

EDITORIAL

The Genoa Workshop on Maritime Transport and Ports Research

From Thursday 8th to Saturday 10th of June, the international Workshop of the Special Interest Group on Maritime Transport and Ports (SIG2) -a member of the World Conference on Transport Research Society (WCTR)- was held in Genoa (Italy). The aim of the *IJME* sponsored workshop was to take stock of the state-of-the-art in maritime transport and ports research, in view of the upcoming Seoul WCTR Conference, and co-ordinate the Group's input in this major triennial event.

The workshop was organised in co-operation with the Faculty of Economics of the University of Genoa, namely by Professors Enrico Musso, Ugo Marchese (head of the Department of Transport Economics), and Lorenzo Caselli (Dean of the Faculty of Economics). The venues of the Workshop were the Faculty of Economics, located in the fully renovated Old Port Docks, the headquarters of the Genoa Port Authority (in the medieval Palazzo S. Giorgio) and the headquarters of the Istituto Internazionale delle Comunicazioni (Villa Piaggio).

More than 50 researchers from all over the world participated in the workshop and all consistently expressed their satisfaction with the scientific rigour of the presentations, the impeccable organisational arrangements, as well as their commitment to the WCTR ideal.

During three days of hard, hot(!) but otherwise pleasant work, the debate was lively and the 37 presented papers indeed outlined the state-of-the-art in such research areas as: market definition; competition; privatisation; liberalisation in coastal passenger shipping (an upcoming research area within the SIG2); cooperation and safety in the maritime and port industries in the light of globalisation; maritime and port efficiency; port productivity and the emergence of dedicated terminals; the (changing) economic role of ports for local and global economies and the issue of port land use; feasible scenarios in shipping and port activities (from alliances to port development and maritime networks).

A number of full papers, not intended for Seoul, were also presented. A selection (refereed) among the best of them will be published in a special issue of *IJME* edited by Professor Musso. Seoul-2001 will be the next rendezvous for all participants, who will present at the 9th World Conference on Transport Research the final outcomes of their work.