COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

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The World Road Association (PIARC) was established in 1909 and comprises 122 member governments from all over the world (in 2014). The Association provides a global forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience on roads and road transport policies and practices. With consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the World Road Association (PIARC), through its members, contributes to a stable and sustainable global development of the road and transport sector.

At the World Road Congresses held every four years, Ministers, decision-makers and thousands of experts discuss current challenges faced by the road sector, innovative approaches and best practices. The XXVIth World Road Congress will take place in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), in October 2019.

An International Winter Road Congress is organised every four years and is a world-class conference uniting winter road experts from across the globe. The Congress promotes knowledge sharing on winter road issues between countries who experience a severe winter climate. The XVth edition will be organised in February 2018 in the Polish city of Gdańsk.

Between two World Road Congresses, the Association establishes Technical Committees and Task Forces gathering skilled professionals nominated by member countries to share experience, draw lessons from the field and promote best practices on a broad range of areas of interest to the road sector: from climate change mitigation to financing, road safety to asset management, organization of the road administrations to technical matters such as road tunnel operations. In the framework of an overall Strategic Plan, the groups produce documents and reports which can be easily downloaded on the Association's website.

The National Committees are national level forums created in thirty-eight member countries. The National Committees have similar objectives to the Association; they facilitate two-way communication between their country and the Association, encourage participation in Association events and promote use of the many publications of the Association through our Website.

An international Seminar Program is offered to low and middle income countries to support them in sharing knowledge with high income countries. Members can participate in these events by attending, exhibiting or presenting to delegates on different issues of interest. All seminar presentations and reports are easily accessible to members on our Website.

Partnerships are established between the Association and key international road and transport sector organisations to create synergies and promote outreach initiatives. Partners include the World Bank, regional groups of road administrations such as CEDR, AGEPAR, DIRCAIBEA, NVF (Nordic Road Association) and BRA (Baltic Road Association), and international technical organisations such as TRB, FIDIC and EAPA.

International Career Development and Business Exposure

Being the forward looking organisation it is, the Association offers international career opportunities to young professionals as well as excellent opportunities for business promotion. Talented young professionals can be seconded to the General Secretariat in Paris (France) and assume an active role in the management and support of the Association. Skilled professionals can also be nominated as associate members of Technical Committees and Task Forces, which provide them with an international perspective, insight and education on road issues.
All members of the Association can market their own brand, products and services through the large exhibitions held in conjunction with the Congresses and international seminars.

The World Road Association’s website has a wide range of online resources; the Virtual Library contains technical reports, a technical dictionary and most of the articles published in the magazine Routes/Roads. The Knowledge Database section provides access to the products and activities of the World Road Association organized by topic. Event and seminar information is also available as well as access to the Association’s magazine. The monthly Association newsletter promoting upcoming events, seminars, publications and activities, can be found online along with the bulletin of the National Committees.

The Routes/Roads Magazine is a quarterly publication (published in English and French) that showcases outstanding achievements and includes comprehensive papers that blend topical issues with illustrative case studies. A digital version, e-Routes/Roads is available online, starting with the September issue 2014.

HDM-4 is a software platform for the analysis of road investments and road maintenance policies. Since 1996, the Association has assumed responsibility of the development and management of this platform, by providing software upgrades and global user support.

PIARC Road dictionary is an online multilingual dictionary of road terms that is accessible free of charge to any website user. The database includes over tens of thousands terms in English and French and a variable number of terms in another 20 languages.

The new Road Safety Manual will be available online at the time of the Seoul World Road Congress, 2-6 November 2015. It is a continuously up-dated web-based tool providing reference resources for developing road safety institutional frameworks, policies and technical advice. The new Road Safety Manual is one of the Association’s many contributions to the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety. Other electronic manuals are under development.

The Association recognises and rewards the talent and commitment of members in several ways:

- Honorary Member: recognises outstanding commitment to the Association and the road sector community.
- World Road Congress Prizes: awarded every four years at the World Road Congress, these member country sponsored prizes acknowledge outstanding papers submitted to the Congress on selected topics, or award criteria. Winning authors also have the privilege of presenting their paper on the international stage.

