

ISUFT June 2011 Newsletter

Dear ISUFT Members,

In this newsletter, we would like to update you on new initiatives by ISUFT-members. European ISUFT members submitted a position paper for the Strategic Transport Technology Plan (STTP). We are also preparing the ISUFT board elections 2011.

Position Paper for the Strategic Transport Technology Plan

In March 2011 ISUFT's European members learned about a new Strategic Transport Technology Plan being developed by the European Commission. We saw this as an important opportunity to draw the attention of the Commission to the potential of underground freight transportation. As discussed during the ISUFT conference in Shanghai last year, European members want to work together. The STTP initiative gave us the perfect opportunity to write a position paper on UFT. After careful collaboration, Johan Visser, Andrea Marri, Roger Miles, Noel Hodson, Willy Winkelmans and Robert Stein submitted the paper to the Commission. The position paper can be downloaded on the ISUFT website (www.ISUFT.ORG).

The Strategic Transport Technology Plan will be the strategic framework for future transport research, innovation and deployment for the European Commission based on a vision for an integrated, efficient and environmentally friendly European transport system by 2050. Developed by the European Commission, this framework will be presented by mid 2011. The STTP will have three components: 1) proposals for a set of leading-edge technologies; 2) identification of the related policy, financial and organisational requirements; and 3) proposals for the implementation of the plan. A consultation round was held from 29/03/2011 to 28/05/2011.

Currently, the best source of information is on the European Commission Mobility and Transport Website : http://ec.europa.eu/transport/research/consultations/2011_05_28_sttp_en.htm

European ISUFT-members also plan to visit members of the Research and Technology Department of the European Commission and the transportation department (DG Move) to promote underground freight transportation.

European Construction Technology platform

Regarding initiatives for and topics like underground construction as well as new transportation concepts for goods there is a huge European initiative driven by the transportation industry. The European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP) is already quite active and have as a part of their strategy the same target as ISUFT: "Underground Construction has to be made more attractive by tying it to a definite societal need, such as energy and/or transport /cargo issues in highly populated areas". Robert Stein has proposed to the European ISUFT members to join them.

Elections 2011

There will be an election held with ballots to be sent via email November 1 to replace board members Willy Winkelmans and Noel Hodson who have served their terms according to bylaw specifications. Dr. Liu's position as a board member also needs to be filled. Dr. Visser graciously assumed the role of president according to the bylaw mandate that the Vice President assume the

president's role in case of death. The original board had seven members (including Dr. Liu) and should retain that many from year to year. Their terms were determined by the bylaw's Article 6, Section 4 which staggers terms according to the number of votes.

A February 26, 2009 email from Dr. Liu (who was elected President by a unanimous vote) announced: "The following 6 individuals were elected to be Board Members: Johan Visser (21 votes), Mohammad Najafi (20 votes), Qihu Qian (19 votes), Robert Stein (19 votes), Willy Winkelmans (17 votes), and Noel Hodson (11 votes). Because Johan Visser led the vote, he will be the Vice President for the next 4 years. Mohammad Najafi will serve 4 years on the Board, Qihu Qian and Robert Stein will serve 3 years on the Board, and Willy Winkelmans and Noel Hodson will serve 2 years on the Board. "

Board Directors Willy Winkelmans and Noel Hodson will have served two years and 9 months by November 1, 2011 (using February 1, 2009 as the start date) and can be re-elected. After Dr. Liu's death, Johan Visser became President. Mohammad Najafi became Vice President, and the remaining board members continued to serve in their present positions. But Dr. Liu's position as a board member is still vacant.

ISUFT Bylaws state that the President must appoint three voting members to form a nominating committee. Before September 1, the Nominating Committee must nominate at least two candidates for each vacant Director's office and at least one candidate for a vacant president or vice-president's office. The President then sends the list to all Board Members for election of one official candidate for each vacant position. Any ISUFT member (including former board members) can be candidates. After the Nominating Committee makes their decisions, the Official Candidates will be listed on the final ballot with spaces for two possible write-in candidates. The Secretary-Treasurer will email a ballot to each voting member (i.e., dues-paying member) by November 1. The deadline for voting shall be November 30. The election result shall be reported by the Secretary-Treasurer to the Board and the general membership by December 15. If you are interested in board membership of ISUFT , please let one of the board members know!

The secretary-treasurer will be chosen by the board members and selected from within the board membership after the November election.

Promoting Underground Freight Transportation (UFT) Technology

The out-of-sight/out-of-mind dilemma has a double meaning for those who have developed a user-ready underground freight transportation (UFT) technology. For now the technology is out of sight because of lack of funding. However, once an underground freight transportation system is established and proves its worth, the fact that it operates underground (still out of sight) will hinder its popular appeal.

New ISUFT member

We welcome Hyeok-bin Kwon, Senior Researcher/Ph. D at the High-speed Railroad Systems Research Center of the Korea Railroad Research Institute as member or ISUFT.

If the general public is not educated, there can be no public outcry for UFT.

ISUFT must work together to make the benefits of UFT known. Although this newsletter has concentrated on efforts in Europe, the ISUFT leadership would like to encourage all our members in Asia, North America, South America and Australia to let us know how you are progressing in your

area. We will be happy to feature a story on your work. Please contact Dr. Johan Visser at mail@johanvisser.nl with reports of your accomplishments. Positive publicity from the local press on any UFT advancements are also welcome. We can always cite the source and follow up on good news concerning UFT progress. We also ask that you encourage your associates and colleagues to join ISUFT. The more expertise, publicity and synergy generated by ISUFT, the better the chance of getting the funding needed to get ISUFT operations underway.