

# **ASSOCIATION OF TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONALS OF INDIAN ORIGIN (ATPIO)**

## **2008 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Sunday, January 13, 2008  
4:00 pm at Marriott, McKinley Room

The 2008 ATPIO Annual Meeting was held in the McKinley Room of the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington DC in conjunction with the TRB 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. It was attended by approximately 30 transportation professionals and students of Indian origin. A copy of the attendance sheet is attached to these minutes. Following agenda items were discussed in the meeting.

### **1. Approval of the 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Lalita Sen, the current president of ATPIO, presented the 2007 Annual Meeting minutes for Board approval. Several corrections were presented on the 2007 meeting minutes. The motion to approve the meeting minutes, with corrections, was put forward by Dr. Kumares Sinha and seconded by Mr. Arun Shirole and approved by all Board members.

### **2. Activities of 2007**

Dr. Chandra Bhat, the current vice-president of ATPIO, presented the activities of the organization in year 2007. The key activity of the organization is the establishment of the website, thanks to Dr. Ram Pendyala, and the sponsorship of three students from IIT Delhi to attend the conference in Montréal.

#### *ATPIO Website*

Dr. Ram Pendyala, current Board member of ATPIO, is currently hosting the ATPIO website on a server at Arizona State University (ASU). The website has basic information on ATPIO, as well as the capability of accepting the membership fee online through Paypal account. Dr. Pendyala suggested that ATPIO should use online banking facilities as much as possible. An atpio.secretary email address has been set up by Dr. Pendyala.

Dr. Mohan Venigalla informed that the domain name [www.atpio.org](http://www.atpio.org) has already been bought by ATPIO for 10 years. Dr. Venigalla will provide the DNS and other necessary information to Dr. Pendyala to transfer the website. The website will continue to be hosted at ASU server. The current website is <http://www.public.asu.edu/~rpendyal/atpio/index.htm>

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### *IIT Delhi Student Sponsorship*

Dr. Lalita Sen informed the Board that ATPIO supported the registration fee of three IIT Delhi students to attend the TRANSED Conference in Montreal in November 2007. In addition, ATPIO also paid for gala dinner for two of the students. The students came from Delhi to present a paper on Smart Cane project which used GIS sensors to assist blind people to identify objects in front of them. The cost of sponsorship was CAN\$ 175/person for registration and CAN\$90/person for the dinner with a total of CAN\$ 705 or US\$ 660. Dr. Sen has been reimbursed for the amount of \$175 and \$485 remains to be reimbursed.

### **3. Treasurer Report**

Dr. Mohan Venigalla presented the treasurer's report for year 2007. In 2006, ATPIO had 43 paid members. In 2007, only 15 members renewed their membership. The major expense of the year was the sponsorship of IIT Delhi students. The total expense for the year was \$782.25. The current bank balance is \$988.75.

Dr. Venigalla collected dues from several members attending the annual meeting. A final tally will be provided soon. Several new student members joined the organization for free.

The formal address of the organization is the current address of Dr. Venigalla's office. The next Treasurer would have to take following responsibilities:

- Change the bank of the organization to allow internet banking for ease of writing checks
- Change the formal authorized signature on the account
- Change the formal address of the organization to be of the current President's address
- Initiate the registration of the organization as 501c non-profit organization with IRS

Dr. Venigalla mentioned that he has had several discussions with Mr. Kanthur Srikant to be the next treasurer of the organization. However, due to Mr. Srikant's absence, the Board deferred the decision for the future. In the mean time, Professor Venigalla will continue as the treasurer of the organization.

Dr. Venigalla informed the Board that the organization is registered in the State of Virginia. **The deadline for renewal of the organization is November 30<sup>th</sup>.** The organization must be renewed before the deadline and requires preparation of an annual report, renewal fee and other documentations.

### **4. Membership Status**

Mr. Sagar Onta, the acting secretary of ATPIO, informed the Board that between 2006 and 2007 there were 48 paid members of ATPIO, while the roster of ATPIO has information on 125 professionals. In addition to the paid members there are 21 students in the roster.

The Board discussed on the need to increase the membership of the organization. Dr. Kumares Sinha volunteered to provide contact information of various individuals who could be approached by ATPIO. Mr. Hardik Shah volunteered to lead the effort on the membership drive. **An email will be sent to all professionals in ATPIO roster to pay membership dues by February 29<sup>th</sup>.** In order to do that, a short marketing flyer should be prepared that highlights the benefits of being a member.

