

Welcome Message from LU Zhenyang

Ladies and gentlemen:

Welcome you to Beijing. Today, we are honored to have the distinguished members of ICTCT, the ranking officials from Beijing Municipal Government and all other special guests here for this meeting. Spring is beautiful in the Capital City of China with flowers in blossom everywhere. On behalf of Beijing University of Technology, I thank you for your support to this workshop on Road User behavior with a Special Focus on Vulnerable Road Users.

Beijing University of Technology was established in 1960 with focus in engineering initially. After almost 50 years of development, it has become the flagship university in Beijing. We now offer a variety of academic programs and house many cutting-edge research activities in the fields of science, engineering, economics, business management, liberal arts and law. More than 80,000 students have received their educational degrees from the university including 4200 Masters and PhDs. The University is dedicated to achieving excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, in research and public service. Following its strong commitment to Beijing, the university also explores solutions to national and world issues and advances its reputation among its peers worldwide.

While striving to be one of the best universities in China, the transportation research center, one of the key programs on our campus, shoulders great responsibility. The Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology has classified its academic program as a principal national program since 2003, and Beijing Municipal Government has awarded the program as a center of excellence in transportation for the capital city. Our transportation research center contributes heavily to the organization of the 2008 Olympic Games.

Being at the forefront of highway safety research in China for the past 20 years, our transportation program has successfully conducted many research projects in this area including the on-going work for the first Chinese highway safety manual, accident data analysis program, urban intersection safety, and safety for none motorized road users that mainly consists of underprivileged population groups.

Caring and assisting underprivileged population groups are important for a society. Promoting and protecting their safety symbolize a city's commitment to modern civilization, which is also one of the focuses of transportation engineering. As a developing country, China is currently facing huge challenges in solving many emerging transportation problems including highway safety for underprivileged population. Having a harmonious society calls for special attention to underprivileged population. Providing social equality to all people is our goal.

Having said that, I truly appreciate ICTCT's effort in organizing and supporting such a meeting in China today. Scholarly exchanges among pees from all over the world will surely help us to further improve highway safety in China. I sincerely hope that long term collaborations between our university and the experts from Europe and North American will be established as a result of this meeting.

Lastly, I wish this workshop a great success and all participants a joyful time in Beijing.

Thank you.