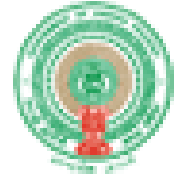




PIARC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE A.4

Sustainability of the Road Transport System – Rural
Roads Systems and Accessibility to Rural Areas



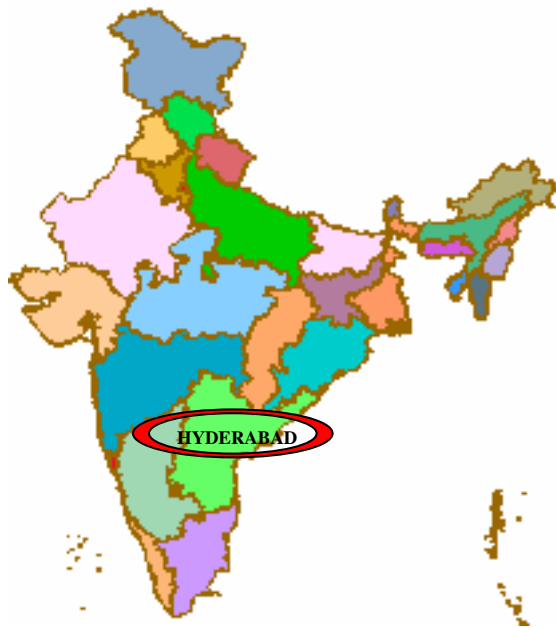
GOVERNMENT
OF ANDHRA
PRADESH

ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS

PIARC International Seminar on

Sustainable Maintenance of Rural Roads

Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India
21-23 January 2010



Supported By



National Rural Roads Development Agency
Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

Introduction

This seminar is part of PIARC programme of International Seminars. The overall objective of the programme is to ensure that the roads and road transport related needs of all PIARC member countries are widely recognized with a view to address and tackle outstanding issues and problems. The objective is to achieve, through the exchange of experiences, transfer of information and technology, the work programmes of technical committees and the identification of areas of research to address the remaining gaps in domain knowledge. The programme has been designed to study a wide range of issues particularly related to sustainability and maintenance of rural roads and problems of particular concern to developing and emerging nations.

The Seminar is being organized by Technical Committee A.4 dealing with Sustainability of the Road Transport System - Rural Roads Systems and Accessibility to Rural Areas together with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Technical Committee gathers members from different countries from around the world and their knowledge and expertise are shared and disseminated world wide through publications, participation and organization of international conferences and comparison of practices in different countries and regions of the world.

The seminar is open to whole world community dealing with rural / low volume roads and maintenance. It is also expected to address more specifically, the needs of the countries in the region and having similar climatic, geographical and socio-economic conditions.

Background

Rural Roads are a key component of rural development since they provide access to economic and social goods and services thereby generating increased agricultural income and productive employment. Rural Roads are used as an entry point for poverty alleviation as there is a growing body of empirical evidence that links transport investment to the improved well-being of the poor. Transport was also identified as being highly relevant to the achievement of a number of the targets set under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

In 2000 India launched a highly ambitious national programme (Prime Minister's Rural Roads Programme - PMGSY) with the aim of providing connectivity to all habitations having a population greater than 500 people. The plan is to provide connectivity to 172 000 currently unconnected habitations that will require approximately 370 000 km of new rural road. To date significant progress has been achieved with more than 57 000 habitations now connected as a result of providing in excess of 200 000 km of new rural roads at a cost of approximately US\$ 88.2 Billion.

Notwithstanding such significant progress in improving accessibility to these rural areas, future management and maintenance of this expanded rural road

network in a sustainable manner still remains an issue, with involvement of local committees a key aspect.

Objective of Seminar

The main objective of the Seminar is to provide a common platform for practitioners to share experiences and deliberate the issues and challenges associated with the planning, provision and maintenance of rural roads in a sustainable way. Innovations with respect to involving local communities throughout the process also form part of the overall objective of the Seminar.

Themes

The Seminar will broadly cover the following themes:

I: Indian Experience of Implementing PMGSY.

II: Good Practices for Planners and Practitioners in Development and Sustainability of Rural Access

- How planning decisions were made?
- What constituted good practices and why?
- How involvement of local communities contributed to successful outcome?

III: Frame Work, Pre-requisites and Implementation of Maintenance.

- Planning and other pre-requisites including involvement of local communities.
- Financing, organization and management
- Maintenance practices
- Implementing maintenance - contracts and alternatives.

IV: Community Participation in Rural Roads

- Maximising the involvement of local committees:
 - in the overall planning/prioritization phase;
 - in the initial construction phase;
 - in the routine maintenance and repair phase.

