

Permanent Scientific and Technical Committee of CODATU

E-meeting
October 15th @ 3 p.m.

MINUTES

Excused members: Ela Babalik-Sutcliff, Kazuaki Miyamoto, Quon Chinh Ho, Lourdes Diaz Olvera, Varameth Vichiensan, Rami Semaan, Assogba Guezere

Participants :

Name	Obs	Name	Obs
Ali Huzayyin	In Paris	Vadim Donchenko	Skype
Anthony May	In Paris	Monica Oreviceanu	Skype
Lorenza Tomasoni	In Paris	Krishna Rao	Skype
Thierry Gouin	In Paris	Charles Rivasplata	Skype
Dominique Mignot	In Paris	Slobodan Mitric	Skype
Pablo Salazar Ferro	In Paris	Fernando Lozada	Skype
Nico McLachlan	In Paris	Helena Cybis	Skype
		Valérie Ongolo Zogo	Skype

Moderators: Tony May on Questionnaire/actions & Ali Huzayyin on PSTC activities during CODATU XVI

Reporter: Lorenza Tomasoni

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Questionnaire

Members are satisfied by the report and they accept it.

Proposals for action

While the intention had been to discuss the four emerging themes (cooperation between researchers and practitioners, identifying research needs, dissemination and application of results, tackling critical research issues) most discussion focused on the first theme. It was agreed that we would invite members to make suggestions for initiatives under the other three headings (see below, and the questionnaire).

Cooperation between researchers and practitioners

Members indicated that they realised the problems of bringing researchers and practitioners working together. They discussed the possible reasons, of which the principal ones appeared to be lack of commitment and lack of trust (among both practitioners and researchers). In addition, in both developed and developing countries, decision makers need to focus on solving and responding in day-to-day problems and “crises” and don’t have the time to consider research results and advice. Another barrier was the tendency for researchers to be called in to justify a pre-

determined decision; this should be avoided at all costs.

It was stressed that we need to consider practitioners at city, national and international levels. In some cases (e.g. Russia) it was easier for researchers to interact with national government than with cities. In others, national government pays little attention to urban transport problems.

It was suggested that it might be better to start with the simpler task of cooperating on data collection and interpretation, before considering collaboration in research and policy formulation. It was noted that even this could be difficult in developing countries, and that private operators, in particular, tended to treat data as commercially confidential.

Despite these concerns, members gave some examples of useful practices. In Bombay for instance IITB is involved in some projects with the Government. In France household data is collected to a standard specification and information is exchanged between different agencies and ministries, with CEREMA actively involved. In Latin America there is an online database established by CAF (Corporazione andina de fromento) and shared by researchers and practitioners. In the UK, the Universities Transport Study Group has fostered collaboration for several years. Three new initiatives were mentioned: a cooperation between the French and the Russian Federation in the field of transport under the auspices of the EC and UN PEP partnership (Vadim subsequently circulated information on this), the possibility of reviewing the ways in which Eastern Europe had transitioned from masterplan-style planning to more interactive approaches, and a forum in Bucharest in November which would be discussing some of these issues.

It was suggested to promote cooperation between researchers and decision-makers by exchanging information. However, it was also highlighted that in developing countries this is not always possible. Involving the central government may be useful, but in many countries urban transport is not within their mandate as it is a responsibility of cities and local governments.

Finally, it was suggested that providing guidelines and/or toolkits for cooperation between decision-makers and researchers based on previous experiences could be useful. The suggestion of developing the European Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) guidelines for application in developing countries was supported.

In conclusion, it was agreed that it would be helpful to ask all PSTC members to propose:

1. other examples of effective collaboration in any of the identified emerging themes;
2. suggestions for initiatives which PSTC might pursue to enhance understanding of any of the emerging themes, with an indication of their likely cost.

Tony and Ali supported by Lorenza would circulate a questionnaire seeking this information.

PSTC @ CODATU XVI

Two meetings are needed.

One meeting will be a working lunch on Tuesday 3rd to discuss about future activity of the committee and to exchange about the management of the PSTC session that will follow. The other is the open session to inform conference attendees about PSTC objectives, report on the two questionnaires and outline ideas for future activities. This will be a 90 minute session on the Wednesday. It will be followed by a closed short debriefing of the committee. A general brainstorming followed on possible themes of the 2017 CODATU conference. It was mentioned that it is important to choose a theme which is related to the location. One idea is to investigate the possibility of going back to the location of a previous conference to see the progress that had occurred. The importance of having not only research/academic institutions but also city authorities as partners in CODATU conference organisation was emphasised. This happened in many previous CODATU conferences and is imperative for success. Conferences and their themes need above all to be relevant to the supporters of CODATU.

In that respect it was stressed that PSTC can suggest topics and locations but the decision is certainly in the hands of CODATU Board and Council.

Next steps until February 2015

Please send to Lorenza by November 30th:

- Outlines of initiatives and good example on collaboration between decision-makers and researchers
- Proposal of possible future small projects for which we will ask CODATU Council to provide funding during the period 2015/2016. It was suggested that it would be better to have a balanced geographical distribution of

the projects, e.g., one project per continent.

- Suggestion of general themes and locations for the CODATU 2017 conference.
- Confirmation of attendance of CODATU Conference (2-5 February 2015) and/or TRB (January 2015, Washington).

For CODATU XVI Pablo, Thierry, Ali, Tony, Lorenza, Valerie, Charles, Krishna, Nico, Vadim already confirmed, Monica and Fernando (problem with funding) and Slobodan and Helena (maybe).

For TRB it may be useful to hold small meeting for those who will come (Ali, Tony, Lorenza, Krishna, Slobodan already confirmed).

Ali and Tony will provide a questionnaire to be completed by the members which will be soon circulated by Lorenza.