

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY THE WORLD ROAD ASSOCIATION AND ITS MEMBERS

The goal of the World Road Association (PIARC) is to foster the exchange of roads expertise and experience between nations with the goal of highlighting the key issues and challenges they face, showcasing new innovations and enabling them to reflect on lessons learned. The World Road Association provides a unique knowledge forum which promotes global partnerships, while discussion outcomes inform decision making processes and build on the Association's robust information and resources base. As importantly, the Association strives to close the knowledge gap and foster outreach programs between developed nations, developing nations and those in transition.

The World Road Association strongly encourages any members using social media to include a link to the Association's website for more detailed information. The use of social media by a member of the Association is intended to encourage interaction between the user of the social media platform and the Association.

These guidelines apply to all social media accounts established by the World Road Association or established by others on the Association's behalf. For the purposes of this policy, social media means any facility for online publication and commentary, including without limitation: blogs, wiki's, social networking sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube.

The World Road Association in no way verifies or confirms either the accuracy of user comments or their compliance with the guidelines outlined here.

CONTENT

The World Road Association's social media accounts (English, French, and Spanish) are mainly used as an alternative method for accessing materials related to the Association and its events. The information available on social media will typically be posted on the Association's website as well as on social media.

LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

The World Road Association's account may include links to websites that are not under the control of the Association. These links are provided solely for the convenience of the users. The Association is not responsible for the accuracy, currency or reliability of the content.

POSTING FREQUENCY

The number of postings will vary; depending on the number of updates and other relevant material published each day. During some periods, we may post more or less frequently than average.

The World Road Association will only take steps to remove or block followers/subscribers if they do not abide by these Terms of Use. The appearance of a user as a follower/subscriber of the World Road Association account does not imply endorsement, nor does the Association endorse any particular user.

REPOSTING

The World Road Association may repost relevant material posted by other accounts that is determined to be relevant to our followers and of significant value. This may include cross-linking, research findings, statistics, relevant events and conferences.

DIRECT MESSAGES AND REPLIES

Feedback and interaction is highly encouraged. All replies and direct messages, as well as email sent to the account will be read, and any emerging themes or helpful suggestions will be passed on to the General Secretariat of the Association. Although we are not able to reply individually to all messages, they will be handled on a case-by-case basis and responded to when deemed appropriate.

The Association expects that all conversations will follow the general rules of respectful civil discourse. Please keep in mind that the World Road Association cannot tolerate comments that are offensive to an individual or an organization, rude in tone, or abusive. Posters are fully responsible for everything that they submit in comments, and all posted comments are in the public domain. Please keep your submissions relevant and be civil. In short, be respectful and make sure your comments are relevant to the section where they are posted. If you have any questions about this commenting policy or how we apply it, please contact us through the Association website.

Anyone acting contrary to these Guidelines may be temporarily or permanently excluded from the dialogue spaces on this site. We do not discriminate against any views but we reserve the right to edit or remove any comments that are:

- Contrary to the principles of the Association
- Hateful, slanderous, insulting, or life-threatening messages
- Any type of accusations against individuals or organizations
- Abusive, aggressive, coarse, explicit, vulgar, violent, obscene, or pornographic comments
- Personal attacks and/or defamatory statements
- Comments that encourage or suggest illegal activity

- Messages where the sender is not the author (nor the copyright holder if applicable)
- Solicitations, advertisements, or endorsements of any financial, commercial or non-governmental agency. Similarly, we do not allow attempts to defame or defraud any financial, commercial or non-governmental agency
- Announcements from labour or political organizations
- Messages written in a language other than English, French or Spanish
- Comments not sent by the author and/or posted by anonymous or robot accounts
- Repetitive posts copied and pasted by multiple users
- Unintelligible or irrelevant messages
- Message in all posted using all CAPS (it is difficult to read and is interpreted as yelling)
- Messages that are too far off-topic
- Any other message that the forum moderators feel will not add to the normal flow of debate.

A few other important notes:

- The views of participants commenting on this page do not necessarily represent the views of the Association.
- You participate at your own risk, taking personal responsibility for your comments, your username and any information provided. To protect your own privacy and the privacy of others, please do not include phone numbers or email addresses in the body of your tweets.

Users may provide video responses as long as they respect this commenting policy.

If you have questions about these Terms of Use, please contact the General Secretariat at info@piarc.org.

Use of English, French and Spanish

Through the very nature of the social media forum, content will vary between the English, French and Spanish postings, particularly where messages and comments are concerned. Any content that originates from the Association itself will be made available in English, French and Spanish whenever possible and where the content applies to all communities. Responses to direct messages will be made in the language of the originator when it is in English, French or Spanish.

Users should be aware that some links direct users to sites of organizations or other entities that are not available in multiple languages.

Additional Information

If you are looking for more information about the Association, please consult our website: www.piarc.org.

To protect your own privacy and the privacy of others, the World Road Association recommends that you do not include personal information in your comments or other content you post. Personal information includes home addresses and telephone numbers, photographs containing images of identifiable individuals.