

The eight edition of TRISTAN was organized by the Institute of Complex Engineering Systems (ISCI) in San Pedro de Atacama, Chile. Back in 2013, the discussions regarding state of the art methodological as well as practical issues in transportation analysis, took place in the middle of the amazing landscapes of one of the recognized most beautiful places on earth, an island of civilization in the middle of the desert!

Even though the access to the chosen location was quite challenging, the quality of the talks, together with the intimate social relationship created among the 132 participants in such a remote and beautiful place, kept the entire Conference with a special feeling of warmth and good cheer. The positive and relaxing mood from this special connection with the Mother Nature in such a beautiful setting, generated research synergies among participants, some of which became very fruitful in later years. Moreover, the event was enriched by the truly inspiring and motivating plenaries given by Teodor Crainic, Roberto Cominetti, and Mike Ball, as well as the tutorial session organized by Warren Powell. The social activities, including the unforgettable one-day excursion to the Moon Valley, were an excellent complement to the technical activities of the event, for all, participants as well as accompanying people.

The quality of the presentations and the variety of topics motivated the organizers to act as Guest Editors for a Special issue in Transportation Research Part C with a selection of high-quality methodological papers produced in two main streams: "Advances in traffic planning and management" and "Advances in transportation and logistics".

A very sad moment, right after the beginning of the Conference, was the terrible and unexpected loss of our friend and colleague Arne Løkketangen from Norway. He was a great researcher and a great person, who travelled around the world to attend conferences and work with a large group of coauthors. Arne had attended several earlier TRISTAN meetings, being one of the members of the Organizing Committee of TRISTAN VII in Tromsø in 2010. He also participated and shared with us in many other meetings in Chile before TRISTAN VIII, which turned out to be the last event of his life. Arne Løkketangen, gone but never forgotten, forever in our hearts.



We realized during those days how the TRISTAN community had been continuously growing, adding new topics to the discussion and young researchers to the community, who should maintain the energy and enthusiasm high up over time, to continue for many years with these fantastic and high-quality TRISTAN events.



Cristián E. Cortés, TRISTAN VIII Chair

Michel Gendreau