Active participation of PIARC National Committees in the 2007 World Road Congress

At the World Road Congress in Paris next year, PIARC National Committees will actively participate in both the exhibition and technical programme of the congress. Many National Committees are currently preparing national pavilions for their respective countries, and organising the attendance of their delegations at the congress. To find out if there is one in your country and if it can help you, please visit:

http://www.piarc.org/en/nationalcommittees/

All committees will have the opportunity to present themselves and their countries’ activities in the PIARC pavilion. Information brochures, videos and posters will be shown. A series of informative presentations, discussions and individual meetings will be held at the National Committees pavilion in the exhibition hall by experienced staff recruited from particular National Committees. Thus, the visitors to the Paris exhibition will have the unique opportunity to experience all of the variety of PIARC National Committee’s work in the one location.

Details will be discussed at the Annual Conference of PIARC National Committees which will be held from 21 - 22 November, 2006 in Madrid. Other topics of the conference will be regional cooperation, the PIARC Strategic Plan, actual status of the 2005-2008 work programme, and country activity reports. There will also be a workshop on new ideas for the communication of National Committees, and what PIARC could offer to make its National Committees become more attractive for individual and collective members. The main outcome of the workshop will be presented in the next issue of this newsletter.

Friedrich Zotter
Representative of National Committees on the PIARC Executive Committee

---

NC News, Events, Seminars and Conferences

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The new chair of the national committee for Australia and New Zealand is Mr. Rick van Barneveld, Chief Executive of Transit New Zealand and the New Zealand First Delegate. Australia also has a new First Delegate: Mr. Menno Henneveel. He is Commissioner, Main Roads Western Australia and the Austroads Chair.


Greece

The new president of the Greek National Committee is Mr. Dimitrios Nikolaou, General Director at the Ministry of Public Works.

E-mail contact: pennykar@otenet.gr
AUSTRIA
Sharing the knowledge on winter maintenance
4th October 2006 in Krems

In cooperation with the Austrian Committee for Road and Winter Maintenance and the Austrian Research Association for Road, Rail and Transport, the Austrian National Committee of PIARC organised a seminar «Winter and Road Maintenance 2007 – latest results and emerging developments» on the 4th of October 2006 in Krems. The main parts of the seminar were dedicated to the results of the 2006 PIARC Winter Road Congress in Turin. Members of the Austrian delegation in Turin could report about the international developments to a national audience consisting of experts from regional authorities, local administrations, the national motorway company, research institutes as well as private firms and road service providers. Complementary representatives of the related working group of the National Research Association reported on latest news about national research and studies.

Presentations (in German) are available for download at www.fsv.at/piarc/index.html

CANADA-QUÉBEC
ST4 Co-ordination Meetings

From August 9 to 12, 2006, Québec City hosted the co-ordination meeting of the five Technical Committees of Strategic Theme 4 (ST4) – Quality of Road Infrastructure. This meeting provided the ST4 members the opportunity to report on their work and to continue the implementation of their work plan for the World Road Congress, to be held in Paris in September 2007.

Two days of technical meetings were held and August 11 was reserved for a roundtable discussion on road asset management. During this day, which was organized by the AIPCR-Québec Committee and presided over by Technical Committee 4.1, experts from Québec, Canada and various other countries joined the members of ST4 to develop four themes related to the road asset management:

- existing methodology for the co-ordinated management of road assets;
- treatment of expanded road corridors in management systems;
- taking into account users and roadside residents in the definition of indicators for the condition of road asset components;
- taking into consideration expectations of users and roadside residents in the co-ordination of road networks.

The presentations and minutes of the activities on August 11 can be found on the AIPCR-Québec Committee website at www.aqtr.qc.ca. Québec’s National Committee is proud to have been associated with this event.
The rights of road users raises questions at NordBalt seminar

The rights of road users turned out to be an interesting topic at the NordBalt Seminar “Customer-oriented Road Transport System”, held in Vantaa, Finland in September 2006. Are road users entitled to certain road standards? - was one of the questions raised.

The seminar presentations are available at www.nvnorden.org > English.

The NordBalt Seminars are arranged in cooperation between the Nordic Road Association and the Baltic Road Association.

The Cuban Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Construction and PIARC Technical Committee 4.3 (TC 4.3) are organising an “International Seminar on Road Pavements” to be held from 18 - 20 April 2007 in Havana.

The overall objective of this seminar is to give developing and emerging nations (irrespective of their PIARC membership status) whether member or not of PIARC) the opportunity to make their needs better known to the international network of experts from TC 4.3, for the TC to share their knowledge and expertise, and to initiate or improve co-operation.

The programme will cover pavement design and construction, materials and pavement evaluation, rehabilitation and maintenance techniques and pavement management.

