EDITORIAL

A new approach for National Committees (a new Memorandum of Understanding)

The 2010 Annual Meeting of PIARC National Committees was held on the occasion of the Council meeting in Budapest, Hungary on 20th October 2010. After a welcome speech by the President of the Association, Mrs. Leclerc, the representative of National Committees reported on the various activities of National Committees during the past year, followed by a discussion on the participation and representation of National Committees in the 2011 Mexico World Road Congress, the role of National Committees in the new marketing strategy of the Association and a new National Committees award, to be presented for the first time at the Mexico World Road Congress.

The benefit deriving from the work of National Committees within the World Road Association is evident. The lessons learnt from many discussions with countries having no National Committee, but in which there is an active road association at the national level, is the difficulty in establishing a specific new organization to serve as the National Committee. This is seen as a potentially competing organization and implies new resources for operating. By contrast, the idea of recognizing an existing organization which also acts as a national committee is a strategy which is much better understood and brings benefits to both parties, such as:

• for the national organization, it brings the prospect of an international opening and recognition,
• for PIARC, it brings the opportunity to rely immediately on a stable and active existing organization and a solid membership base.

The respective initiatives of the past laid emphasis on the creation of a specific new National Committee and do not contain any standard proposal to make official the recognition of an existing organization acting as a National Committee. On this matter, it seems that the right procedure is not to ask for an amendment of the statutes of the existing organization, but rather to solve this question through the signature of a protocol of agreement.

Future priority in the Association will be given to adopt and implement this new strategy. To avoid signing a different type of agreement for each new situation in a given country, a standard framework for the memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been developed and its implementation was agreed by the Communication and International Relations Commission, the Executive Committee, the Group of National Committees and the Council at the Budapest meetings.

Three items are to be noted: the aim is to sign the MoU with the agreement of the first delegate(s) of the country in question. The MoU shall be considered as finalized after it is signed by the first delegate. A clause has been introduced enabling both parties to terminate the MoU (to date, there was no clause in case of default by either party). The management of membership fees remains optional. When the existing organization is in a position to manage membership fees, an amendment will stipulate the rules for the sharing of fees and the transfer of funds to the General Secretariat, in accordance with the Blue Guide.

Your opinions and comments to Friedrich Zotter: friedrich.zotter@bmvi.gv.at
The standard process should be the following:

**Process**

1. The General Secretariat will lead the preliminary discussions based on the standard MoU framework.
2. The representative of National Committees on the PIARC Executive Committee and the General Secretariat will review the statutes and the internal rules of the organisation applying to act as a National Committee to make sure that their intents are in accordance with the spirit and values of PIARC, and that it is compatible with the activities of a National Committee.
3. The executive committee (or equivalent) of the organisation applying to act as a National Committee shall approve the draft MoU.
4. The representative of National Committees on the PIARC Executive Committee shall report to the Executive Committee and suggest that they endorse the draft MoU.
5. The MoU shall be signed by:
   - the chairman of the national or regional organization,
   - the first delegate of the country concerned,
   - the PIARC Secretary General, on behalf of PIARC.

This new approach will be offered to all countries which intend to establish a National Committee in the future. In my function as representative of the National Committees on the Executive Committee I appreciate very much this new concept for the creation of National Committees and invite you to contact me or the Secretariat General if you are interested in establishing one to strengthen the co-operation between your national audience and the international network of experts provided by the World Road Association.

Friedrich Zotter
Representative of National Committees on the PIARC Executive Committee

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**UNITED KINGDOM**

We are pleased to welcome **Mr. Joe Burns**, Business Development Director for Highways within the Mouchel Consulting and Business Services group, elected as the new chairman of the UK National Committee and **Mr. Justin Ward**, from The Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation, as the new UK Secretary General in the group of National Committees.

Mr. Burns reported in the Annual Conference of National Committees in Budapest about a meeting with representatives from the Republic of Ireland and related talks on a possible collaboration. There was a certain change and now a National Committee could be established in the Republic of Ireland.

