

Greetings from the President, NACOTA January 15, 2007

NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Dear NACOTA Members and Friends:

It has been exactly one year since I have accepted the nomination of NACOTA Board and fill the post of the president. What an exciting and fulfilling year it has been.

If you were not on board for all the NACOTA events, please spend a few minutes of your leisure time to scan the NACOTA Website at www.nacota.org, I am sure you will find our various symposia, receptions, conferences, and workshops stimulating. Again, I would like to invite you join the NACOTA family if you have not already done so or get more involved in the NACOTA activities. There are more exciting and stimulating activities planned for the coming year.

For your immediate attention, please check out various events that are happening before and during TRB.

1. **BOD Election:** elect new directors to replace those who have completed their two year term. Led by Dr. Fang Zhao the election committee is in the process of accepting nomination and compile material. Please contact Dr. Zhao at zhaof@fiu.edu directly if you want to nominate someone or yourself.
2. **Bylaw Revision:** The NACOTA bylaws dictate the out bylaws should be updated yearly. Please contact Dr. Zhongren Peng at zpeng@csd.uwm.edu, if you have any revision suggestions to the bylaw and you are a NACOTA member.
3. **NACOTA AWARD:** Building on our tradition, a few award categories have been established to recognize NACOTA members and friends who made significant contributions and services to our organization:
 - **Outstanding leadership:** honor NACOTA leader who made great contributions in NACOTA development.
 - **Sustainable services:** someone who has been consistently serve NACOTA no matter what his or her post is.
 - **Continuous contribution:** a person or organization that supported NACOTA effort.

- **Emerging Leadership:** a student who served and led various activities.

Please send your nomination to me at rliu@njit.edu.

4. NACOTA/WTPA Symposium: Thanks to the Symposium Committee led by Drs. CC Fu and Huaguo Zhou, the technical symposium is approaching its final format, which will be sent to you as soon as it is completed. You may also reference to the website for periodical updates.

5. NACOTA Reception: If you have been to NACOTA receptions in the previous couple of years, I am sure you would be positively surprised that this year it is going to be much bigger and much better. Of course, I am relying on you, me and everyone to make it more exciting and attractive. Please contact Dr. Xuesong Wang at xu297341@ucf.edu, the reception committee chair, if you know anyone who is interested in sponsoring the reception or if you have any particular questions.

Of course, the excitement of NACOTA does not stop at TRB. For a not too distant future, there are a few conferences, workshops, and research projects are underway.

6. The 7th NACOTA China Conference: co-sponsored by Tongji University and Transportation and Development Institute (T&DI), America Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the 7th NACOTA China conference will be held in Shanghai, May 2007. The technical review committee, led by Dr. Lu, is in the process of review and selecting technical papers and presentations. More detailed information can be found at the NACOTA website.

7. The First International Symposium on Transportation and Development Innovative Best Practices. NACOTA, together with ICTPA, will co-sponsor the T&DI (TDIBD) to be held in Beijing, April 24-26, 2008. Detailed Call for Papers is posted on NACOTA website.

8. The First Edition of English-Chinese and Chinese-English Transportation Glossary: After initiating the collaborative framework between T&DI and NACOTA, Eva Lerner-Lam and I will take on our first project together to produce a much needed transportation glossary.

9. The 8th NACOTA China Conference: Given the lengthy time and intensive effort required to produce an Engineering Indexed (EI) Conference Proceeding, we started working since last October on the 8th NACOTA China Conference to be held in Chengdu, June 2008. The conference will be co-sponsored by T&DI and NACOTA. A conference committee led by Professor Jin Zhang, South East Transportation University and Mr. Changqian Guan, NACOTA, is currently

working a detailed conference plan. Related information will be posted on NACOTA website when finalized.

I am compelled to stop since "9" is really an infinite number by Chinese tradition even I don't have to. There are a number of workshops and seminars in the works by various technical committees and specialty areas. I will keep you posted as each develops.

Again I would like to invite you to get on board with all the exciting opportunities of NACOTA. I would very much like to hear from you any feedback, suggestions, or ideas so our organization will evolve and grow.

Thank your for your continuous support, and

Look forward to seeing many of you in Washington DC.

Yours



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