

COMITE BURKINABE / AIPCR

WORLD ROAD ASSOCIATION (PIARC)

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON FREIGHT
TRANSPORT AND INTERMODALITY**

**OPENING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE C 2.4**

OUAGADOUGOU, JUNE 14, 2005

His Excellency, Mr NIKIEMA Patrice, Minister of Transport,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to the PIARC Seminar.

It is my great pleasure to be here in Ouagadougou of the beautiful country, Burkina Faso, to attend the International Seminar on Flows and Bottlenecks in Land Transportation.

The Technical Committee C2.4 “Freight Transport and Intermodality” of World Road Association has decided to organise this seminar in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in the Paris meeting in April 2004. Efficient freight transport is a very important issue for the sustainable development of any countries. In particular for developing countries improving freight transport systems would be critical for social and economic development. Therefore, the purpose of this seminar is to exchange knowledge and experience in the area of freight transport and intermodality, as well as to discuss what are the problems in West Africa and how we can find effective solutions to establish efficient and environmentally friendly freight transport systems.

Recently Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) have been successfully applied in logistics areas. You can find a good example in sophisticated fleet management system based on Global Positioning Systems and mobile communication technology. I believe that ICT and ITS would be helpful for improving the freight transport systems towards sustainable development.

Intermodal freight transport systems are another important topic of this seminar, since the seamless goods movements by maritime, road, rail and air transport, allow us to establish efficient and environmentally friendly freight transport systems. This Seminar focuses on good management for intermodal terminals, standardisation of equipments as well as the combination of information and transport systems.

I think that cooperation and coordination are needed among several stakeholders who are involved in freight transport. Because freight transport is normally carried out by private companies but public side, including central governments, local governments, municipalities are also concerned about the performance and decreasing the negative impacts of freight

transport. In this context, Public – Private Partnerships should be fully discussed and introduced in practical situation.

Finally, I would like to appreciate all the efforts of the people of Burkina Faso and neighbouring countries who have prepared for such a wonderful seminar. Special thanks go to Mr Ali TRAORE of CBC, who made great efforts to organise this seminar.

I hope that you will enjoy this seminar, and promote friendship of participants.

Thank you very much.