E-mail contact: joe.burns@mouchel.com and justin.ward@ciht.org.uk

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**ARGENTINA**

1st Academic Seminar
"Construction Methods for Tunnelling"
22nd – 23rd October 2010,
Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Argentina’s newly founded **Association of Tunnels and Underground Space (AATES)** welcomed in October 2010 the Board of the International Tunneling and Underground Space Association (ITA) in Buenos Aires and organized together an academic seminar. The meeting was addressed to national professionals interested in the topic of tunnels, particularly on machining and conventional tunnels construction methods in urban and interurban areas.

More information on the outcome of the seminar you find at: www.tradeshowsa.com.ar
**BOLIVIA**

International Seminar on Sustainability of rural road networks  
9-11th March 2011, Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia)

This seminar is organized by the PIARC TC A.4 and the Government of Bolivia and has the support of the Roads Directors Council of Iberia and Ibero-America (DIRCAIBEA).

Topics of the seminar:

- Community participation in rural roads,
- Sustainable rural roads - future directions and challenges,
- The Bolivian experience in implementing the Pro Road program and its future challenges,
- Best practices for planners and practitioners in the development and sustainable maintenance of rural roads,
- Framework, pre-requisites and maintenance practices.


For more detailed information, contact the local organizers: rsandoval@abc.gob.bo, arocabado@abc.gob.bo

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**CHINA**

International Seminar on Construction, operation and management of road tunnels  
25-26th March 2011, Xiamen, People’s Republic of China

This international seminar is jointly organized by the PIARC TC C.4 and the Tunnel Engineering Society of China and will cover:

- Research and development into plant and equipment used in road tunneling,
- Safety and energy conservation technology for road tunnel operations (including disaster prevention and rescue),
- Management and maintenance of electromechanical facilities of road tunnels,
- Inspection and repair technology for road tunneling,
- Research and design on structure, seismic resistance, ventilation, illumination, monitoring and control of underwater tunnels,
- Construction and management technology for underwater tunnels,
- New technology, construction methods, materials and equipment for underwater tunnels.

Seminar contact persons:
Wang Fangqi: wangfangqi@cmhk.com or 1sdfh2008@sina.com
Liu Haijing: Liu.Haijing@cmhk.com

**GERMANY**

**ERA-NET ROAD Conference on Climate Change**

8 - 9th December 2010, Cologne (Germany)

Four research projects of the ERA-NET ROAD Program, known as RIMAROCC, IRWIN, SWAMP and P2R2C2, focused on issues such as risk assessment, winter maintenance, flooding and impacts on road pavements. The Project Executive Board’s objective was to investigate issues of climate change adaptation that would provide tools for road authorities to identify and prevent future problems to road infrastructure. At the conclusion of this program, a final conference is being organized to present the findings and recommendations.

The event will expose practical outputs that can be applied across Europe, and will be important in facilitating the understanding of this research across the funding member states. FEHRL is organizing the event in collaboration with the German Federal Highway Research Institute, BAST.

The two-day conference will be hosted at BAST in Bergisch Gladbach (near Cologne), Germany. Bus transfers will be provided between the NH Hotel in Cologne and the conference venue at BAST. On the evening of December 8th, a get-together dinner will be organised at the Chocolate Museum near the medieval Christmas market.

If you require any further information, please contact Isabelle Lucchini, at isabelle.lucchini@fehrl.org or visit www.eranetroad.org

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**INDIA**

**International Seminar on National road development strategies and road safety on improved highways**

14-19th March 2011, New Delhi (India)

The Seminar is being organized by the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi in collaboration with the Indian Roads Congress and PIARC TC C1.

The main objective of the Seminar is to provide a common platform for practitioners to acquire up-to-date information on the latest innovative approaches and products which contribute to improved road safety, to share experiences and discuss the associated issues and challenges.

The themes of the Seminar are:

- Road development and safety policies,
- Human factors and safety in design,
- Safety during construction work,
- Enforcement Mechanism for Road Safety,
- Model concessionaries agreement (MCA) and safety,
- Road safety along urban arterials.

