



Enhancing Technical Activities Through Innovative and Strategic Initiatives

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you would like to share news about intelligent transportation systems-related technical activities in your part of the world, please contact Yaobin Chen, ITS Society vice-president for Technical Activities, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, USA, via ychen@iupui.edu.

One of the strategic goals for the IEEE Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Society is to be the leading Society of IEEE in ITS for technical activities (TAs), including

- becoming the home Society for technical forums of critical and emerging ITS technologies
- being a leading Society in the field of automated and connected driving technologies
- playing an important role in standards for and the deployment of ITS technologies.

This vision can be achieved by involving all ITS Society members, engaging industry and other constituents, and partnering with other IEEE technical units and

outside professional associations in ITS-related fields. As a part of the Society's ongoing strategic and long-range planning exercises in 2020, the TA Committee (TAC) has developed priority goals with action plans for 2021 and beyond to enhance our TAs through innovative initiatives. These goals can be reached by developing sustainable implementation strategies and plans through partnerships and collaborations. In this column, we would like to share with you the current state of TAs and new strategic initiatives for 2021.

First, in June 2020, we re-established our leadership team, the ITS Society TAC, consisting of nine members and chaired by the vice president (VP) for TAs. Currently, there are nine technical committees (TCs) and one special interest group covering broad ITS-related areas. These TCs have organized tutorials/workshops and special sessions at our flagship conferences (the IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems and IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium) and led to publishing special issues/topics in our flagship publications (*IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems*, *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Vehicles*, and

IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Magazine). Some have also organized a student technical contest in ITS, including a "Hackathon," among others.

To build upon our strengths and further enhance the Society's leadership position and visibility in the ITS field, we have started to work on several new strategic initiatives:

- *Launch the Industry Meets Academia webinar series*: Jim Misener and Yaobin Chen have led the development of this project. The proposed general framework includes an expert panel rotating between industry and academia with other discussant members as well. The panel will focus on specific emerging ITS-related topics. Webinar episodes will be 1 h, with a mix of industry/academic presentations and question-and-answer segments. Possible topics to be planned for 2021 are "Vehicle Safety Communications," "Technologies for Sustainable Transportation System Operations," "Get Ready for Automation," "Active Traffic Management," and "Advances in Vehicle Sensors." We anticipate that this series will start within a couple of months, and we welcome your suggestions for topics and speakers. We invite all

of you to participate. This series will attract participation from ITS Society membership, build relationships with industrial partners, establish professional connections, and explore how short-term needs and solutions could segue into instantiation of some of the ideas that many in the Society explore.

- *Strengthen existing TCs and establish new TCs in cutting-edge research and emerging technological areas:* We will continue to strengthen our current TCs and invite our members to explore opportunities to join the leadership. We strongly encourage you to establish new TCs in emerging research and technological areas related to ITS, such as the Internet of Things in ITS, smart cities, electrified and autonomous mobility, and so on. Please contact the VP for TAs for information about how to form a new TC.
- *Develop technical collaboration with other professional associations re-*

lated to ITS: The TAC will play a leading role for the ITS Society to develop partnerships with other professional associations, such as the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE); Transportation Research Board; ITS America; Society of Automotive Engineers International; and organizations in Europe, Asia-Pacific, and other regions of the world. Our society and ITE have fully executed a partnership agreement. We will focus on our collaborations in joint technical symposia, workshops, TCs, and standards activities. We invite our members to volunteer to support and lead these collaborative activities.

- *Engage in standards development:* The TAC will collaborate with the ITS Society Standards Committee (SC) in standards development activities. This SC has led a team to investigate the current state and gaps of standards related to ve-

hicle-infrastructure interactions. Several TAC members are participating in this exploratory project. We welcome interested members to join possible future working groups in standards development.

We are confident that the Society's TAs will provide great value to our members and the broad ITS community through strategic initiatives and innovative activities. We look forward to working with all of you. For more information about TAs, please visit the ITS Society's website. You can also contact Prof. Yaobin Chen, VP for TAs, at ychen@iupui.edu.

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mining operations in China, while UISEE is the leading autonomous driving company in China. Currently, Waytous is automating mining operations at the largest open-pit coal mine in Inner Mongolia, and UISEE is automating transportation processes at the Hong Kong airport.

Congratulations to both Fei-Yue Wang and his team.

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