

CONTENT

- NC News, Events and Activities
- NC Publications, magazines and newsletters
- PIARC Congresses and Seminars
- Preview of next issue

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EDITORIAL

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PIARC ANNUAL MEETINGS IN BEIJING

The annual conference of PIARC National Committees took place in Beijing, China, 10th October 2005, on the occasion of the Executive Committee meeting and Council meeting.

33 representatives from 19 countries participated in the conference. Mexico and the Congo received a warm welcome as new members, Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea intend to create National Committees in their countries in the near future. Further contacts have been established with Baltic states, Latin-American and African countries.

Working Group of National Committees

Final preparations for the annual meeting were made by the NC's working group in the morning before the meeting. A workshop was prepared for the afternoon. France, Canada, Japan, Congo, Bangladesh and Austria joined the working group.

National Committees Activity Reports

In the afternoon the annual conference started with a summary presentation of the 2005 National Committees Activity Reports by Florian Matiasek (Austria). He explained the new reporting form, developed to facilitate the filling in procedure and to make the information easier readable. A discussion was launched about the proper contents. NC's representative will provide an example for the expected contents for the 2006 reports.

Find the individual Activity Reports 2005 on the PIARC website:
<http://private.piarc.org/fr/CNAT/piarc2/detail3/>

Working Programme 2005-2008

NC's representative presented a status report of the working programme 2005-2008. Most actions of the working programme could be started successfully (electronic newsletter, contact list, new form of activity reports, improving the regional contacts and the contact to NC representative), others are in preparation (questionnaire about the genuine needs of National Committees, first initiative was set by means of the NC's workshop in Beijing) and some actions were handed over to a broader forum (the idea of an internet platform for NC's will be developed by the Commission on Communication for all PIARC members).

PIARC National Committees Newsletter

Welcome to the third issue of PIARC NC's Newsletter. The members of the annual conference of NC's discussed very lively the future contents and orientation of the newsletter. NC's representative reminded on the function of the newsletter as a communication tool between and about National Committees only, in terms of interesting content many countries asked for good practice examples how National Committees are performing well as an important part for the newsletter. What is your opinion about the newsletter? Do you have proposals for complementary contents? Please send your comments until 31th December 2005 to florian.matiasek@bmvit.gv.at

National Committees Workshop

A workshop was launched with the following questions prepared by NC's working group:

1. What are the consequences for NC's if PIARC subscriptions will be increased?
 2. What should be communicated by the newsletter?
 3. How to inform local authorities about their profits on the NC's and PIARC as a whole?
 4. What is expected from the NC's representative
- Read more in the minutes of the meeting and the next issue of the newsletter.

Friedrich Zotter

Representative of PIARC National Committees

Your opinions and comments to

Friedrich Zotter: friedrich.zotter@bmvit.gv.at

COUNCIL MEETING

The representative of National Committees reported to the PIARC Council the progress of work within the group of National Committees. On the other hand the Council took very important decisions to be communicated to National Committees and their members:

It approved the following subscriptions to apply for individual and collective members:

Subscription (in Euros)	2006	2007
<i>Individual members</i>		
High income countries	50	54
Other countries	25	27
<i>Collective members</i>		
High income countries	410	440
Other countries	250	270

The subscription fees for individual members (MP) and collective members (CM) are determined in relation to the gross national income per capita, according to the classification published by the World Bank. The higher fees are for countries from the category of "high income", the lower fees for countries from the other categories i.e. "middle income" and "low income".

Dissemination of PIARC Technical Reports and Archive of PIARC Congresses

Upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council decided that, subject to few exceptions, downloading of PDF files of the reports produced by the Technical Committees should be made available for free from the PIARC website.

Upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council supported the project presented by the Secretary General to produce digital files of the World Road Congresses since 1908, on the occasion of the Paris Congress in 2007.

