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EDITORIAL

Meeting of National Committees in Rome was another presentation of interest from NCs to cooperate at the world level of the World Road Association organisation and exchange experience in running activities under objectives of the National Committees.

Workshop organised on "How to make our NCs even more successful?" has opened up deep discussions. Maybe we have not received answers to all the questions that we are asking ourselves but it has at least given us real problems that need to be analysed for improvement of future activities within each of participating National Committee or within the World Road Association as a whole.

Many thanks go to Claudine Tremblay, Claude Carette and Murray Kidnie who were moderating discussions in French and English language and for making first summary of conclusions from the workshop that I present below. It is also to recognise that a report back to auditorium was made by Ngiema Essono Patrice and Murray Kidnie.

National Committees represented at the workshop, whether experienced or newly formed, are doing their best to be very active locally. The level of activities organization is high, and committees are looking to increase their partnership with other organizations to stimulate interest in the activities of the World Road Association. There are several possible measures of success for a national committee but one essential measure is that it needs to provide value for its members. In that regard there are several challenges that the NCs face, namely:

1. building NC activities on existing national structures and institutions is useful,
2. facilitating networking as well as knowledge transfer is the most important activity of a functioning NC,
3. finding solutions to funding problems,
4. convincing others about the added value of PIARC activities, and
5. How to interest young professionals and other young experts to join the NCs and the World Road Association?

Conclusions are made on participation of representatives from 21 National Committees. Further analyses of all discussions will be done in near future.

Winter road Congress in Andorra is approaching. In cooperation with the World Road Association General Secretariat we are working for a possibility to have short presentations of your activities at the exhibition hall. As time is limited, we will be asking you by separate email, to express your interest and fill in the registration table.

Bojan Leben, Representative of the World Road Association
National Committees



Your opinions and comments to

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NC news, events, seminars & conferences

ARGENTINA



Seminar on Road Asset Management

29th January, 2013, webinar

On January 29th we intend to carry out a free seminar on Road Asset Management with the participation of experts from the National Highway Administration, the Federal Roads Board and other institutions. There will be an on-line presentation on the topic, presented by the International Road Federation (IRF) and subsequently there will be other presentations and an open discussion of the representatives of sector institutions.

More information: www.aacarreteras.org.ar and secretaria@aacarreteras.org.ar.

Seminar on "Maintenance of road assets based on performance contracts and performance: alternative procurement"

26th February, 2013

This will be a free seminar on the alternatives developed for maintenance contracting, applied in Argentina and alternatives applied in other countries, presented by the International Road Federation (IRF). We expect participation from the National Highway Administration, the Federal Roads Board and Argentina Road Association, which will make a comparison of different procedures used presentation.

More information: www.aacarreteras.org.ar and secretaria@aacarreteras.org.ar



AUSTRIA

Snow Plow Competition

2nd October 2013, Zeltweg, Austria

Encouraged by the big success of the International Snow Plow Competition at the Winter Road Congress in Quebec 2010, the Austrian Highway Company ASFINAG organized a national prequalification round to determine the two candidates to represent Austria at the competition at the Winter Road Congress in Andorra. The Austrian final held at the Formula 1 race track in Zeltweg on 2nd October 2013 was preceded by regional prequalifications. The champions had to demonstrate their abilities during various tasks handling their snow removal vehicles. Also using safety equipment and general knowledge related to snow removal was tested. There was a large audience present and the big success of the event suggests follow up in the coming years.



BOTSWANA

Bridges and Tunnels Africa

27th-31st January, 2014 - Venue to be confirmed, Botswana



The region's leading event, dedicated to designing, planning and delivering world-class bridges. Following the continued success of IQPC's global bridges series, including one regional summit, we are delighted to announce the 2nd Annual Bridges Africa conference will take place between 27 and 31 January 2014. Conference will bring you the benchmarking and networking opportunities you need to ensure you keep up to date with the latest bridge market developments, future bridge projects, stay abreast of the latest design, construction and maintenance methods and hear first-hand what new bridge projects are planned.

More information on the event are available at www.bridgesafrica.co.za

CANADA

Recognition of TAC as Canadian National Committee of PIARC

7th November 2013, Council in Rome, Italy



At its meeting in Rome on 5-6 November 2013 the Executive Committee has taken the resolution No. ExCom/13-11/06 with which it acknowledged the Transport Association of Canada (TAC) as a PIARC National Committee of Canada. Mr. Michel Gravel, who represented the newly formed Canadian National Committee, signed the Memorandum of Agreement at the Council meeting on 7 November in Rome, Italy.