Contact details with local organizers: spa.piarcindiaconference@gmail.com
Or visit the “School of Planning and Architecture” website www.spa.ac.in


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**MALAYSIA**

**First MIROS Road Safety Conference 2010**

8 – 9th December 2010, Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)

The MIROS Road Safety Conference, ROSCON 2010, is the first road safety conference in the region and organized by the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS). The Organizing Committee takes great pleasure in inviting you and the officers of your organization to participate in this premier event. This conference offers an avenue for participants to interact, network and share experiences and knowledge. Your spirited support by way of participation would certainly contribute towards the resounding success of this conference.

The theme for this conference is “Road Safety: Addressing the Bottom Billions”.

Provided below are the five pillars that address the conference theme:

- Road Safety Management
- Sustainable Infrastructure
- Vehicle Safety
- Road Users
- Pre/Post-crash Trauma

The list is intended to spark thinking about issues to be addressed, and not to be comprehensive or limiting.

Email: registration@roscon.com.my Website : www.roscon.com.my
**UNITED KINGDOM**
**Traffex 2011**
29 -31 March 2011, Birmingham

Traffex is set to celebrate its 25th anniversary in style with a dynamic seminar and debate program and the world’s largest selection of highway maintenance, traffic engineering and road safety products and services from over 500 exhibitors.

The free-to-attend seminar program will feature presentations from leading industry figureheads and feature topical discussions on the issues most affecting the traffic and transport sectors. Seminars are organized by The Highways Agency, The Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation, The Department for Transport and ITS (UK).

To register FREE and for more information on what’s on and who’s exhibiting visit [www.traffex.com](http://www.traffex.com)

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
**Transportation Research Board 90th Annual Meeting**

**Program**
The TRB Annual Meeting program covers all transportation modes, with more than 4,000 presentations in nearly 650 sessions and workshops addressing topics of interest to all attendees—policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions. More than 85 sessions and workshops will address the spotlight theme for 2011: Transportation, Livability, and Economic Development in a Changing World.

The Interactive Program is available to assist you in deciding which sessions to attend during the TRB 90th Annual Meeting. You can use the Interactive Program to conduct searches by session title, paper title, keywords, author, and subject area.

To view the full Annual Meeting preliminary program, click on the “Search” button without selecting any Search Criteria. When the list of events appears, click on the “Time” header to sort chronologically. Meeting registration enables enhanced features of the Interactive Program such as viewing the meeting room locations.

Further information at: [www.trb.org](http://www.trb.org)

**Other NC activities and examples of good practice**

**ARGENTINA**

**New Contacts in Terms of Terminology and complementary Activities**

In terms of terminology, new contacts with other Latin American countries could be established by the Correspondent Members of the Argentine National Committee. The goal was to increase the Latin American Terminology to be added into the PIARC lexicon.

A meeting in the Civil Engineering Professional Board was organized with the aim to launch in Argentina the Spanish translation of the Road Dictionary by means of a videoconference with the Spanish Road Association as a celebration of the 15th anniversary of the CENATTEV Foundation.

Further on the Argentine National Committee prepared the program for various Training Courses in the Argentine National Road Administration and disseminated technical papers sent by the Cuban National Committee.

For additional information read the 2010 Argentine Activity Report on PIARC website or visit [www.vial.org.ar/](http://www.vial.org.ar/)
AUSTRALIA

Essay Competition
Austroads is conducting an Australian and New Zealand joint national competition which complements the international competition being conducted by the World Road Association in conjunction with the Mexico Congress. There were 24 abstracts submitted from Australia and New Zealand. The Austroads national level prize will go to the best paper from a young professional. Furthermore Austroads is sponsoring the prize for the best road safety paper in the international competition.

Spreading Technical Committee information
Australia and/or New Zealand continue to be represented on 16 out of the 17 technical committees by full or corresponding members. Australian or New Zealand representatives are English speaking secretaries to six out of the 17 committees.

After Australasian representatives attend these meetings they provide reports which are circulated to National Committee members and they are also available on the World Road Association section of the Austroads website. Information on the work of individual committees is being included in the Austroads newsletter on a rotational basis.