Information: lserrano@cnv.transnet.cu

In October 2006, the Hungarian National Committee successfully participated in the 4th International Conference “On safe roads into the 21st Century”. The opening speech of the conference was delivered by Jean-François Corté, Secretary General of PIARC.

Information available at: www.meetingbudapest.hu and www.maut.hu

The National Committee of Morocco held its “7th National Road Congress” from 9th to 10th November in Ouarzazate. Five topics and a round table covered all kinds of road and transport issues:

Topic 1: Economy and development
Topic 2: Road Maintenance
Topic 3: Management, Operation and User Service
Topic 4: Innovations in Road Engineering
Topic 4: Structures
Round table: Infrastructures of Road Transport and Human Development

For information contact: ampcr@mtpnet.gov.ma

The Technical Road Association, PIARC’s Spanish National Committee, is collaborating with the PIARC TC 3.2 on the organisation of a Seminar on Risk Management for Roads. It will take place in Cartagena de Indies (Colombia) between 25 February and 3 March 2007. During the seminar, a meeting with Spanish and South American businessmen will be held.

On a national level, the Association is preparing the 2nd Seminar on Experiences on the use of Marginal Materials for road works which will be held in Seville at the end of March 2007, and the 3rd Spanish-Portuguese Congress and 6th Spanish Symposium on Roads and Environment is planned for the first semester of 2007.

Information at: www.atc-piarc.com/

The annual conference of the Swiss National Committee on the topic “Management of the inheritance of infrastructure in the road sector” was held on 16 November 2006 in Zurich.

Information and proceedings at: www.swissroads.ch/home/aipcr/aipcr.php
Other NC activities and examples of good practice

FRANCE
PIARC Prizes

For each world road congress, PIARC organizes a prize competition on two levels: first a national competition, and then an international competition. The French national jury, organized by the Road Administration and the French National Committee (NC) of PIARC, and composed of personalities representing the road sector and members of the NC, met on July 5 to examine the 15 contributions. The jury unanimously agreed to submit the following essays to the international competition:

« Construction, maintenance and traffic management of roads »
- Yves COHEN: “SAGACE, a Systems assisting in the complex activities involved in traffic management” (Prize Winner of the French NC),
- Jean-Marie MASSON, François de LARRARD, Joseph ABDO and 7 co-authors: “The removable urban pavement in Saint-Aubin-lès-Elbeuf”,
- Christian CREMONA, André ORCESI: “Managing a heritage of engineering structures and determining the relevant management strategies”,
- Jean-Jacques FADEULHE, Dominique GAUTHIER: “The PRISMA system, a dynamic capitalisation of experience with risk management of road projects.”

« Sustainable Development »
- Michel BALLIE, Thierry DELCROIX: “An innovative binder of vegetarian origin for road asphalt and lining” (Prize Winner of the French NC),
- Jérôme MARCILLOUX, Jean-Pierre ANTOINE: “A vegetarian emulsion for bitumen emulsions”,
- François OLARD, Claude LE NOAN: “EBT - Low temperature bituminous mixtures), also selected for the Competition of Young Professionals.

The presentation of prizes for the national competition took place at the opening ceremony of the INTEROUTE salon held from 24 – 26 October, 2006, in Rennes. The presentation of prizes for the international competition will be made at the 2007 Congress in Paris.

www.cf-aipcr.org/ and www.interouteonline.fr/

NORDIC ROAD ASSOCIATION

Nvforden.org - a gateway to all Nordic activities within the sector

The director generals of the Nordic road administrations have decided to elevate the role of the Nordic Road Association. From a communicative point of view, this will bring new functions to the nvfnorden.org website. The website will be developed to function as a gateway to all the Nordic activities within the sector.

Visit the website at www.nvforden.org

GNA project facilitates Nordic communication within the procurement market

GNA is a joint project between the Nordic Road and Railroad Administrations in cooperation with the industry. GNA stands for a common Nordic contractor and procurement market. The project was started by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2003. A recent outcome of GNA is a dictionary containing words and phrases used within the field of procurement and contracting. The project hopes that the dictionary will facilitate the communication between Nordic professionals within the field. The words and phrases of the dictionary are in Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and English. The project aims to widen the dictionary by adding other languages to it.


More information about the GNA project can be found at: www.nvforden.org

NvfJob brings Nordic vacancies to one website

The Nordic Road Association strives to serve the association’s member organisations as well as students and job seekers within the road and transport sector by introducing NvfJob. NvfJob is a website that gathers job vacancies in all the Nordic countries within the member organisations. The website is marketed to universities and polytechnics especially in springtime when students are looking for a summer job that will add valuable experience to the curriculum.

