



January 23, 2009

Dear NACOTA members and friends,

After the successful completion of the 12<sup>th</sup> NACOTA Technical Symposium and 2009 Reception in Washington DC, and on the eve of Chinese New Year 2009, I am writing to thank all of you, NACOTA members and friends, for your support to the organization by all means and wish each of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year!

The 12<sup>th</sup> NACOTA Technical Symposium was actively attended by scholars, professionals, and students from the U.S., Canada, Taiwan, and the mainland China. The technical sessions and panel discussions were very effective by the number of thought provoking questions and answers.

This year's NACOTA reception was on Monday night (instead of Tuesday night as we had for the last several years). Even with this change, it had attracted approximately 170 people and we had to twice order additional food.

Congratulations to Yu Zhang, assistant professor from University of South Florida, for being elected as a new NACOTA Board member. At the same time, I would like to thank Xiaojin Ji, for his service to NACOTA for the last two years. In Xiaojin's tenure as a Board member, he served in different roles to lead or assist the effort to promote member communications and ensure successful completions of NACOTA's reception and technical symposium.

I want also to thank DCI Daniel Consultants, Inc., New Global Systems for Intelligent Transportation Management, and TranSmart Technologies for their strong sponsorship of the NACOTA 2009 Reception. Supports from our members and friends like those make our work easier to conduct NACOTA activities.

In 2008, NACOTA made several important accomplishments. With the participation from all of you, catalyzed by the dedication and persistence from a number of NACOTA working committees and task forces, we have successfully held the 11<sup>th</sup> NACOTA Technical Symposium and the 2008 ICCTLP Conference in Chengdu; we made the fundraising drive (for the first time) for the China Snowstorm Disaster Relief in March of 2008; our members participated in various activities in support of the Sichuan earthquake recovery efforts; NACOTA was



featured in ITE technical Conference and the preparation for the 2009 ICCTP Summer Conference in Harbin is well underway.

Looking forward, we are embracing new opportunities and facing new challenges. As the organization becomes larger and more influential in the United States and internationally, we need to organize ourselves better so that we are prepared to face the challenges. Since NACOTA is a volunteer-based organization, its existence and growth depends entirely on members' willingness to participate and the ability of the Board of Directors to maintain the highest level of ethical and professional standards. In 2008, the Board had spent a great deal of time setting rules and regulations on NACOTA account management; we learned more about how a nonprofit organization should be represented and operated and, through discussion and consultation, developed a clear understanding of the Board's rights and responsibilities.

The NACOTA Membership committee is looking into ways to promote information exchange and improve communications among NACOTA members and friends; the Academic Committee is trying to increase NACOTA's exposure in the U.S. and China by conferences, workshops, and publications. The Board in the next few months will take on a number of issues including Bylaw revisions to support the organization's continued growth and development. In the meantime, we welcome any suggestions to help us improve our work so that we can better represent and serve you.

Sincerely,

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