In April 2011, Menno Henneveld, the Australian First Delegate, and Main Roads Western Australia will host the World Road Association’s Executive Committee and various commission meetings in Perth.


CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Road Society (Česká silniční společnost) is providing the office for the PIARC Czech National Committee. A link to the PIARC Terminology databank for the Czech language can be found on its website. Have a look on: www.silnicnispolecnostcz/cs/

The Czech National Committee also prepared the candidacy of the Czech Republic to host the 2015 PIARC World Road Congress in Prague.

ITALIA

XXVIth National Road Conference
The XXVIth National Road Conference (Convegno nazionale stradale) was organized by the Italian National Committee and the National Road Company ANAS end of October 2010 in Rome.

Information is available at www.aipcr.it and www.stradeanas.it

Furthermore the Italian National Committee prepared the candidacy of Italy to host the 2015 PIARC World Road Congress in Rome.

ROMANIA

13th National Congress of Roads and Bridges
The 13th National Roads and Bridges Congress was held very successfully in Poiana Brasov, from the 15-17th of September, 2010. Representatives from Poland, Germany, Denmark, Moldavia, Sweden, France, Italy and Austria took the opportunity to get in contact with Romanian specialists from the administration, the universities and the private sector.

The congress offered an excellent setting for the exchange of new ideas, technological development and know-how between contractors, consulting and design engineers, academics and research communities, the government, as well as public and private agencies involved in the design, construction, maintenance of lasting roads and bridges in the country.

The representative of PIARC National Committees enjoyed the professional content of the congress and took the opportunity to contact the representatives of Moldavia in terms of forming a PIARC National Committee in their country. The Romanian National Committee and the Romanian representative in the Executive Committee of PIARC, Prof. Lucaci, offered to assist Mr. Zotter on that purpose.

More information on the congress, you can get at: www.apdp.ro
SpaiN

Xii conference on Road maintenance
10 -11 November 2010 in madrid

Achieving efficiency in Road Maintenance

This Conference, held on 10 and 11 November 2010 has been a great success, gathering together 700 experts from both the Public and private sector.

In recent years, the Spanish State and all the road Authorities, without exception, have made an extraordinary effort to invest in the creation and improvement of road infrastructure, which it can be translated into an excellent road heritage, with a value of more than 80,000 million Euros, and consisting of more than 12,000 kilometers of high-capacity roads, 800 tunnels whose length exceeds the 400 meters, more than 6,000 bridges ... etc. In short, almost everything demanded by the Society and by the development needs during the last decades.

Therefore, it is clear that at this time of global crisis in surrounding countries, the investment rate has to be adjusted to the available meager resources, but stable, and we are obliged to prioritize the most rigorously final destination of these resources.

Fortunately, we are in very good condition to meet this challenge of efficiency, since in recent years we have created not only a physical heritage, but at the same time, a major technical - scientific knowledge, placing the Spanish road maintenance engineering among one of the best of the world.

Another clear example of the technological improvement experienced by the road maintenance sector in recent years has been: Management Systems.

It is a fact that the integral maintenance enterprises, driven by the Administration, have successfully incorporated many of the actual technological developments to the road maintenance technique, as to improve the inventory, mapmaking, operations scheduling, dynamic evaluation of road items ...etc.

Detailed information on the following topics of the conference is available:

- Improved Maintenance Management Systems
  - Internet Applications
  - List of Services
  - Auscultation and Assessment of State Indicators
- Conclusions of the Working Group on Maintenance Management
- Conclusions of the Working Group Management Operations
- Quality Objectives on Regular Maintenance
- Prioritizing maintenance actions according to austerity criteria
- Winter Service 2010 and 2011

If you are interested in it, please contact the Spanish National Committee info@atc-piarc.com
SLOVAKIA

2010 Activities reported by the Slovak National Committee

Seminars and conferences jointly organized by, or in collaboration with, national committee or technical committee members

The Road conference 2010, sponsored by the Minister of Transport, organized by the Slovak Road Society, focusing on road management and technical policy and legislation issues, road network development and modernization, funding and financing of road building, maintenance and operation, implementation of PPP projects (DBFO), experience in the introduction of electronic toll collection system as of 1st January 2010, the new Road act and the National System of Traffic Information being developed and to be co-financed by EU fund was held from 25th to 26th March 2010 in Bratislava.

