

## Introduction

The International Seminar, **Sustainability of rural road networks**, is organized by the World Road Association (PIARC) and the Government of Bolivia. The seminar has the support of the Roads Directors Council of Iberia and Ibero-America (DIRCAIBEA).

This seminar is part of the International Seminars Program of the World Road Association.

The primary objective of the seminar is to raise awareness on the importance of the provision and maintenance of sustainable rural road networks for the benefit of communities.

This seminar will provide a platform for experts to share experiences and discuss issues and challenges related to planning, provision and maintenance of rural roads in a sustainable manner. Innovations regarding the participation of local communities in the whole process are also part of the overall program of the seminar.

The seminar is organized in collaboration with PIARC Technical Committee *A.4 Rural Road Systems and Accessibility to Rural Areas* which brings together experts from different countries around the world.

The Seminar is open to members of the international road community who are interested in gaining and sharing knowledge on best practice maintenance of rural and low-volume roads.

## Background

Rural roads are a key component of rural development, enabling remote communities to have access to basic services, generate an income through agriculture and gain productive employment. Rural roads can be seen as a stepping stone to alleviating poverty, since it is clear that an investment in access to rural areas and transport improves the living conditions of the poor. Transport was also identified as being of great importance for the achievement of several of the targets under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Bolivia, through the “Bolivian Road Administration” and the “Department of Public Services and Housing”, implemented the “Pro Vial” (Pro Road) program for the maintenance of the road network. It is intended to replicate the program in rural networks through prefectures and municipalities. This maintenance program involves the communities along the road network, by engaging them to undertake cleaning of berms, ditches, drainage etc. The communities have also been engaged to perform major works, which have greatly assisted in maintaining the trafficability of routes in times of emergency, especially where access is difficult. The program aims to further engage

community groups by providing training in more specialized tasks, such as signaling, which will improve road safety in these areas.

Despite the significant progress in improving accessibility to these rural areas, the management and future maintenance of this rural road network must be expanded in a sustainable manner, with the participation of municipalities and prefectures.

## **Topics**

The seminar will cover the following topics:

### **I The Bolivian experience in implementing the *Pro Road* program and its future challenges**

### **II Best practices for planners and practitioners in the development and sustainable maintenance of rural roads**

- How were planning decisions made?
- What constitutes good practice and why?
- How has the participation of local communities contributed to a successful outcome?

### **III Framework, pre-requisites and maintenance practices**

- Planning and other pre- requisites including the involvement of local communities.
- Financing, organization and management.
- Maintenance practices.
- Delivery of maintenance contracts, including alternative delivery mechanisms.

### **IV Community participation in rural roads**

- Maximizing the participation of local communities:
  - in the overall planning / program prioritization phase;
  - in the initial phase of construction;
  - In the routine maintenance and repair phase.

### **V Sustainable rural roads - future directions and challenges**

## **Seminar Venue**

The seminar will take place in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra from 10 to 12 March 2011 at the following location:

### ***Sociedad de Ingenieros de Bolivia***

Departamental Santa Cruz

Barrio Urbari - Calle Mocapini # 402

Telefono: (591) 3 352-6911

E-mail : [sib@cotas.com.bo](mailto:sib@cotas.com.bo)

Web: [www.sibsc.com](http://www.sibsc.com)

Santa Cruz has an area of 370.621 km<sup>2</sup>. One third of this area is mountainous and the rest is spread over the Amazon floodplain in the east. In the north, Santa Cruz joins the department of Beni, which borders the Republic of Brazil. In the south, Santa Cruz de la Sierra is bordered by the department of Chuquisaca and also Paraguay. The approximate population of Santa Cruz is 1,500,000 inhabitants. The departmental capital is the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

## **Methodology**

The Seminar will consist of (a) plenary sessions with presentations by leading experts, (b) parallel theme-specific sessions and workshops lead by expert facilitators, (c) a plenary panel discussion, and (d) the conclusions and resolutions.

The plenary sessions will include presentations from experts of PIARC Technical Committee A.4 as well as local, regional and international leading experts.

## **Languages**

The official language of the seminar will be Spanish with simultaneous translation into English.

## **Participation**

The topic of the seminar and solutions involves a wide variety of stakeholders and delegates from the following sectors are expected to attend:

- Members of the Technical Committee of PIARC A.4 and other technical committees.
- Ministries, organizations and standard-setting bodies dealing with rural connectivity from PIARC's government member countries as well as other developing and developed countries.
- Research organizations with particular expertise in rural roads and low volume roads and their maintenance.

- Representatives of multilateral funding agencies.
- Several United Nations organizations related to accessibility and mobility for rural communities.
- Practicing engineers, construction companies and consultants who possess expertise in the development and management of rural roads.
- Community development specialists and groups or associations that have a special interest in the subject.

