

COTA President Message



Heng Wei, Ph.D., P.E.

President of COTA

Associate Professor,

University of Cincinnati

Tel: 513-556-3781

Dear COTA Members and Friends:

It's always great with new blood being instilled into the COTA's Board of Directors (BOD). Please join me in congratulating Dr. Henry Liu, Dr. Hubo Cai and Mr. Jinghui Wang for that they have been elected as new BOD member. Their first term was effective at the COTA BOD meeting on Jan. 22, 2012 in Washington DC. By this chance, I also want to thank Dr. Hongchao Liu, Dr. Zhanping You, and Qingyi Shi, whose BOD membership expired at that meeting, for their long-time dedications and remarkable contributions to COTA.

I am thankful for being selected as the next president of COTA starting from January 2012. Special thanks go to Dr. Yinhai Wang and Dr. Ping Yi for their strong nomination. The COTA president position is challenging, but I am intrigued at the same time. COTA has been grown much stronger under Dr. Yinhai Wang's outstanding leadership in last two years. I firmly believe that our new BOD will be more energetic and optimistic with positive outlook and willingness to dedicate our time and intelligence to COTA's continuing growth - that is the best route to long-term success of COTA. However, lots of down-to-earth efforts are indeed waiting for us ahead. Our BOD needs to continue to raise awareness about COTA's long-term challenges. Insofar it can be foreseen, I am pleased that our new BOD has resulted in a compelling plan that aims to bring COTA to the next level in the near future.

COTA has established a tradition of organizing at least two major transportation conferences each year: COTA Winter Symposium in Washington D.C. during TRB Annual Meeting, and summer conference in China, i.e., COTA International Conference of Transportation Professionals - CICTP (formally International Conference of Chinese Transportation Professionals - ICCTP). The CICTP series, established by COTA, is the premier gathering for transportation professionals worldwide, and for those who are interested in contributing to or gaining a profound understanding of transportation development in China and other countries. Since the COTA Winter Symposium is held during TRB Annual Meeting, we are working hard to reform this Symposium as a joint effort with TRB, and ultimately merge it into the TRB annual meeting programs. We wish this event will become a platform bridging TRB and COTA, and international professionals who are interested in China and other countries' transportation development in the global context.

Let's join together to demonstrate COTA's continuing commitment to being a leading professional organization in promoting and facilitating communications among transportation professionals worldwide and transportation professionals in China. I strongly encourage all the COTA's members and friends to actively participate in COTA's activities - that is the key factor for keeping COTA vital.

You can find timely update of COTA activities, news, plans, action ideas, and additional resources on the COTA website www.cota-home.org. Any feedbacks, suggestion, and recommended articles are warmly welcome (please contact the Communication Officers, Mr. Ken Q. Yang via kqy@iteris.com and Dr. Hubo Cai via hubocai@purdue.edu, or communication assistant, Mr. Zhuo Yao via yaozo@mail.uc.edu).

Sincerely,

Heng Wei, Ph.D., P.E.

President of COTA

Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati

Tel: 513-556-3781; Email: heng.wei@uc.edu