Dr. Tao Hong is Associate Professor, NCEMC Faculty Fellow of Energy Analytics, Graduate Program Director and Research Director of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management Department at University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He is the Director of BigDEAL (Big Data Energy Analytics Laboratory), the Founding Chair of IIF Section on Water, Energy and Environment, Past Chair of IEEE Working Group on Energy Forecasting, Director at Large of International Institute of Forecasters, General Chair of Global Energy Forecasting Competition, and author of the blog Energy Forecasting. Dr. Hong serves as department editor, editor and associate editor of many prestigious journals, such as IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, International Journal of Forecasting, and Solar Energy. Dr. Hong received his B.Eng. in Automation from Tsinghua University in Beijing and his PhD with co-majors in Operations Research and Electrical Engineering from North Carolina State University.

Statement

My first interaction with IIF was to organize GEFCom2012. After that, I chaired three sessions at ISF2014 and 2015, co-edited two IJF special sections, and published one paper on Foresight and six papers on IJF. I also funded the IIF-Hong award to recognize the best energy forecasting papers. As much as I enjoyed the community, I was ready, confident, and eager to serve the community at the next level. I wanted to “help the society grow its membership”, to “encourage formation of industry-specific committees”, and to “offer customized services to IIF members” as mentioned in my election statement four years ago.

In 2017, I was honored and humbled to be elected as a director for the IIF board.

Today, I’m proud to announce that I have kept my promise. I convinced the board to establish IIF communities, such as themed sections, networks, and regional chapters. As a result, IIF has launched Early Career Researchers Network (ECR), Section on Macroeconomic Forecasting (MacroFor), Section on Water, Energy and Environment (SWEET), and the United Kingdom Chapter. The two sections MacroFor and SWEET account for half of the talks at the most recent International Symposium on Forecasting. The IIF has more than doubled its members during my 4-year term as a director.

Like many fellow forecasters, I was not able to predict COVID-19 and its impact to our ISF2020. As the program chair of the ISF-Rio, I championed to bring ISF online. Working with a fantastic ISF organization team, I had many sleepless nights, which led to the first ever virtual ISF, and recorded the highest number of registrations in ISF history.

While serving on the IIF board for the last four years, I also discovered a great opportunity to even better serve our members. If re-elected, I would like to develop a distinguished lecturer program. The program will host a series of video lectures taught by renowned forecasting researchers and practitioners. Meanwhile, the program will also bring prestigious awards and recognitions to the outstanding IIF members.

I want to thank you again for electing me to the board four years ago. I hope you are satisfied with my services, and will vote for me again this year.