

## TRANSED Conference Planning Sub-Committee ABE60 (5)

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

10:15AM - 12:00PM

Howard University Room (M1), Marriott Marquis

### Meeting Summary Notes

#### 1. Introduction

Julie Babinard and Joey Goldman introduced the meeting and welcomed participants.

#### 2. Report on 15<sup>th</sup> TRANSED conference – Eden Social Welfare Foundation overview presentation and discussion

##### Highlights of the conference:

Eileen Lu and Sean Wang from Eden Social Welfare reported on conference and showed video [See attached presentation]

- Pre-conference workshops took place, as well as field visits
- Welcome reception and opening by official delegation with high ranking officials such as VP of Taiwan
- Keynote speech – Asia Pacific center for disability.
- The conference agenda was structured around 4 main topics – with 148 papers received
  - A. Accessible transportation and Tourism in Air, Land and Water (62 paper)
  - B. Safe & Sustainable mobility for elderly and persons with disability (59)
  - C. Collaboration and coordination across information, financial and transportation services (8)
  - D. Smart city network and smart growth in the Asia pacific region and worldwide (19)

At conference, a final total of 78 papers and 23 posters presented during four concurrent parallel sessions.

Topic discussions included:

- The impact of accessible transportation
- Infrastructure planning and gap identification
- Studies on accessibility across the world
- Studies on older adult's transportation
- The correlation between accessibility and transportation behaviors
- Universal design and assistive technologies
- Application for information provision
- Application for public transport and assistive technologies
- Unmet needs on different types of transportation
- Universal design for public transportation
- Working on accessibility guidance, assessment and toolkit
- MRT focused discussion
- Government policies and strategies responding to aging population
- Accessibility related legislations

- Transportation service for older adults
- Social innovation for the common good economy
- APS & Smart cities
- Accessible, accountable and affordable consideration for EDP's Taiwan's stories
- Accessible mobility for tourism
- Accessible tourism advocacy and innovation; systems and aid; universal design
- Special transport services
- Discussion on resilience and systems design
- Collaboration and coordination on information, financing and resources
- Autonomous vehicles and haling technologies
- Smart city and caring technologies

Eileen Lu also described the Gala dinner and award ceremony. Three types of awards presented included:

- William G. Bell Award for Beezy Bentzen
- Svayam Accessibility Awards to organizations throughout Taiwan
- Best Paper & Best Poster Award for TRANSED 2018.

She described the panel discussion with delegates from various countries and the closing ceremony.

Attendance:

- Total of 638 participants from 31 countries attended the conference, primarily from Asia.
- Total of 19 exhibitors presented at conference, with a focus ranging from government (8), enterprises (3), academia (2) and NGO (6). As a result, a broad range of experience, technology, policy advocacy and collaboration were represented.

Financial report:

- Income –USD\$174,855
- Expenditure – USD\$312,612
- Balance – -USD\$137,757

Income for the conference was provided through government subsidies, international donations, scholarship donation and sponsorships. The Scholarship donations were used to finance expenses (fees, travel costs and accommodations) of successful scholarship candidates.

Discussion:

The conference presentation was concluded with a summary of the main findings around three main points:

- Accessible transportation should take several key considerations (a total of 7 main ones were summarized) that are paramount to ensure implementation of a successful and sustainable approach for addressing accessibility and mobility issues in transportation.
- The core characteristics of accessible transport services should include approachability, affordability, safety, eco-friendly and inclusion.

- The development of smart city should take the person-centered approach and include the design of accessible transport with the following concepts: sustainability, mobility, approachability, innovation and technology development.

Concluding steps: in preparation are a TRB Conference Circular Publication (to be released in 2019) and a TRANSED 2021 Paper submission that will summarize the main findings of the conference regarding 'policy evaluation and service innovation on Taiwan accessible mobility and transport services'.

Committee members asked questions of Eden Social Welfare representatives.

Ling Suen asked Eileen Lu about the number of scholarships and the countries represented by scholarship recipients. Eileen Lu indicated they had a scholarship fund of \$10,000 USD and 15 applicants. Eileen noted that applicants were from developing countries and had disabilities.

Judy Shanley asked about the evaluation form and the impact on Taiwan, and her question was followed by an inquiry from Sally Swanson about government involvement. Sean Wang indicated Eden went to all of the cities and met with government officials and also relevant ministries have presented also presented how to implement accessible transportation in Taiwan. The Government always looks to what Eden Social Welfare does in Taiwan.