FRANCE

Contribute to the success of Paris 2007 Congress



As presented in the annual conference of the National Committees, the organizers of 2007 Paris World Road Congress need the support of the National Committees in 3 fields:

Historic exhibition:

Olivia Roman, advisor to the French ministry of Transport currently seeks to contact the National Committees in order to define the contents of a historic exhibition which we wish to assemble during the week of the congress, in order to recall 100 years of history of the road on the 5 continents. This exhibition will have a common theme connected to the sustainable development as regards infrastructures, techniques or human resources. We are opened to any proposal from you concerning the precise choice of this common theme and the objects (materials, fixed or animated images, sound tracks) which your country could lend.

You can contact Olivia to the +33.1.40.81.14.89 or at Olivia.roman@i-carre.net

Creation of a file for the dissemination of information:

In order to supplement our files for the dissemination of information, please send us your files of the contacts (persons, companies, other bodies) who could be interested in the next World Congress. Send your files to the address paris2007@equipement.gouv.fr

Dissemination of information in events and by means of the media:

In order to attract the largest possible audience, we would wish to receive information of the date and venue of national road events as well as the specialised press of various countries. Which is the calendar of major road events in your country in 2006 and 2007? Which are the names of road related magazines and specialised press in your country? Send your contributions to paris2007@equipement.gouv.fr or by fax to the +33.1.40.81.18.66

Thank you for your support!



News

PORTUGAL

The Portuguese National Committee intends to translate the PIARC Road Safety Manual into Portuguese.

SPAIN

The Spanish National Committee has appointed a new technical secretary: **Jose Antonio Pañero**.

CANADA

Ms. Evelyn Marcoux has been elected as a new president of the National Committee.

CANADA-QUEBEC

A new secretary general has been appointed: **Mr. Marc-André Thivierge**.

Events & conferences

AUSTRIA

3rd International Conference Tunnel Safety and Ventilation

New Developments in Tunnel Safety 15-17 May 2006, Graz

This conference is the most important scientific symposium with an associated trade show concerning the topics design, installations, operation and safety of tunnels in the year 2006. Following the successful conferences in April 2002 and 2004 this international symposium offers an excellent possibility of an exchange of knowledge and insight into the newest developments in the fields mentioned above.

Exhibitors: Please register in time to ensure your participation in the conference and trade show. The last two conferences were fully booked out.

Organised in cooperation with Forschungsgemeinschaft Strasse und Verkehr (FSV) and the Austrian National Committee of PIARC.

Information and Registration:

Institute for Internal Combustion Engines and Thermodynamics, Graz University of Technology

<http://vkm-thd.tugraz.at>

e-mail: minarik@tugraz.at

BELGIUM

Report of the XXth Belgian Road Congress 28-30 September 2005, Brussels

The Belgian Road Congress is organized every four years. **The XXth congress was held at the end of September 2005 at the exhibition centres of Brussels.** The congress was opened by two short speeches, the first of Mr. Moureau, president of the congress, and the second of Mr. Marc Lemlin, First delegate of Belgium and President of the Belgian National Committee (ABR) as well as a projection of a film on Brussels capital area.

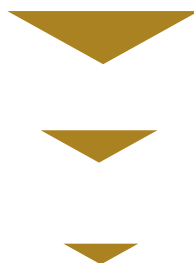
Then, the qualified Ministers for the three Areas exposed their policy. The morning session was concluded by a debate between six Belgian mayors in connection with the place and of the role of the roadway system and downtown roads and the opening of the exhibition. The moderator of this debate was Mr. C Van Rooten, Secretary of the Belgian National Committee and member of the Executive Committee of PIARC. The exhibition was divided into two parts: stands inside the congress palace and various appliances and measurement vehicles outside.

All the presentations of the congress met the following 7 topics:

- mobility
- safety
- environmental aspects of the road
- cement and new concrete techniques
- socio-economic, budgetary, legal and administrative aspects
- save roads and streets for handicapped persons
- new hydro-carbon techniques.

