Greetings for a prosperous and academically rich **New Year 2016**.

I cordially invite you all to my place – National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli (popularly known as NIT Trichy).

We have put all our efforts to make ACODS 2016 a big and memorable event. This is much more than a conference wherein you present your paper and leave. Please treat this as my personal invitation and make it convenient to stay with me on all the 5 days.

We received an unusually high number of submissions; in between we have been exploring the possibility of getting the best papers from our conference published in prestigious journals. This raised the bar on the quality of the papers for the conference. Consequently, there has been a delay in the decision. I apologize if you had some anxious moments. However, I thank all the authors for submitting really good quality papers, and we had a tough time in making our decisions. As a quality policy of our ACDOS society, we have not taken decisions until we received at least 2 reviews for every paper. In most cases we received 3 or more reviews.

Coming to the modus operandi of the conference I have a few points I thought you should be informed.

1. Registration to the conference is mandatory for uploading the final paper. Please visit http://acods2016.nitt.edu/registration.htm for details such as number of papers that can be uploaded, charges for additional (more than 6) pages in a paper, charges for additional papers, etc.
2. Once you are ready with your final paper, please visit https://ifac.papercept.net/registration/index.php follow the instructions, and go ahead with the registration.
3. In the process of organizing large scale conferences (just for your information, IFAC World Congress typically has more than 2000 papers) it is imperative that we automate the procedures and hence we make use of the software: ifac-papercept.net. You would have found it extremely simple to upload your manuscripts by creating your own PINs. Much the same way, it is also easier for you to register on the website using your credit card.
4. I understand your concern about paying in US Dollars. Some of you might be thinking about the exchange rate. But, we have no other option to have a

hassle-free management. To compensate, first we offer you – free tutorials (you have 4 to choose from), a lavish banquet, free city tours, free industrial visits etc. Secondly, we have bargained and arranged for a very good deal with Hotel SRM Annexe and Hotel Surag Residency – you are picked up and dropped from the airport/railway junction/bus stand free of cost, you are provided complimentary breakfast, free wi-fi, and so on. Therefore, I request you to kindly make your payments in US Dollars using a credit card.

5. In case of genuine difficulty, please write to me for a wire transfer in Indian currency; primarily, we made this option available for those sponsored delegates from various organizations who might not have any papers to present.

6. There are a couple of things regarding student registration:
   a. "Students" means full-time students currently enrolled in a university; they are requested to bring their ID cards to the registration desk on February 1. Part-time students, QIP scholars, and those who have submitted the thesis <u>do not</u> come under this category.
   b. We had a meeting regarding the student support program (SSP). We now have 3 awards for the best student paper (it is mandatory that the student presents his paper) – first prize @ 6000/- INR, second prize @ 4000 INR, and third prize @ 2000 INR. A call for nominations to all the faculty has been sent and we have started receiving too. The awards ceremony would be held on 4th evening at the valediction.
   c. All the students are accommodated free of cost in the campus. However, they have to take care of their breakfasts and dinners (other than the banquet).
   d. One more attractive proposal has also been made, and this would be a surprise at the conference.

7. For accommodation, please contact the volunteers, the list has already been put up in the "Accommodations" page of the website. Unfortunately, we were unable to get BHEL guest house, and hence we added one more hotel as of now, and by this evening one more hotel shall be added. All the three hotels offer you the same facilities - complimentary breakfast, free wi-fi, free pick-up from and drop to airport/railway junction/bus stands. You may directly contact them for accommodation related issues. All the students shall be accommodated within the campus free of cost.

8. There are 4 very high quality tutorials (perhaps it is difficult to choose one) offered by experts in the field. All these run in parallel. It is not right on our

part to hop from one tutorial to another. Hence, please decide on the tutorial which interests you the most, and write to me no later than **January 24th**. I am expecting about 200 delegates on the whole, and hence, I would like to have around 50 participants for each topic.

9. We have put lots of efforts to make this conference a unique one. We are having full-day tutorials, plenary/semi-plenary talks, and about 160 oral presentations. Please have a look at the Master Program uploaded on the website. The program is rather tight. Hence, I request you to kindly maintain punctuality so that we do not lose time and run late into the evenings.

10. I shall keep adding more information on this page.

Dr. Ramakalyan Ayyagari
General Chair, ACODS 2016
Vice-President & President Elect, ACDOS