Steve Andrie asked about how many people they had projected would attend. Sean Wang said they had a 600-person target in the beginning.

Julie Babinard asked about the content quality and Eileen said they believed context was strong, although some follow-up comments were offered about sessions that probably should not have been included.

Mary Crass asked how the committees were most helpful. Sean Wang expressed gratitude to committee members and said they were very helpful.

Eileen Lu indicated there were 54 final papers, and she passed around a sign-up sheet seeking volunteers for final paper review for publication.

### **3. Update from Svayam – Permanent Secretariat of TRANSED**

Subhash Vashishth gave an overview of the TRANSED website and the work that Svayam has done to coordinate and update the website. He also addressed that many people did not attend the conference who submitted papers ("no-shows"), and noted that people had their paper accepted before they confirmed attendance.

Subhash Vashishth indicated that the TRANSED Permanent Secretariat can offset web costs because they can do web design and posting.

Trevor Hanson asked if any papers were selected for publication by people who did not attend the conference. Eileen Lu said she would check to determine if all papers included had registered participants. Julie Babinard noted that nonparticipation should not necessarily disqualify the papers from being published in the conference compendium.

Subhash Vashishth asked about videos, full papers, and abstracts, and talked about the challenges of determining what should be posted on the TRANSED Permanent Secretariat website.

#### 4. 16<sup>th</sup> TRANSED conference in 2021 in the United States: overview and discussion

Joey Goldman explained that a new approach is being piloted for the next conference. TRB has made changes in oversight of conferences being planned under TRB umbrella.

A request for bids for 2021 was put out but responses were very low/ disappointing.

TRB's offer to help with the logistical and some financial support of the event is being welcomed for the next one as a transition and nice opportunity to provide new momentum, incentives and planning possibilities for organizing the next conference.

The committee will continue to do content planning (review abstract and plan program) as well as determine the city and location.

Steve Andrele from TRB indicated that TRB would handle registration and sign contract on facilities; TRB would be liable on logistics.

Once location is picked, TRB will issue Request for Proposal (RFP) to hotels, determine logistics, estimate how many people may attend. Attendance numbers may be different in US than in previous international conferences (less than 1500 attendees in India and over 600 in Taiwan; typically, around 200-300 people are in attendance in other TRB conferences).

A local partner may (State DOT, transport agency) that may still be needed to support TRB locally to help organize the conference.

In terms of what could be done for the next conference, the following issues were discussed:

- Envision a regional focus such as Latin America, and this would suggest the need for translation
- Whether the need for the planning committee will change in terms of demand, organization etc. vis a vis the new role played by TRB.
- The advisory role of the Sub/Committee needs to be reevaluated in the context of the new framework proposed for organizing the conference. The level of involvement will increase significantly, even if just to serve as an advisory role to a local transport agency that will support the organization.
- The Committees have no legal standing for organizing conferences and TRB is taking on the liabilities that could surface with logistics/ conference booking etc.
- All conference centers are currently funded through sponsorships, sponsors, exhibitors and TRB would not be making a financial profit
- There could be the possibility of combining the conference with a new TRB committee on 'equity'
- The focus of the conference was originally to focus on developing countries and emerging environments. How will having the conference based in the US help achieve this objective by focusing on the US and limiting the scope?
- The location of the next conference in the US is being reviewed already. The TRB academy facility in Irvine may be too low already for anticipated capacity; Portland in Oregon was suggested by Kate Hunter-Zaworski (not in attendance) with support from a university partnership (Portland State University) and transit agency partnership (TriMet); and San Francisco was also noted – although accommodation costs are considered a potential drawback, according to Aaron Steinfeld. At the same time, because many mobility companies are located in

San Francisco, there may be good opportunities for sponsorships, according to Kate Toran from SFMTA.

- The West coast could be a good location as close enough to Asia and differentiated from January TRB meetings on the East coast. Tom Rickert suggested a Spanish-language track at TRANSED.
- TRB will provide a review of the features needed for the conference logistics into the RFP for the bidding process of the conference facilities once a location has been chosen.
- TRANSED should not be only be about meeting academic standards for making transport accessible but also serving as the implementation arm of the Committee – by helping to raise disability standards in cities where the conferences are being held.
- Based on previous TRANSED conference experience, it is possible to dissociate the logistical/administrative aspects of the conference with the content/scientific program – this will take on a significant role and time commitment for at least one individual. Kit Mitchell volunteered to help with the development of the 2021 conference program.