The parallel sessions made it possible to the almost 450 participants to take part in all the topics presented during these three days. Let us quote the compacted no-slump concrete armed with fibres, quick hardening concretes, mixed carriageways for trams and bus, repression and safety with respect to the various categories of users, safety audits, the European standards for bituminous binders, bituminous modified mixes, adjudication procedures and bonus systems, the coordination of building sites, the urban road noise, pollution due to traffic and recycling. In addition to these working sessions, technical visits (coatings and environment, cyclists and pedestrians, displacement in public transport in Brussels, structures, centralized management of mobility) and a program for the accompanying people have been proposed.

The proceedings of the congress are available at www.congresbelgedelaroute2005.be#



FRANCE

PIARC AND NATIONAL ISSUES A ROLE FOR A NATIONAL COMMITTEE

France has 240 members, 56 of whom are members of PIARC technical committees. These 56 members cover practically all of the work topics of the current PIARC cycle. Nevertheless, it has not been easy, using these experts alone, to establish productive dialogue between the work of the technical committees and the concerns of the French roads community.

At the instigation of the President of the French committee, Yves Robichon, the "Rencontres 2005" sessions are devoted to setting up 'mirror committees' for 6 topics (economic and financial issues; mobility and sustainable transport; road safety; pavements, structure and surface; road traffic and ITS, road assets management). The aim is to present the work being undertaken in the technical committees to French stakeholders in the road sector, to liaise with them and share their concerns and experience with the rest of the world through the technical committees.

This is a means for us to provide more fulfilling connections between the national and international dimensions of our committee, something that was much discussed at the meeting of national committees in Beijing.

HUNGARY

Report of the 37th Conference of the Hungarian Road Society 7th to 9th September 2005, Bukfuerdo (Western Hungary)

The 37th Conference of the Hungarian Road Society took place in Bukfuerdo in Western Hungary from 7th to 9th September 2005. About 600 persons participated. The society of Hungarian roads consists of representatives of the administration, universities, enterprises, etc. The conference was organised by the Hungarian Scientific Transport Association. The technical work was accomplished in four sections (planning of the transportation network, building technology, road safety, financing of the tasks of road). Representatives of the Hungarian National Committee of PIARC could give actual information about the activities and tasks of the World Road Association and the Hungarian National Committee.

Information: NagyTamas@mail.kozut.hu

JAPAN

Report of the 26th Japan Road Congress and the International Symposium,

Tokyo,
27-28 Oct. 2005

The 26th Japan Road Congress was hosted by the Japan Road Association and held on 27-28 October in Tokyo. It was attended by around 2000 road professionals from home and abroad.

As the meetings of TC2.3 on Urban Areas and Integrated Transport and TC3.2 on Risk Management also took place in Tokyo earlier on the same week, the International Symposium took full advantage of this opportunity to invite distinguished experts from both Committees as panellists. The panel discussion features two themes; "Risk Management for Roads" and "Sustainable City Policies and Practices in EU Countries." The

former session was chaired by **Dr. Michio Okahara**, Chairman of the TC3.2 and the latter was chaired by **Dr. Takashi Yajima**, member of TC 3.2. Speakers included **Mr. Terry Brown** from New Zealand,

Mr. Johan Hansen from Sweden and **Mr. Michel Cloutier** from Canada - TC3.2 - [Picture 1] and **Dr. Csaba Koren**, Chairman of TC2.3 from Hungary and **Mr. Christer Lundin** from Sweden [Picture 2].

About 200 participants attended the Symposium and had a lively exchange of views.

The International Symposium and its social programme afforded an opportunity among the members of TC3.2, TC2.3 and the Japan Road Association to network and discover the city and culture of Japan. #



NORDIC ROAD ASSOCIATION

Joint Nordic-Baltic Seminar on Restructuring Road Management

15th-16th September, Visby (Sweden)

The 2nd Seminar on Restructuring Road Management was arranged on 15th-16th September in Visby, Sweden, as a joint Nordic-Baltic overview of changes in the organizational structures of the road administrations of all Nordic and Baltic states during the last three years. The seminar was a follow up of the presentations and visions presented in the 1st Seminar in Pärnu, Estonia.