The NvfJob website can be found on www.nvforden.org
BELGIUM

In close cooperation with the Road Research Center and the Federation of Belgian Concrete Industry (FEBELCEM), the Ministry for the Equipment and Transport (MET - Walloon Area) developed software named DimMET for the dimensioning and the reinforcement of the road structures. This software allows to dimension any type of road structure (flexible and semi-rigid for bituminous and concrete pavements), to carry out the interpretation of the results of bearing pressure of a roadway, to calculate residual lifespan and to determine the type of adequate maintenance by the calculation of reinforcement. Version 2.1 is now available and the Belgian Association of the Road invites all its members as well as the road originators to come and discover this software during a half-day presentation, which will take place on 30 November 2006.

Complementarily to this presentation, a half-day of study devoted to the multicriteria assistance with the choice of road surfacings will be organized for 6 February, 2007. The multicriteria analysis constitutes a number of theories and methods which help engineers make the difficult choice of selecting the type of surfacing for a given situation. This choice must take account of many parameters such as cost, behaviour of long-term materials, the environment of the roadway system and the safety and the comfort of the users.

Information at: www.abr-bwv.be/

SPAIN

The Technical Committee of Interurban Roads and Interurban Integrated Transport of the Road Technical Association, has published a book about the revision of speed limits (“Revisión de los límites de velocidad”) dealing with:

- clarifying the relationship between speed and road accidents;
- proposing technical solutions which help to establish speed limits appropriate to each road section according to technical characteristics (eventually improved), and to meteorological and circulation circumstances.

The Bridges Technical Committee has published the document Structure-Embankment Transitions (“Transiciones Obras de Pasos-Terrapién”) where the problematic questions with the transition from bridge decks to embankments is studied. This study will be expanded to a national level during a seminar which will be held at the end of January in Madrid. It is planned to invite experts from the rail sector who will explain their experiences with run-on slabs so the audience can get a global view of the problem.

The Road Maintenance Technical Committee will publish a document on Operations Management by Indicators which will help engineers with public infrastructure maintenance concession contracts.

Other NC activities and examples of good practice

SPAIN

The Technical Road Association, PIARC’s Spanish National Committee, has successfully introduced a Quality Management System (QMS) based on the model promulgated by the rule UNE-EN ISO 9001:2000. This QMS proposes to:

- ensure the Association’s objectives and internal rules are fulfilled;
- adopt client orientation, providing them with the information they need;
- arrange congresses and seminars, develop national technical committees with professional criteria and planned actions;
- inform our providers and collaborators of the same quality requirements as in our own organisation;
- promote internal actions in order to implicate, motivate and involve all staff in the achievement of quality objectives.

UNITED KINGDOM

How the UK National Committee is raising the awareness of the benefits of PIARC

The United Kingdom (UK) committee is making attempts to raise the profile of the World Road Association and the work undertaken by its Technical Committees. The committee is working together with one of the professional institutions in the UK, The Institution of Highways and Transportation (IHT), to use PIARC technical committee members to speak at IHT conferences and use these opportunities to disseminate the work of their PIARC committees.

PIARC Essay Competition

The judging of the National UK PIARC Prize Competition 2007 has taken place and the judges are pleased to announce that the winners entry was from a team from TRL with an essay entitled “An Intelligent Journey to the Olympia Games 2012”. The essay has been submitted as the UK entry for the International Competition.

You can download the essay at: www.piarc.co.uk
Preparations for this major congress marking the centenary of the founding of PIARC are going very well. Circular no. 2 of the congress will be disseminated soon and the registration and hotel reservations will start from January 2007.


The Canadian National Committee (CNC) is pleased to announce that the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities has agreed to build on the success of Kuala Lumpur and Durban and lead a Trade Canada Mission (TCM) to the 23rd World Road Congress, which will be held in Paris in September 2007. He will also provide a significant financial contribution to the TCM and the Canada Pavilion including special assistance to help small and medium size business participate in this world-class exhibition.

The CNC Board of Directors recently launched the Paris 2007 Organizing Committee and working groups that are already starting to prepare for the TCM to the 23rd World Road Congress, as well as the Canada Pavilion and Exhibition.

CNC members’ participation in the next World Road Congress in Paris is part of CNC’s mandate and PIARC’s activities. This event, which will mark the Association’s 100th anniversary, will give Canadian representatives from across the country an opportunity to share their knowledge with colleagues and to enhance their visibility around the world.

13th International PIARC Winter Road Congress
8th-12th February 2010 in Québec, Canada-Québec

The city of Québec is well prepared to host this 13th PIARC Congress on winter roads and road winter maintenance. An organising committee has been assembled and further information is available at: www.piarquebec2010.org/accueil.asp

Your opinions and comments to
Friedrich Zotter: friedrich.zotter@bmvit.gv.at