Overview of the Conference

Ela Babalık-Sutcliffe
David Maunder
Co-Chairs of the International Scientific Committee
Clearly it is not possible to summarise the debates of all the sessions for the past 3 days considering the variety of topics discussed and the rich debate that followed in most sessions.

Therefore, we have decided to highlight *keywords* and *key strategies* that these debates revealed.
The conference started with 2 excellent keynote speeches that highlighted:

- **Externalities** and their impact on quality of life
- The need for **Avoid-Shift-Improve** strategies in minimising these externalities
- Utilising **capacity** in the most efficient way, which requires **restricting and rethinking** the role of automobiles and rethinking the role of passenger transport vehicles
- Stimulating **behavioural change** to encourage usage of public transport and NMT which is likely to require both physical regulations and fiscal measures
– The need for and importance of governance and decisionmaking for integrated planning of transport, sustainable urban development, and the environment

– How to engage the community, the stakeholders and users in planning a sustainable transport system, which requires radical changes in the way urban transport planners communicate with themselves, land use planners, politicians and citizens
In many sessions, the following strategies were frequently addressed:

– The need to put **accessibility** at the heart of any new development

– Making **safe, efficient, fast, reliable, integrated public transport systems** with effective and real-time information systems, and using environmentally friendly energy sources

  • The role that urban rail systems- metro, LRT, BRT and electric buses can play

  • The need for a **Public Transport Authority** to integrate urban transport networks and services
– Making *walking* and *cycling* safe, convenient and attractive
  • The role that urban planning can play in this
  • The role of bike-sharing systems

– Addressing the challenges/role of *paratransit* modes, including taxis, motorcycles and cycles
  • Safety being a key aspect

– Ensuring *resilient* cities and regions and the role that transport planning and management can play in this aspect
— **Financing** for new infrastructure as well as for upgrading and maintenance of existing transport networks

— Appropriate *transferrability* of effective solutions and strategies being mindful of the *local context*

— Bridging the gap between *research* and *policy* to ensure maximum advantage is gained for all

— **Awareness raising campaigns** to create a mind shift
As you can see the sessions addressed a wide range of topics. Based on the deliberations of the conference, Car restriction schemes, Air quality management strategies, Road safety and Climate change mitigation actions deserve further analysis and debate. We, therefore, suggest these four themes could be the focus of future CODATU regional events during 2015 and 2016.