The second day was dedicated to presentations and discussion about the development of common road markets in the Nordic and eventually also the Baltic



countries. Efficient common road markets require common ways of thinking, harmonized procurement procedures and requirements, common data models etc.

The two days gave a good overview of the variety of solutions and implementations in the different countries, but also a good base for the common development of the region.

You can read more about the presentations and eventually also the panel discussions by using the following link:

<http://ptl.fi/NVFnorden/document.asp-page=document&objno=72529.htm> placed on the NRA homepage www.nvfnorden.org

The Nordic-Baltic seminar gathered nearly a hundred participants from the management of main public and private organizations.

SPAIN

Report of the 4th Symposium of Tunnels

26th-28th October 2005, Sant Julià del Lòria, Andorra

With the name "Why are the tunnels safe?", the Spanish Roads Technical Association held in Andorra the IV Symposium of Tunnels gathering more than half a thousand professionals who belong to the Spanish, French and Andorran tunnels sector. This edition has been the most crowded of this congresses biannual series.

One of the 'star' topics in these conferences has been the new European Directive 2004/54/CE transposition about Tunnels Security in the different national laws which involves all actors' participation and accurate responsibilities definition.

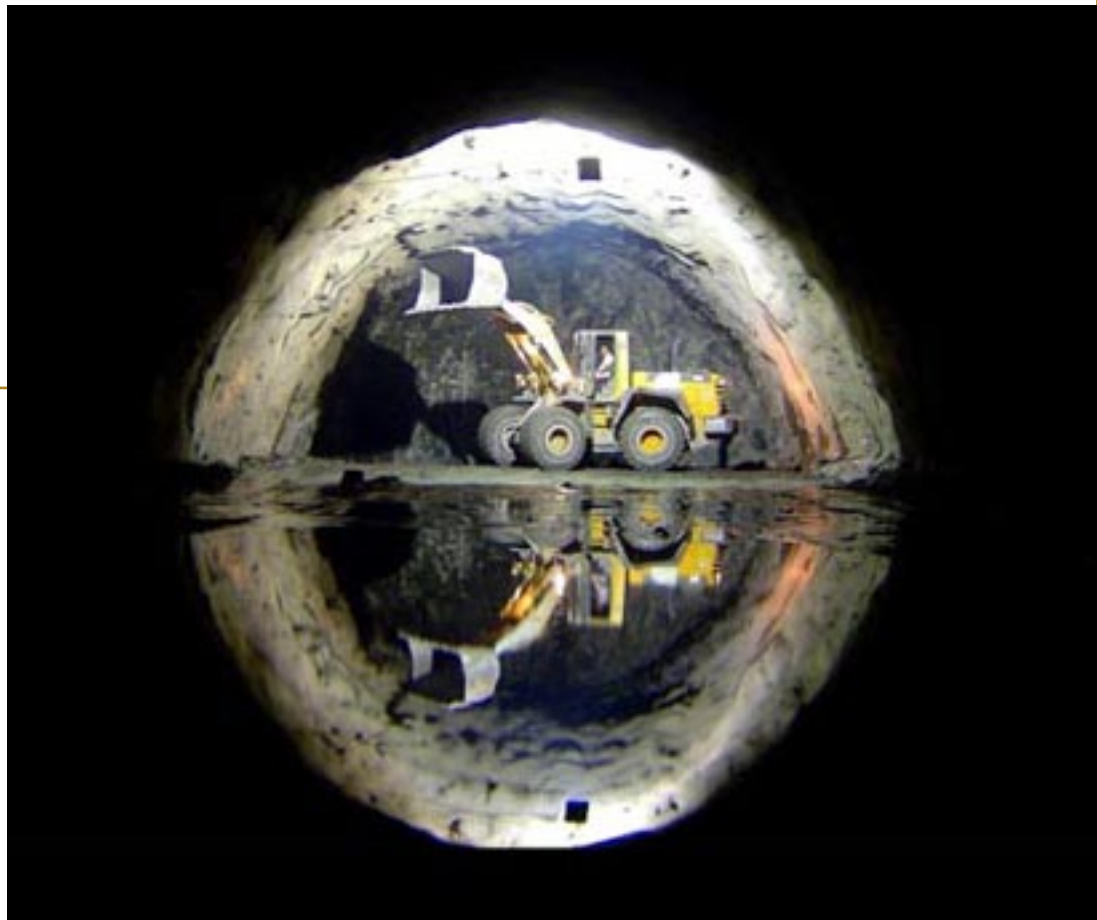
Also, a revision of the most innovate aspects which can help to improve our tunnels security has been done. In this

