

This would cover:

* + Integration of Sustainable Transportation Technologies and Infra- structure Systems
	+ Accessible Tourism: Conservation, Historic Heritage, and Accessibility
	+ Accessible public spaces
	+ Technology innovations

The sub-themes that had been identified were:

* Role of the Un Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD);
* Best practice and innovations;
* Accessible Tourism: conservation, access to the historic and natural heritage;
* Environmental impact, sustainability, and accessibility of integrated multimodal systems;
* Accessible Bus Rapid Transit;
* Highway design and Safety
* Pedestrian mobility and safety for liveable communities;
* Rural access and mobility;
* Implementation, monitoring and enforcement;
* Other related topics.

A total of 323 abstracts had been received from 45 countries. 180 had been accepted for presentation as papers and 124 for presentation as posters.

The pre – conference workshops would run in parallel for a half day on September 17th. There would be separate fee for the workshops.

The post conference tours would start immediately after the conference and would last for between three and five days.

Estimated expenditure for TRANSED 2012 is USD $ 374,800. The confirmed financial support to date has been received from the Ministry of Transport, the Government of Delhi and Jindal SAW Ltd.

**3. Discussion on proposals**

Those present warmly congratulated Abha and her colleagues on the progress to date and on their excellent preparations.

The main points made in discussion were:

* **Registration**
* It was important to encourage everyone to register early in order to improve cashflow. It was noted that 50% of the funding is still needed;
* It was suggested that, in addition to the “early bird” reduced rate already advertised, a further “super saver” rate with an even earlier deadline could be promoted; **Action: Svayam**
* It was agreed that details of abstracts by country would be circulated to all those present so that they could encourage those in their own country to register as soon as possible; **Action: All**
* **Programme**
* In the current conference structure the Day 2 slot from 11.45 am to 1 pm has been allocated for poster presentation in addition to the poster viewing period during lunch hours. It was suggested that this time could perhaps better be allocated to ease pressure on parallel sessions for an additional parallel session; **Action: Abha**
* Concern was expressed that the time allowed for breaks between sessions (including both coffee and lunch breaks) was too tight to enable people to move comfortably between sessions. The organisers were asked to review this, recognising the tight timetable; **Action: Abha**
* **Costs**

* It was noted that the cost included all lunches and dinners, including the gala dinner and technical tours and tax. If there was a need to save money, delegates could be asked to meet their own costs for lunch as had been the case at previous Transeds and/or an additional charge could be made for the Gala dinner;
* There was some concern about the proposal to charge for attendants with people with disabilities. They had been free of charge in Hong Kong and most would expect the same arrangement;
* Scholarships would be available subject to funding. There would also be help in kind through offering board and lodging at the Jindal SAW guest house;
* **Sponsorship**
* Additional sponsors were needed. Abha would draw up a list of international companies currently engaged in design and build, infrastructure and other projects in India and would circulate it to those present for contacts and names that could be followed up; **Action: Abha**
* A menu of sponsorship opportunities had been drawn up and was on the website. Those present were encouraged to look at and circulate details of the options. **Action: All**
* Jules Walker at APTA was suggested as a contact for details of APTA’s international programme which might include useful names; **Action: Abha**
* There would not be an exhibition because it was not practicable. However, if sponsors wanted to display products or information that could be arranged;
* **Accessibility**
* The Conference hotel had good levels of access but it should be noted that no service animals would be permitted;
* It was noted that of the post conference tour options only one, Taj Mahal in Agra, was accessible (90%). However, arrangements could be made for easy access. Accessible rooms are available only in 5 star hotels. This information should be clearly stated on the website; **Action: Svayam**
* The website should include details of accessible transfer options from the airport to the conference venue; **Action: Svayam**
* The assistance at the airport to meet delegates should be available from 16th September if not earlier as many people would arrive several days before the start of the event. Delegates were asked to provide the organisers with details of their travel so that arrangements could be made at the airport; **Action: Svayam and all delegates**

**4. Follow up action**

In addition to the points identified above, Abha asked all present to help with the following items **as a matter of urgency**:

* Encouraging all those whose abstracts had been accepted to register as soon as possible;
* Looking for possible sponsors and following up/passing on any possible leads;
* Identifying high level speakers who could be invited to attend for keynote addresses etc. **Action: All**