12th International Scientific Conference Q 2010 Preparing, Building and Financing of Road Network, sponsored by the Ministers of Education and Transport, organized by University of Žilina, Slovak Road Society branch at University of Žilina, focusing on road developing, building and financing, road pricing, toll collection system, road management systems, building and maintenance technologies, system of quality, education, research and development took place 29th - 30th April 2010 in Žilina.

International seminar and Traffic Engineering Days, organised jointly by Czech Road Society and Slovak Road Society, focusing on implementing of important traffic projects, road repair and maintenance in urban agglomerations. 2nd - 3rd June 2010, Mikulov, Czech Republic.

14th Danube-European Conference on Geotechnical Engineering, organized by Slovak University of Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Bratislava in cooperation with Czech and Slovak National Committee and world professionals, focusing on the latest experience in the field of research and practice, leading up to new methods of geotechnical design, followed by a meeting of the ISSMGE National groups from the Danube river region, was held in June 2010 in Bratislava.

Conference on Road Traffic Safety, sponsored by the Minister of Transport, organized by Slovak Road Administration and focusing on road infrastructure safety took place in September 2010 in Vyhe.

 XV Road Workers Days, organized 7th – 8th October 2010 in Nitra by the Slovak Road Society with a conference on actual road network development and Road Stampede contest of truck drivers’ skills with participants from Czech and Slovak Republic sponsored by the Minister of Transport, and as guests, colleagues of the Czech Road Society.

7th International conference Transport Infrastructure in Cities, organized by University of Žilina, Slovak Road Society, Slovak Chambers of Civil Engineers, Transport Research Centre (Czech Republic) in cooperation with international professionals, focusing on sustainable development of transportation in cities and conurbations, was held 20th – 21st October 2010 in Žilina.

An International Seminar of Road Management and PPP Projects was jointly organized by the Department of Transportation Engineering of the Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, the Slovak Road Society and the Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers 18th – 19th November 2010 in Bratislava, focusing on quality of road infrastructure with the topics: Pavement management system, Pavement condition, Materials, Rehabilitation of pavements, Pavements and materials in PPP projects.

Meetings

A joint meeting of the Slovak and Czech Road Societies was held in September 2010. The agenda included the cooperation and coordination of activities for the XXIVth World Road Congress in Mexico 2011, particularly discussing papers being prepared, e.g. national reports, individual papers, prospects of related joint seminars and conferences as well as national delegations preparation to the congress coordination.

PIARC Slovak National Committee had to cope with the state administration reshuffle after these year’s parliamentary elections. New first delegate Mr. Marian Hanták was appointed, replacing Mr. Pavol Kirchmayer, and some new national committee members of affiliated institutions replaced the former ones. Resuming of the work of national committee, backing of the technical committees members’ activity and preparations for XXIVth World Road Congress attendance were the issues discussed at the joint meeting with the first delegate in early October.

D1 motorway Sverepec–Vrtizer, co-financed by the EU Cohesion fund
**New challenges for the Slovenian PIARC National Committee – Latest information on road-related activities in Slovenia**

This autumn, from 20th-22nd October 2010 one event of major importance for Slovenian road community has been organized, The 10th Slovenian Road and Traffic Congress. The highlight of the event was the visit and opening speech of Slovenian president Dr. Danilo Türk and Slovenian minister for transport, Dr. Patrick Vlačič. Members of NC PIARC Slovenia have all been present at this congress, where in two days of discussions one could hear the latest news regarding future prospects, investments and activities in Slovenian road sector.