FRANCE

TRA2014 Transport Research Arena 2014

14th-17th April 2014, Paris La Défense, France



TRA (Transport Research Arena) is the major conference on transport in Europe, supported by the European Commission, the Conference of European Road Directors, and the three European Technology Platforms: the European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC), the European Rail Research Advisory Council (ERRAC), and the WATERBORNE TP.

The conference topics address the main challenges in transport and mobility of people and goods, with respect to energy, environment, safety and security and economy issues. TRA aims to explore the most advanced research works and innovations, the latest technological and industrial developments and implementations, and innovative policies, in Europe and worldwide. As a wide and open forum open to all interested parties, it is a unique occasion to promote and improve European competitiveness and efficiency in transportation.

JAPAN

TC 1.5 International Workshop on Risk Management

28th-29th May, 2013, Osaka, Japan

The 3rd TC 1.5 Meeting and "International Workshop on Risk and Emergency Management for Roads" was held in collaboration with The Japanese NC, The Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia (REAAA) and International Road Federation (IRF) under the sponsorship of "Hanshin Expressway Co. Ltd.". In the Workshop 3 Keynote Speeches and 2 Invited presentations in addition to 16 General presentations were reported and 290 people participated from 17 countries.



TC 4.3 Symposium on Construction & Maintenance of Bridges

22nd November, 2013, Tokyo, Japan



The Japanese NC held the International Symposium on Construction and Maintenance of Bridges in the World with the Japan Bridge Engineering Centre in Tokyo. The World Road Association members made presentations on maintenance of bridges in Japan, USA, France and other countries, and on long span bridges in Vietnam, Turkey and Norway. Over 400 participants attended the Symposium, which gained a good reputation.

International Session in the 30th Japan Road Conference

30th-31st October, 2013, Japan



The Japanese NC, Japan Road Association held biannual conference on 30-31, Oct 2013 with more than 2,200 participants. In the international session, JRA invited prominent engineers from five Asian countries – India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar and Vietnam. The session successfully provided great deal of information on their roads and road technologies. It also contributed to deeper mutual understanding and friendship among participating countries.





MEXICO

Seminar on Road Infrastructure Management: Current Practice and Prospects for Development

31st March - 2nd April 2014, Cancún, Mexico

The World Road Association's National committee of Mexico invites you to the international Seminar on Management of Road Infrastructure in the spring of 2014. Objectives of the seminar are twofold: on one hand, contribution to the spread of knowledge and experiences generated in recent years in relation to asset management and on the other hand, to provide a space for discussion on best practices in road management and on the applicability of asset management in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The seminar is aimed at officials from government agencies or managers of private operators responsible for maintaining road networks, as well as at the planning staff, university professors, researchers, engineering students and specialists from other areas of knowledge involved in the planning of road infrastructure projects.



More information about the seminar is available on www.amivtac.org

ROMANIA

COST Action: TUD/ TU1104 Smart Energy Regions



The action has started in 2012 and will run for a period of four years and 24 European countries are currently involved. Romania is represented by experts from Technical University Gh. Asachi Iasi (Professor Radu ANDREI), Politehnica University Timisoara (Professor Gheorghe LUCACI, president of the Romanian National Committee of PIARC), The Academy of Economic Sciences Bucharest (professor Daniela Luminita CONSTANTINESCU) and Dunarea de Jos University from Galati (Dr. Liliana Mihaela MOGA).

The main objective of the research is finding the drives and obstacles which could have a long term impact on the creation of smart regions in Europe, characterized by low CO₂ emissions. The research will identify and propose to the decision makers the appropriate measures to be undertaken in order to assist the implementation of construction processes and technologies characterized by low carbon emissions on a large scale. Focus will be on new infrastructure works (buildings and transport infrastructures) as well on the rehabilitation of the existing ones, with the evaluation of the energy necessary for their normal functioning and of their potentiality to use lower or zero energy sources. First draft, describing the actual energy situation of the North-East Region of Romania region, has been presented at re-cent meeting of the COST Managerial Committee of this action, held in Rome, Italy during 18 and 19 November 2013.

Sustainable Highways: Design, Construction, Maintenance

30th - 31st October 2013, Timisoara, Romania

The BANAT Branch of the Romanian Professional Association for Roads and Bridges (Romanian National Committee of PIARC) organized in Timisoara the second edition of the international conference on highways. The event was attended by over 200 specialists from France, Italy, Germany, Austria and Romania, involved in development of new technologies and equipment for the design, construction and maintenance of roads and bridges.

