The 23rd World Road Congress, organized in Paris from 17-21 September 2007 by the World Road Association (PIARC), will mark almost one hundred years separating this date from the very first International Road Congress, held also in Paris in 1908, and the establishment of PIARC in 1909.

Faithful to its mission to encourage international cooperation and knowledge transfer in the fields of road and road transport, the World Road Association has 109 member countries in 2005.

With the organization of a one day historical symposium entitled *Road Civilisations of the XXth century*, the 2007 Paris Congress will, in particular, be an opportunity to retrace and put into perspective the profound evolutions that have marked the road and its universe during the past century which saw the development of automobile transport.

This symposium, as an integral part of the congress, will comprise presentations and round-tables organized from the proposals which will be selected in response to this present call for papers. All the papers selected by the Scientific committee will be published in a book printed on the occasion of the symposium.

Detailed information regarding the programme of the symposium will be provided at a later date.

**Theme of the call for papers**

This symposium aims to address the theme of the road in a broad historical perspective of technical, cultural and social aspects. Expected contributions will analyse how policies and techniques for the road (more precisely roads), in various scopes since the end of the XIXth century to the contemporary period, have provided answers to the social demands for mobility and what the social acceptance of these implemented solutions has been.

The symposium will deal with interurban road networks as a priority and in preference to purely urban issues. It will not consider studies focussed only on the evolution of technological processes, these technical aspects will have to be examined in relation to social aspects.

The papers should allow international comparisons showing the spatial and temporal concordances (or on the contrary, the discordances) between the needs, expectations and reactions of the population within an historical perspective.
Proposal of papers
The texts of the papers can be written in French or English (the two official languages of PIARC).
The abstracts written in French should be accompanied by their translation in English.
Those interested in submitting a paper, are invited to send

before 31 May 2006
• An abstract of 200 to 300 words,
• A curriculum vitae of less than 300 words.

Instructions and the form for submission of the proposal on line are available from the PIARC website:

www.piarc.org

In case of difficulties of connection, the proposal can be sent as electronic files in Word or RTF format only, to

paris2007.piarc@wanadoo.fr

The abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee established for this symposium. The authors will be notified of decisions in September 2006.

The full text of the papers must then be submitted before 31 January 2007 for review by the Scientific Committee.