## **Preliminary Program**

### **Thursday 10 March 2011**

09:00	Registration
10:00	Opening session
11:30	Tea / Coffee Break
12:00	Session I: Current status and challenges for sustainable rural road networks (2 lectures)
13:30	Lunch Break
14:30	Session II: Planning of rural roads and funding responsibilities
16:00	Tea / Coffee Break

### **Friday 11 March 2010**

9:30	Session III:
	1) Maintenance of rural roads - responsibilities in the management and execution of the works
	2) Technological innovations for rural road maintenance
11:30	Tea / Coffee Break
12:00	Technical Session IV: Maintenance of drainage works, bridges, etc.
13:00	Lunch Break
14:00	Technical Session V: Delivery of maintenance works
16:00	Tea / Coffee Break
16:30	Closing Session

### **Saturday 12 March 2011**

Technical Visit

## Call for Seminar Papers

Abstracts, 150-200 words, may be submitted in English, Spanish or French.

The abstracts should be sent to the Secretary General of PIARC, preferably in electronic format, to: [info@piarc.org](mailto:info@piarc.org) . Printed copies can be sent by fax to + 33 (1) 49 00 02 02.

The deadlines for the call for papers are as follows:

Submission of abstracts	30 September 2010
Review of abstracts and notification to authors	31 October 2010
Submission of the Seminar presentation and papers	31 December 2010

## PIARC Special Fund

The PIARC Special Fund can cover up to 100% of travel expenses or up to 100% of the accommodation costs of participants from developing countries (lower middle income and low income countries). It can cover the cost of one participant per PIARC member subject to the agreement of the First Delegate. Requests for Special Fund assistance should be made by the First Delegate to the PIARC General Secretariat e-mail: [info@piarc.org](mailto:info@piarc.org) .

## Registration

### a. Fees

Delegates from low income countries:	US \$150
PIARC members from low income countries:	US \$100
Delegates from other countries:	US \$250
PIARC members from other countries:	US \$200
Delegates from Bolivia (Local Government):	300 Bolivianos

### b. Registration Deadline: 5 February 2011

The registration form will be published separately.

## Accommodation

There are hotels located near the event and attendees may choose where they want to stay depending on their preferences. The Bolivian Road Administration has made some arrangements and obtained discounts with a few hotels.

### **HOTEL CAMINO REAL**

ROOM TYPE	ROOM RATE PER NIGHT
Simple luxury (1 person)	US \$79
Double luxury (2 people)	US \$92
Junior Suite (1 person or couple)	US \$115
Royal Suite (1 person or couple)	US \$145

Av. San Martín y 4to. Anillo Equipetrol Norte

Tel. (591) 3 3423535 int. 631 Fax (591) 3 3431515

E-mail : [ventas3@caminoreal.com.bo](mailto:ventas3@caminoreal.com.bo)

Web : [www.caminoreal.com.bo](http://www.caminoreal.com.bo)

Santa Cruz – Bolivia

### **HOTEL PAULISTANIA CASABLANCA**

ROOM TYPE	ROOM RATE PER NIGHT
Simple (HKS) 1 Person	US \$50
Double (HTS) 2 People	US \$60

Av. Marcelo Terceros No.205 casi Av. San Martín (Zona Equipetrol)

Tel. (591) 3 3434444 Fax (591) 3 3429529

E-Mail : [hotelcasablanca@cotas.com.bo](mailto:hotelcasablanca@cotas.com.bo)

Web : [www.hotelpaulistaniacasablanca.com](http://www.hotelpaulistaniacasablanca.com)

Santa Cruz - Bolivia

### **HOTEL LOS TAJIBOS**

ROOM TYPE	ROOM RATE PER NIGHT
Simple 1 Person	US \$101
Double 2 Persons	US \$116

Av. San Martín 455 – Zona Equipetrol

Tel.: (591) 3 3421000 Int. 5303

E-mail: [dmendez@lostajiboshotel.com](mailto:dmendez@lostajiboshotel.com)

Web : [www.lostajiboshotel.com](http://www.lostajiboshotel.com)

Santa Cruz - Bolivia

## **Travel and Transportation**

Santa Cruz is well connected to the rest of the country and the world through railways, roads and its international airport, Viru Viru.

Transportation to and from the venue will be the responsibility of the organizers.

## **Climate**

The climate in March is pleasant. The daytime temperatures range from between 25-35°C.

## **Visa Requirements**

In general, the following documents are required for obtaining a visa for Bolivia:

- Original passport valid for at least six months
- Visa fees
- The supporting documents, if necessary
- Completed application

However, the procedures, requirements and deadlines may vary from country to country. Please check with your embassy or consulate to obtain complete and accurate information.

## **Details of contact with the local organizers**

### **Mr. Roberto Sandoval Farfán**

Bolivian Roads Director

[www.abc.gob.bo](http://www.abc.gob.bo)

Santa Cruz - Av Roca y Coronado N ° 950

Tel: (591) 3 3547031 Fax: (591) 3 3579157

E-mail [rsandoval@abc.gob.bo](mailto:rsandoval@abc.gob.bo) - [rsandoval@cotas.com.bo](mailto:rsandoval@cotas.com.bo)

### **Mr. Adhemar Rocabado Carvajal**

Santa Cruz Roads Administrator

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