CZECH REPUBLIC

GIS Ostrava 2014 - Geoinformatics for Intelligent Transportation

27th - 29th January, 2014, Ostrava, Czech Republic



The aim of the conference is to present and discuss new methods, issues and challenges of the geoinformatics, contributing to make transportation more intelligent, efficient and human friendly. It is a chance for GI experts, geographers, transportation planners, developers, public sector as well as industry transportation specialists, and other professionals who are interested in using geoinformation technologies for transportation purposes to get together and share experiences, innovations and inspirations. The Symposium annually attracts over 200 participants from dozens of countries.

More information about the conference is available on <http://gis.vsb.cz/gisostrava/index.php>



THAILAND



International Journal Conference on Civil and Transport Engineering

1st – 2nd January 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

The International Journal Conference on Civil and Transport Engineering, organized by the International Scientific Academy of Engineering & Technology will take place from 1st January to the 2nd January 2014 at the Grand Seasons Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference will cover areas like recent advances and future opportunities in the field of Civil and Transport Engineering. The conference aims to bring together leading scientists, scholars, engineers and students from the Universities all around the world and the industry to present ongoing research activities and discuss on current research in the field.

More information about the event is available on www.biztradeshows.com/conferences/ijccte

UNITED STATES

Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting

12th-14th January 2014, Washington, USA



Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting is a parley of unprecedented importance not only to a limited area but also to the areas round the globe because it shall provide illustrative information, data, analysis, strategies and development programs regarding the global transportation and its smooth functioning. Apart from the discussion sessions, there will also be debates, researches and poster sessions concerning over the avid range of subjects about the technical technological, strategic and maintenance progresses of transport and communication.

Truly thus the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting can be regarded as one of the most dynamic one focusing on a very concurrent issue.

More information about the TRB meeting is available on www.biztradeshows.com/conferences/transportation-research-board

Other Activities and Examples of Good Practice

SPAIN



Course on Geotechnical Maintenance of Road Works for national and international professionals

25th November 2013, on-line

The course was addressed to professionals involved in geotechnical aspects, maintenance and repair of road infrastructures.

Course on Highway Development and Management (HDM 4) System - version 2

25th- 29th November 2013, Madrid, Spain

The Highway Design and Maintenance Standards Model (HDM-III), developed by the World Bank at the beginning of the 80's, has been used for over two decades to combine technical and economic appraisal of road investment projects, standards and strategies. The Highway Development and Management (HDM 4) system developed in 1994-2000 has extended the scope of the HDM-III model to provide a harmonized systems approach to road management with adaptable and user-friendly software tools.

Course on Hydrological calculation of small basins and modeling of hydraulic channels

February 2014, Madrid, Spain

The course is intended for technical and professional engineers, specialized in civil engineering and environmental engineering, both in the public and in the private sector, related to development planning, risk prevention, management, technical assistance and civil works that may be affected in a particular area by the action of a water course and for students related to the water sector.

Course on Improvement of Road Safety and Maintenance for Existing Bridges

Open until 15 February 2014, on-line

This online course is intended for professionals related with bridges, road safety, maintenance and management of linear infrastructures. It aims to share knowledge and different points of views among experts manufacturing containment elements and design, construction and maintenance of bridges, as well as road administrations or concessionaires.



Course on latest Technologies Applied to Concrete Roads

Open until 15 February 2014, on-line

Concrete pavements have always been identified with the concept of durability, low maintenance and a longer life. Concrete pavement helps to achieve a high level of comfort and safety on the road, lower lighting costs or a reduction in CO₂ emissions (even capturing and improving the balance of emissions). Although the construction costs may result in certain cases slightly higher, a complete analysis shows that, by their reduced maintenance costs, concrete pavements are the best solution in the medium and long term.

The World Road Association Congresses

**XIVth International
Winter Road Congress 2014**
4th - 7th February 2014, Andorra la Vella, Andorra



Registration is opened for congress members and their travelling companions

Visit the website, for more information:

<http://aipcrandorra2014.desenvolupament.ad>

XXVth World Road Congress Seoul 2015
2 – 6 November 2015, Seoul, South Korea



Visit the website

<http://www.piarcseoul2015.org>

for more information.

Your opinions and comments to

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