V: Sustainable Rural Roads - The Way Forward

Seminar Venue

The seminar will take place during 21st and 23rd January, 2010 at Dr. MCR, HRD Institute of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, India.

Hyderabad is capital city of State of Andhra Pradesh in India, known for majestic Charminar and Golkonda Fort. Because of its fine weather, the city is also a preferred seminar-conference location.

Methodology

The methodology for the International Seminar will comprise of (a) plenary sessions with presentations by leading experts, (b) theme-specific breakaway sessions/workshops lead by expert facilitators, (c) a plenary expert panel discussion, and (d) conclusions and a resolution.

The plenary sessions will comprise presentations from experts of PIARC Technical Committee A4, as well as local, regional and international leading experts.

Languages

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

Participation

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

- Members of PIARC Technical Committee A.4 and other Technical Committees.
- Ministries, organizations and standard setting bodies dealing with rural connectivity from the governments PIARC member countries, other developed and developing countries.
- Educational and research organizations having particular expertise in rural roads/ low volume roads and their maintenance.
- Representative from the multilateral funding agencies.
- Various organizations of United Nations connected with accessibility and mobility for the rural communities.
- Practicing Engineers, contracting and consulting firms having exposure to development and management of rural roads.
- Community development specialists, special interest groups and associations.

Preliminary Programme

Day One Thursday, January 21st, 2010	
Time (IST)	Event
0900 Hrs	Registration
1000 Hrs	Inaugural Session
1130 Hrs	Tea/ Coffee Break
1200 Hrs	Session-I
1330 Hrs	Lunch Break
1430 Hrs	Session-II
1600 Hrs	Tea/ Coffee Break
Day Two Friday, January 22nd, 2010	
0930 Hrs	Session-III - Two Parallel Sessions
1130 Hrs	Tea/ Coffee Break
1200 Hrs	Technical Session-IV
1300 Hrs	Lunch Break
1400 Hrs	Technical Session - V
1600 Hrs	Tea/ Coffee Break
1630 Hrs to 1730 Hrs	Valedictory Session
Day Three Saturday, January 23rd, 2010	
Technical Visit.	

Call for Papers

Technical Papers are invited for the Seminar presentations and publication. The abstract of papers should not exceed generally 150-200 words and may be submitted in English or French languages.

The abstract shall be sent to the PIARC General Secretariat preferably in electronic form, at: info@piarc.org. Hard copies can be sent by fax at +33 (1) 49 00 02 02.

The time table for receipt of papers is given below:

Submission of Abstracts of Paper	-31 st August, 2009
Review of Abstracts and notification to Authors	-30 th September, 2009
Submission of full papers	-30 th November, 2009

PIARC Special Fund

The PIARC Special Fund can cover up to 100% of travel expenses or up to 100% of accommodation expenses of participants from developing countries (lower middle income and low income countries). It can cover the expenses of one participant per PIARC member country, 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.

The rules relating to the use of the Special Fund are available on the PIARC web site: www.piarc.org, in the Blue Guide.

Registration

- a) **FEE**
- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| Delegates from Developed Countries | : | 300 Euros |
| PIARC members from Developed Countries | : | 250 Euros |
| Delegates from Developing Countries | : | 150 Euros |
| PIARC members from Developing Countries | : | 100 Euros |
| Delegates from India dealing with PMGSY | : | 5000 INR |
| Delegates from India (other than PMGSY) | : | 10000 INR |
- b) Last date for registration : 15th December, 2009.

The registration form will be issued separately.

Accommodation

A large number of hotels ranging from luxury to budget category are conveniently located near the venue and the participants would be at liberty to book their own accommodation. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is likely to arrange reasonable accommodation for all delegates. This accommodation would be in the form of hostels and guest houses available at the venue. The cost is

predicted to be about 50 USD per day. Attendees wishing to take advantage of this accommodation should indicate their intention on the registration form.

Travel and Transport

Hyderabad is well connected with the New Delhi and other metros by air, train and bus service. Transport to and from the venue to the hotels shall be provided by organizers.

Weather

It is pleasant in Hyderabad in the month of January. Day temperatures hover between 20-26°C. Light woollens are recommended especially during night.

Requirements for visa

Generally the following documents are required for obtaining Indian Visa:

- Original passport valid for at least 6 months
- Visa fee
- Two passport size photographs
- Supporting documents, where necessary
- Duly completed application form.

However, the procedures, requirements and time frames may vary from country to country. Please check with your embassy/consulate for complete and accurate information.

Contact Details with local organizers

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