

## **Welcome words for the Workshop “Proposals for Public Electric Transportation in Mexico City”**

I. Dear friends: we are very happy that welcome all of you to this workshop, experts and public officials from several parts of the world and from Mexico.

II. I wish to briefly remind us what the goal of this workshop is: in general, we want to discuss the economic and technical conditions for implementing public electric transportation –very concretely of public electric buses- in Mexico City. This is why we have asked several of you to participate and to share your views, analysis and expertise today with us. However, I would like to go one step further: understanding that Mexico at the federal level, as well as Mexico City are beginning with new governments on December 1st, 2012, a project on “public electric transportation” in Mexico City could be of critical importance from several perspectives. So, we would like to establish a basis for discussing in very concrete terms options for a system of public electric transportation and buses in Mexico City, not forgetting that Mexico City already has an old tradition of electric transportation (called “trolebuses” or trolleybuses). So, we would like to discuss with some detail option in this field.

III. Some of the topics that are relevant for this workshop:

1. There is an increasing consensus that electric transportation in any form represents a “disruptive innovation”, rather than a progressive innovation in the traditional vehicle technology. In addition, electric transportation and electric vehicles will become in the next decades a sector fundamental in terms of R&D, technological research linking universities with the private and public sectors, and critical for new employment and income in our societies. Countries that do not participate in these technologies will simply be excluded from these benefits and will have to import them.

2. In Mexico City and at the federal level there is an increasing consensus that “industrial policy” is necessary in order to generate competitiveness and to compete globally. However, there is little consensus on the “hows”, “which sectors”, how much financing it will require, etc. From this perspective, the implementation of a public electric transportation system in Mexico might combine several of these preoccupations in one single and very concrete project. The project should allow for the implementation of public electric transportation in Mexico City from a long-term perspective, i.e. to integrate research groups from Mexico and other international teams, added to the Mexico City government and the federal government, in addition to private firms in Mexico and globally that have already results in this field of research. So, to be very concrete: a project on public electric transportation in Mexico City could allow for such a concrete policy and financial proposal that requires little justification in terms of ecological effects. **SO: A PROJECT ON PUBLIC ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION IN MEXICO CITY COULD BECOME AN IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING PROJECT FOR THE NEXT GOVERNMENTS (2012-2018) AT THE LOCAL AND FEDERAL LEVELS.**

3. Finally, a project on public electric transportation also allows for concrete international cooperation. Developing new technologies of electric transportation –from cars to buses- are expensive and require local, national and international cooperation between the public and private sectors. At the federal level Mexico has many of these cooperation agreements. In the case of Mexico City, it has twinning-agreements (“hermanamientos”) with the City of Beijing (2009) and Berlín (1993), among many others. I believe this might be an excellent project to allow for concrete work between cities, concretely with Berlin and Beijing.

IV. I would finally like to thank a group of the assisting institutions and individuals that are participating in this workshop. I will not be able to mention all of you (please take a look at the list of participants that we are submitting).

- a. We are very thankful to the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) for providing us with these beautiful installations. There are a group of researchers and students from different schools that are participating, and in particular Rosalba Cruz from the Coordination for Innovation and Development of UNAM. Thank you all for your assistance.
- b. This event has only been possible as a result of the long-terms cooperation between UNAM and the Institute for Science and Technology (ICyT) of the Mexico City Government, and very concretely of Julio Mendoza Alvarez and Rodrigo Montúfar. Thank you both.
- c. Thanks a lot also to Raúl Rojas, Professor at the Free University of Berlin. Several months ago we both started thinking about this workshop and project.
- d. We are also very thankful to the delegation of BYD that is coming from several parts of the world and headed by Stella Li. Thank you all for your assistance.
- e. Dr. Yangchun Liang, from the DRC, has also a long trip behind him coming from Beijing. Thank you.
- f. We do have today an excellent group of experts from several universities in Mexico such as IPN and others, several federal institutions (such as ProMéxico and Conacyt, among others) and private firms (including King Autobuses).
- g. It is important for us that we also highlight several individuals that are working with the current and future Mexico City government and probably with the current and future federal governments on these topics.
- h. Finally, we do have an excellent group of private institutions from the automobile-autoparts chain, from ANPACT, AMIA, INA and AMDA, among others. Thank you for your time
- i. A special mention is required for all the presentations, concretely from Metrobús and Electrobús. Thank you very much Germán Carmona Paredes for your time and enthusiasm and showing us the Electrobús today and giving us a “ride” after eating.

Finally, I would simply like to remind us that we want to keep the spirit of a workshop today, i.e. there will be initial presentations and more than sufficient time for Q&A throughout the workshop as well as during the lunch time. After lunch Dr. Germán Carmona Paredes has offered to show us and allow us for a short trip with the Electrobús.

Welcome to everybody again and we will start immediately with the first group of presentations.