YOU COULD IMAGINE A WORLD IN WHICH EVERY HUMAN IS A GLOBAL CITIZEN WHO COULD TRAVEL FROM ONE SIDE OF THE EARTH TO THE OTHER ONE WITHIN ONE AND A HALF HOURS. THAT IS, OF COURSE, A VERY LONG TERM VISION, BUT TECHNOLOGICALLY POSSIBLE. NOW, THE QUESTION IS, WHO IS GOING TO PAY FOR IT?

Meet Su Chung, CTPID Administrative Officer

“My job is to deal with administrative matters so professors and researchers can focus on their teaching and research,” said CTPID Administrative Officer Su Chung. Those matters range from preparing budgets for each program’s funding proposals to human resources management and space management.

The diverse range of CTPID programs complicates financial management. Projects such as the International Motor Vehicle Program (IMVP) have sponsors from many countries and subcontracts with universities all over the world. CTPID’s largest program, the Lean Aerospace Initiative (LAI), divides budgets into five project groups and then between industry and government funds. Chung works closely with program managers such as IMVP’s Donna Carty and LAI’s Tom Shields to make sure that this elaborate flow of funds meets the accounting standards required by each contract.

The most challenging and most rewarding aspect of her job, however, is human resources management, which includes managing the hiring process and employee issues. Chung enjoys collaborating with the variety of researchers and staff working on CTPID’s many projects. “I like to work with people. I believe that one of Professor Moavenzadeh’s missions for CTPID is to create a very comfortable and harmonious environment for everybody. I’m very happy to be part of that mission.”

Born in Korea, Chung earned a bachelor’s degree in education and Korean language and literature at Yonsei University in Seoul. Shortly after graduation, she married a young instructor, Sungho. Chung and her husband moved to New England to further their education—a Harvard master’s in education for Chung and a PhD in philosophy for her husband. She came to MIT in 1986, joined the CTPID staff in 1988, and was promoted to administrative officer in 2000. Beyond MIT, the Chungs and their son Shihwan have toured the United States three times on cross-country vacations.