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## 5. Election of Board Members

In accordance with Article V. Section 2 of the by-laws of ATPIO, “four (4) members of the Board of Directors shall be elected from the members at large at the Annual Meeting every year to rotate membership in the Board of Directors”, election was held at the 2008 Annual Meeting. There were following nominations for the Officers of the Association

President:                   1. Arun Shirole  
                                  2. Ram Pendyala  
Vice President:       1. Ram Pendyala  
Secretary:                1. Sagar Onta

Dr. Ram Pendyala accepted the nomination of the Vice-President of the association and declined the nomination for the President. He was elected unopposed.

Mr. Arun Shirole accepted the nomination for the President. He was elected unopposed.

Mr. Sagar Onta accepted the nomination for the Secretary. He was elected unopposed.

Dr. Mohan Venigalla accepted to continue as the Treasurer. Dr. Venigalla nominated Mr. Kanthur Srikanth to be the treasurer of the organization. However, due to Mr. Srikanth's absence, Professor Venigalla will continue as the Treasurer of the organization until someone else takes on the responsibility.

Dr. Lalita Sen will continue to be on the Board as the Immediate Past President.

Ms. Sudeshna Sen will continue as a member of the Board.

Mr. Anuj Sharma was nominated to the Board by Professor Sinha.

Mr. Hardik Shah was nominated to the Board by Professor Sinha.

Mr. Salil Gokhale nominated himself to the Board.

Mr. Manu Venugopal nominated himself to the Board as student member.

Mr. Prasanna Kusam nominated himself to the Board as student member.

Dr. Chandra Bhat volunteered to rotate off the Board.

Dr. Kumares Sinha volunteered to rotate off the Board.

The nominated Board members were elected unopposed by voice vote of all members present at the meeting.

## 6. Future of ATPIO

Mr. Arun Shirole reminded everybody the reason for the existence of ATPIO, which is to network, highlight the achievements of and provide assistance to the transportation professionals of Indian origin. The Association does not need to have many activities in coming year. One activity in United States and one activity in India that provide much needed exposure for the Association will suffice. Mr. Shirole also proposed that the Association initiate a membership drive to enroll 100 dues paying members in six months.

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As one of the activities in the U.S., AASHTO expects to send a delegation to India in October this year. ATPIO can assist AASHTO and highlight its activities to its members.

## **7. Old Business**

None was discussed.

## **8. New Business**

The Board members and members attending the annual meeting provided their view on new business for ATPIO to undertake in coming year.

Mr. Shirole mentioned that ATPIO may sponsor a presentation for the Indian Road Congress that is being held in October.

Mr. Sagar Onta recommended organizing a reception for Indian professionals at next TRB.

One of the student members recommended establishing a discussion board on the website that highlights who are presenting papers, leads for job etc. Mr. Anuj Sharma cautioned the board of scammers who could overload the board with scams and fraud messages.

### *COLLABORATION WITH USICON*

Mr. Hardik Shah informed the Board of USICON which has complementary goals and objectives as ATPIO. The organization was started in Florida. It is active and has sponsored various events in India. Dr. Pendyala informed the Board that he's one of the vice-presidents of USICON. The Board discussed the need to coordinate and collaborate with USICON. Mr. Shah and Dr. Pendyala will approach USICON to discuss collaboration efforts.

### *COLLABORATION WITH ITE INDIA*

Mr. Hardik Shah also informed the Board of recent attempts to revive the India chapter of ITE. ITE has certain requirements for chapters to be active. ATPIO can collaborate with ITE India to organize functions in India.

Dr. Ram Pendyala highlighted that he, in collaboration with Ashish Verma, IIT Gauhati, recently submitted proposal and were granted seed funding by the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum for joint conference on Mass Transit in Modeling symposium from February 12-15<sup>th</sup>. The symposium will focus on technology transfer, unique and common between two countries.

Dr. Pendyala also proposed ATPIO to sponsor a session at the Transportation Planning Method in Developing Countries conference in IIT Mumbai in December 2008.

Mr. Sagar Onta proposed the establishment of a Trust Fund that will be used to sponsor various ATPIO events. The primary amount of the fund will never be used and be deposited perpetually on an interest bearing account. For the Trust Fund to be established, the organization must be registered as 501c non-profit organization first.

## **9. Adjourn**

The annual meeting was adjourned by the new President, Mr. Arun Shirole at 5:45 pm.