

Dr. Yu Zhang, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of South Florida, was elected president of Chinese Overseas Transportation Association (COTA), an international non-profit professional organization with more than a thousand members and friends worldwide.

Established in January, 1996, COTA (formerly NACOTA) is committed to be a leading professional organization in promoting and facilitating communications between transportation professionals worldwide and domestic transportation professionals in China (<http://www.cota-home.org>). The main objectives of COTA include:

- To enhance connections among overseas transportation professionals and their counterparts in China.
- To promote transportation development in China by providing knowledge and expertise through its members.
- To enhance networking and collaboration among members of the association.
- To serve as a platform to share information and knowledge on transportation development for all transportation professionals.

One of the major activities that COTA routinely organizes every year is the COTA International Conference of Transportation Professionals or CICTP (formerly International Conference of Chinese Transportation Professionals or ICCTP). The CICTP series is the premier gathering for transportation professionals worldwide who are interested in making contributions to or gaining a deeper understanding of the transportation development in China. Through consistent efforts over the past 15 years, CICTP has built up its reputation as one of the most influential academic conferences in China. The 16th CICTP will be held at Shanghai Maritime University July 6 to 9, 2016.

Another major activity is the COTA Winter Symposium in conjunction with the TRB annual conference, organized since the establishment of the association. The 19th COTA Winter Symposium will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2016 at Congress (M4), Marriott Marquis, Washington, D.C.

Besides these activities, COTA also initiated the COTA Best Dissertation Award in 2015 for recognizing outstanding students with Chinese nationalities pursuing doctoral degrees in the transportation field. The award will be presented annually to one graduate student for their PhD dissertation. This year, Dr. Yiheng Feng (graduated from University of Arizona under the supervision of Dr. Larry Head and currently postdoc at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) is the recipient of the award.

Please refer to <http://www.cota-home.org> for more information of the association.