ISTRC Report on TRISTAN XII

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I had the opportunity of attending and presenting at the 12th Triennial Symposium on Transportation Analysis (TRISTAN) from June 22-27, 2025 in Okinawa, Japan. The purpose of the conference was to bring together researchers from across the world to discuss ideas and present recent progress on innovative models, methodologies and applications in Transportation Science. The conference included over 120 participants, from 26 different countries, held at the *Bankoku Shinryo* meaning "Bridge between Nations," fitting for the diverse set of academic and industry researchers in attendance.

The conference was organized into three parallel sessions, each featuring three to four speakers. Each speaker had 15 minutes to present, followed by 15 minutes of questions. This format stands out from the standard conference structure, offering significantly more time for both presentation and discussion. As is often the case with research, the most valuable insights lie in the smaller details and nuances of implementation. It was therefore especially rewarding to have the time and space to explore these aspects in depth and to engage in thoughtful conversations with interested audience members—well beyond a single question-and-answer exchange.

I presented my ongoing PhD research on Network Design for Parcel Routing with Handling times during the second Network Design session. The focus of my presentation was on devising efficient line networks for parcel delivery that require significant handling times. Our work is the first to address joint optimization of the vehicle routes (lines), parcel routes and the vehicle scheduling problem. As my research relates to several fields in transportation and logistics including service network design, line planning and consistent routing, the conference served as an excellent opportunity to chat with eminent researchers in these fields on my progress and findings. Specifically, I made several connections with researchers working on periodic network design and line planning and benefited from a stronger understanding of the field.

Beyond my immediate research interests in network design, the conference was a great opportunity to learn about the work being done across the broader transportation science community, as well as the mathematical tools others are using or developing. I found the other sessions valuable not only from a technical standpoint—introducing new methods and modeling ideas—but also as a way to explore the research landscape more broadly. As a PhD student, it's essential to build strong technical skills in optimization and stochastics. But it's equally important to understand what research fields exist, what results have been established, and which directions remain unexplored and worth pursuing.

Beyond the conference itself, Okinawa—and Japan more broadly—were wonderful destinations to visit. While my mind was often preoccupied with work and the ongoing tensions between Iran and Israel back home, I genuinely enjoyed the experience of being in Japan.

I am deeply grateful to the Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center for sponsoring my participation and presentation at TRISTAN. With their support, I was able to share my work with the broader transportation science community, receive valuable feedback on both my current progress and future research directions,

and, importantly, begin building academic relationships with international researchers—connections I hope will grow into future collaborations. I strongly encourage future scholarship recipients to attend TRISTAN and showcase the impactful research being done within the ISTRC community. The next TRISTAN will be held in Brazil in 2028, and I look forward to the opportunity to attend and connect with fellow ISTRC scholars there!

Figure 1: Top: Presentation at TRISTAN. Bottom: Visiting Tokashiki.