Slovenian transport experts agree that the road sector in Slovenia in the near future will be experiencing significant operational and financial difficulties. As Slovenian minister for transport, Dr. Vlačič pointed out, the all-national project of building the highway cross in Slovenia is successfully finished and it is time to move on to other modes of transport, namely to railway infrastructure. Hence, a big share of state budget will be reserved for the investments into Slovenian railways.

Members of the Slovenian PIARC community were among the first to recognize this threat to the road industry in Slovenia before it was publicly announced and the recently elected new Governing board of NC PIARC Slovenia, headed by the new president Mr. Vili Žavrlan, had already taken some actions. It was planned to organize the high level workshop 'Maintenance and road development in Slovenia in relation to the financial crises' already during the above mentioned 10th Slovenian Road Congress and some eminent guests from the PIARC community were invited to participate. Unfortunately, the date of the 10th Slovenian Road Congress coincided with the date of the PIARC Council meeting in Budapest, so the workshop had to be postponed until the spring of 2011.

The recently elected new Governing Board of the NC PIARC Slovenia, headed by the new president Mr. Žavrlan (third from the left) and with Mr. Ficko as the 1st delegate of Slovenia (fourth from the left).

**NC Publications and software**

**ARGENTINA**

Edition No. 76 of the Argentine Road Magazine "Vial" has been published in October. Have a look at [www.editorialrevistas.com.ar/](http://www.editorialrevistas.com.ar/)

**SPAIN**

11th International Symposium on Concrete Roads 2010

The 11th International Symposium on Concrete Roads, took place in Seville from 13th to 15th October 2010. This edition welcomed more than 500 people from the cement and concrete industry, representing 35 countries.

Next to the plenary sessions and technical visits to Marchena, Huelva and Cádiz, the attendees enjoyed equally a social programme.


**UNITED KINGDOM**

Through the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation magazine, the UK National Committee covers articles, information and details of PIARC UK events. 12,000 members of the CIHT could be reached by this magazine.

For additional information visit the [www.piarc.co.uk](http://www.piarc.co.uk) website.
The 24th World Road Congress of the World Road Association will be held in Mexico City from 26th to 30th September 2011 at the Banamex Conference Center.

The motto of the Congress is: **Mobility, Sustainability and Development**

**Strategic Themes**

In accordance with the strategic plan 2008-2011, the strategic topics will be:

- Sustainability of the Road Transport System.
- Improving Provision of Services.
- Safety of the Road System.
- Quality of Road Infrastructure.

**The event will bring together:**

- Over 4,000 road and road transport specialists, representing over 100 countries.
- 50 road ministers and secretaries of state.
- Technical exhibition area of over 130,000 sq. ft.

**Call for Papers**

- The call for paper is now closed.
- It has been a large success with over **800 submissions**.
- We thank you for your participation which will make this congress most interesting.
- The proposed abstracts have been reviewed.
- Authors have been notified of the decision before the end of 15th November 2010.

**Exhibition**

The reservation of pavilions and booth in the exhibition area shows an excellent progress. Do not wait too long, **reserve your space in the exhibition now!**

**Accommodation**

Mexico City has 121 tourist-standard hotels with more than 47,000 rooms. Mexico Congress City (MCC) is an alliance headed by the Centro Banamex Convention and Exhibition Center that involves the seven most important hotels in Mexico City in order to offer special benefits to the attendees of Congresses taking place at the Centro Banamex. All the MCC hotels are within a 7 km radius of the Convention Center and from 8 to 20 minutes away and offer a strategic location close to the business, industrial, commercial and entertainment districts and are only a few steps away from the most important museums, cultural and historical sites.

The 14th International Winter Road Congress in 2014 will be held in Andorra la Vella. With its privileged geographical situation and unsurpassable climatic conditions Andorra is the perfect setting for holding this important congress on winter service.

The PIARC Technical Committee B.5 “Winter Maintenance” took the opportunity at its autumn 2010 meeting in Andorra la Vella to visit all the congress facilities and exhibition and equipment demonstration areas.

Visit the website of the congress for further information:

www.aipcrandorra2014.org

Your opinions and comments to

Friedrich Zotter: friedrich.zotter@bmvit.gv.at