field, the audience have been able to know and to check the experiences which have been carried out in the new tunnels built and projected in Spain and in Andorra.

Finally, it is need to mention that the audience has been the jury of "II Rail and Road Tunnels Photograph Contest", rewarding the best photographs.

<http://www.atc-piarc.com/html/jornadas.html#tunel05>

First Prize Winner of the 2nd Rail and Road Tunnels Photograph Contest awarded at the Andorra Tunnel Symposium. (below)



SWITZERLAND

The annual conference of the Swiss National Committee dedicated to transport policy and transport plans took place in Bern, 23rd November 2005. #

Activities

AUSTRALIA

Austrroads is the national association of road transport and traffic authorities in Australia and New Zealand. The Austrroads International Committee acts as the National Committee for PIARC for Australia and New Zealand.

Austrroads launches RoadFacts 2005 – An overview of the Australian and New Zealand road systems

RoadFacts is a regular report on the Australian and New Zealand road systems and their use. Austrroads has been producing RoadFacts since 1994. This latest edition, RoadFacts 2005, presents selected facts and figures in regard to the Australian and New Zealand road networks.

RoadFacts 2005 is a full update of RoadFacts 2000 and is intended as a valuable resource for researchers, road users, educational institutions and the public. The publication comprises sections on road use, road systems, environment, road safety, vehicles and drivers, travel and fuel, and finances as well as state/territory and international comparisons.

RoadFacts 2005 is available free in hardcopy, CD-ROM and as a PDF which can be downloaded from the Austrroads website www.austrroads.com.au

Essay Competition

PIARC conducts an essay competition in conjunction with the World Road Congress every four years. The competition has two levels; a national level and an international level.

Austrroads will conduct a national level competition in conjunction with the Paris Congress in 2007. The competition will be open to young professionals from Austrroads member organisations. The essays may be on any of the following four topics identified by PIARC:

- Construction, maintenance and operation of roads
- Road safety
- Sustainable development
- Communication.

Austrroads will write to their member organisations late in 2005 with background information to the competition and invite them to promote the competition within their organisation.

austrroads@austrroads.com.au



GERMANY

The German Road and Transportation Research Association (FGSV) assumes the role of secretariat for the German National Committee of the World Road Association (PIARC).

Every two years, the FGSV organises the German Road and Transportation Congress for representatives of administrations, companies, and academia. An exhibition, which is an important meeting place for everyone in the road and transportation sector, is also held at the same time as the congress. Companies working in the sectors of road construction, traffic technology, traffic planning, environmental technology, road design, transport safety, road maintenance etc. exhibit their products and services at this exhibition.

The last congress took place in Berlin from 13 to 15 October 2004. The proceedings of the congress are now available: FGSV 001/20 www.fgsv-verlag.de. The proceedings include all papers given at the German Road and Transportation Congress, which was held in Berlin in October 2004 and was organised by the FGSV.