Collective and individual members can access special promotional offers and enjoy discounted publications. They also benefit from fee reductions when registering at key events hosted by the Association such as the World Road Congress, regional conferences and international seminars. All members of the Association are entitled to:

- receive printed copies of the Routes/Roads magazine,
- receive the Association’s electronic newsletter
- access additional Association publications and products free of charge
- access the members’ area of the Association’s website (including exclusive and regular updates on the technical committees’ activities and the database of the Association’s members and experts contact details)
- receive one copy of the published proceedings of each congress.

Collective members can appoint two representatives to the World Road congress and one representative to the International Winter Road congress who will benefit from a reduced registration fee to attend, while individual members can benefit from a reduced registration fee to both the World Road congress and the international Winter Road congress.
Jeffrey Paniati, Executive Director
Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, USA
“Participation in the technical work of the World Road Association gives U.S. experts regular exposure to peers with similar background, interests, and responsibilities. Our specialists interact with and learn from others who are addressing similar challenges in their respective countries. At the same time, we are able to contribute to products that are presented and used all over the world, and to share the benefit of U.S. experience within an unparalleled global network. Working at the corporate levels of the Association, I have personally gained insight into the issues facing other road agencies and the commonality of purpose we have as leaders of these organizations.”

Aleksandra Cybulska, Head of International Cooperation, General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways, Poland
“International cooperation in the road sector gives road administrations great opportunities for getting knowledge and best practices. The Polish Road Administration (GDDKiA) is active in PIARC since many years and is involved in the work of several technical committees. Based on our best experiences with PIARC it was decided that Poland will be host country for the XVI International Winter Road Congress in 2018. Poland is located in the heart of Europe and as a leader in road construction and maintenance in this region the winter road congress will give us a great chance to exchange knowledge between well developed countries and emerging markets.”

Roberto Sandoval, Vice Director, Bolivia Highway Administration, Bolivia
“I believe that being part of the PIARC family for several years by now, as well as being part of the Board of Road Directors Ibero America (DIRCAIBEA) on behalf of Bolivia, has helped me in my professional development. Through PIARC I have had the opportunity to become chairman of the Technical Committee 2.5 Rural Roads. It has been very fruitful, both for me and for the members of the Committee, giving us all an opportunity to exchange knowledge, new technologies and experiences by learning from each other’s problems so we can replicate good practices in our countries. Within the Technical Committee, we have built work relationships characterized by camaraderie, solidarity, respect for the human being regardless of religion, race or gender, which obviously contributes to a peaceful dialogue among the different countries and cultures in the world.”

Ping Cheng, Director General at the Ministry of Transport, People’s Republic of China
“Many Chinese highway experts and I have taken part in the activities of the World Road Association for a long time. We all benefit greatly from the mutual communication, which can make us expand our visions and learn from new ideas, techniques and methods. We are looking forward to participating in more significant activities and keeping in touch with PIARC.”

Lungile Madlala, Executive Director for Roads and Storm water at the South African National Roads Agency, South Africa
“The World Road Association has provided me with the opportunity to exchange and share knowledge with my international peers. This allows us to develop and maintain technical competency. PIARC has provided our country the platform to share global information, expertise and technology. It has helped us to develop the understanding of common issues amongst different countries in the transport and road sector and it allows us all to make contribution in formulating solutions through the technical committees.”

Christine Deneuvillers, Director General, VECTRA Company, France
“PIARC relationship is an efficient way to bring and take ideas, share experience and knowledge from peers, different or very different countries. All that makes processes in our countries or institution improved, to reach higher quality, efficiency and responsibility. In addition to professional relationships, it is also often friendly relationships which makes the work even more attractive. As chairman of a working group, it is also a good experience of group leading, when you have to work with people coming from different institutions, countries and cultures”.

Tomonobu Tanino, Technical Advisor at PIARC SG, Japan
“As Technical Advisor of the PIARC General Secretariat for 2 years and half, I could share a brilliant time with my colleagues and the experts of Technical Committees while aiming at accomplishing shared missions for lots of members. Not only did I obtain the technical knowledge about several engineering fields, but I also built up the human network which is definitely invaluable to me and will certainly help boost my professional career afterwards.”