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Cristina Olaverri-Monreal

## Message on Inauguration of the New ITSS President

It is a great honor and privilege to serve as the 2022–2023 president of the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society (ITSS).

I have been an active member of the ITSS for many years, and I have had the privilege of seeing how the Society has evolved and how the work carried out by my predecessors has borne fruit, increasing the visibility of the Society and the collaboration among its members and volunteers. All of this has been possible thanks to their continuous support, service, and dedication. Thank you very much for advancing our ITSS and for the trust and faith you have put in me with your vote.

I also want to expressly thank our outgoing president, Wei-Bin Zhang, for his excellent job in leading our Society forward. The past two years during which he has served have been particularly challenging. However, he has overcome these difficulties through his engagement, ensuring a smooth day-to-day level of operation and performance. In this context, it is important to highlight his commitment to the Society through the creation of outreach and networking opportunities. A good example of this was the ITSS outreach event in which participants representing all South American countries joined in March 2020, before travel was no longer allowed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The successful recent ITSS Board of Governors (BoG) and Executive Committee Officers Meeting was also a result of his efficient leadership.

My term has just started, and I hope to build on these newly established international collaborations to jointly respond to the pressing issue of achieving climate neutrality through the technological aspects of transportation. In spite of the pandemic that marked these past years, the ITSS is strengthening and expanding its activities as the success of *IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Magazine*, among other actions, demonstrates.

I invite you to visit the newly launched ITSS website (<https://ieee-itss.org/>) to explore all of the opportunities that come with being a partner of our community. Our Society offers more than 10 conferences; four journals, including the new *IEEE Open Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems*; a newsletter and ITS podcast; ITSS Chapters from more than 15 regions and countries; seven Society awards; the usually offered educational activities plus the recently launched and already successful “Industry Meets Academia Webinar Series”; more than nine technical committees; and additional standard activities.

During my term, I hope to expand these activities toward a global collaboration that includes researchers and practitioners from underrepresented Regions. We are already working toward a more inclusive and diverse representation of our Society as

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ITSS South America Outreach Event at the Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina on 6 March 2020. The meeting participants included representatives from Argentina, Chile, Columbia, Venezuela, and Uruguay, among other countries. The meeting was also attended by the ITSS president and president-elect.

reflected in the Society's BoG newly elected class of Members-at-Large: Azim Eskandarian and Andreas A. Malikopoulos; Simona Sacone; Xiao Wang, and Pujitha Gunaratne, who represent ITSS Geographical Areas 1, 2, 3, and industry, respectively. I am sure their contributions will help to advance the Society, and I wish them a successful and fruitful start.

I invite you to stay involved in the Society to benefit from the wide breadth of topics that we cover and welcome your contributions and comments regarding the development of new solutions to address the challenges surrounding the field of transportation.

Sincerely,

Cristina Olaverri-Monreal  
President, ITS



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