The proceedings start with the welcome addresses and speeches, including those given by the German Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Housing, Manfred Stolpe, and are followed by all papers given on the following issues: road design, transport safety and street furniture, quality assurance in road construction, transport management, current road construction challenges, sustainability in transport, road maintenance: theory and practice. The individual papers tackle topical road and transportation issues. For example, they present various road construction quality management systems, new traffic management developments, surveys and forecasts on the development of commercial transport, the compatibility of environmental concerns, and new road maintenance procedures.

The next German Road and Transportation Congress will take place in Karlsruhe from 27 to 29 September 2006. Once again, the programme will focus on topical issues from theory and practice in the fields of road construction and road transport. #

Information: www.fgsv.de



AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL PIARC NEWSLETTER

Austrroads produces a PIARC newsletter three times a year. The newsletter regularly features reports from PIARC technical committee representatives for Australia and New Zealand and reviews on recent PIARC publications. This newsletter aims to facilitate the dissemination of PIARC activities and is circulated to people involved in PIARC and related activities.

The latest edition of the Austrroads PIARC newsletter has recently been released.

Featured in this edition:

- An interview with the PIARC World president Mr Colin Jordan
- Reports from PIARC Technical Committees
- A report from an international seminar on road pricing
- A review of a recent PIARC publication on asset management.

The PIARC newsletter is available through the Austrroads website www.austrroads.com.au by clicking on 'News & Events' in the home page left-hand menu.

AUSTRROADS PUBLICATIONS

Austrroads produces high quality publications which assist road agencies in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation and stewardship of roads. Topics include asset management, bridge and pavement technology, road design, road safety, traffic management, transport planning, project delivery and evaluation. Recent releases include:

- Australasian Road Safety Handbook: Volume 3
- Community Attitudes to Road Freight Vehicles
- Guide to Project Evaluation – Parts 1 to 8
- Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Part 5: Intersections at Grade
- Balance between Harm Reduction and Mobility in Setting Speed Limits: A Feasibility Study

All Austrroads publications are available through the Austrroads publications website www.austrroads.com.au by clicking on 'Publications' in the home page left-hand menu.

PIARC Congresses and Seminars

XIITH PIARC INTERNATIONAL WINTER ROAD CONGRESS TURIN, 27-30 MARCH 2006

<http://aipcr2006.it/>

STATUS REPORT ON PREPARATIONS

IOC is carrying on its activity for organising the Congress whose main theme is "Keeping road users on the move in winter".

Circular n. 3 has been distributed, the Exhibitors' Manual (at the moment in Italian, the English and French versions are underway) is available on the Congress website: www.aipcr2006 which is periodically updated as well as the Exhibition Area Map. For any information, please refer to : Luca Pagni pagni@mafservizi.it - Serena Sciolla sciolla@mafservizi.it



As for the Exhibition, apart from Italy, the following countries adhered till now: Quebec, Nordic Countries (Norway, Iceland, Sweden, Finland, Denmark) France, Switzerland, Austria, Japan, United States. The invitation was submitted to the Italian Embassies in the concerned countries, as well as to the First Delegates of Piarc related member countries.

The Ministers' Session, scheduled on March 28th at the Auditorium of Centro Congressi Lingotto collected till now the adhesions of the following countries: Belgium, Great Britain, Iceland, Switzerland, Peru.

7 technical visits have been scheduled in order to illustrate the organisation, systems, maintenance and management methods of roads in winter.

A press conference has been released on 15th November in Turin, presided over by the Regional Authority, and the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, Mr. Pietro Lunardi. He has shortly made an interview which will be released on the Italian press and published on the Congress website.

Prepared for March 2006

Preview of next issue

- Good practice example of the performance of a National Committee
- Introduction of a new National Committee: Congo
- Report about the work of the Commission on Communication
- Preview of activities 2006
- Regional cooperation
- Final preparations for the Turin Winter Road Congress.#

Your opinions and comments to

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Top of page ▲