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**EDITORIAL**

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Two outstanding personalities from the group of PIARC National Committees have left their respective positions after many years of serving the association. Dr. Hiroshi Mitani, PIARC President from 1997 to 2000 (see the tribute), and Mr. Hajime Ikeda, Secretary General of the Japanese National Committee for more than 20 years. We will sincerely miss them in the community of National Committees.

At the same time, I would like to express a very warm welcome to their successors: Hiroyuki Fujikawa, the new Chairman of the Japanese Road Association, and Shigeru Kikukawa, the new Secretary General.

**National Committees meeting in Madrid**

The Annual Meeting of the conference of National Committees will take place in Madrid (Spain) 21st and 22nd November 2006, on the occasion of the Council meetings. The main topics to be discussed will be highlights from countries' activity reports, an introduction of newly formed National Committees, a status report on the working program by the NC representative, PIARC's NC Newsletter, the Strategic Plan, regional co-operation to attract regional and local authorities to become members of PIARC, and the involvement of National Committees in the 2007 World Road Congress. All National Committees are kindly invited to attend this meeting. Other members of the PIARC Council are also welcome as guests.

You will find the provisional program at the following address (Council working area)  
<http://private.piacr.org/en/CGEN/piarc5>

**Friedrich Zotter**

Representative of National Committees on the PIARC Executive Committee

**Your opinions and comments to**

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**A tribute to Dr. Hiroshi Mitani**



Dr. Hiroshi Mitani left the Chair of the Japanese National Committee of the World Road Association

(PIARC) on 24 May, 2006. The new chairman for the Japanese National Committee is Hiroyuki Fujikawa ([fujikawa@road.or.jp](mailto:fujikawa@road.or.jp)).

Dr. Hiroshi Mitani is a well-known personality in the world roading community. The most significant position Dr. Mitani held, was as President of PIARC from 1997 to 2,000. During this period, Dr. Mitani presided over two road congresses on a world scale. PIARC's 10th Winter Road Congress was held in Lulea, Sweden in March 1998, and 21st World Road Congress was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 1999. The Kuala Lumpur Congress had the largest number of participants for a congress at that time. The number of PIARC's member countries also increased during this period, mostly from developing countries and countries in economic transition. Membership of more than one hundred countries was mostly achieved during this period.

Dr. Mitani was also keen on expanding PIARC's activities to a larger scale. PIARC's relationships with other organizations such as the IRF (International Road Federation), the Road Federation for Central and South American Countries, REAAA (Road Engineering Association for Asia and Australasia) and many others, were initiated during Dr. Mitani's term as President.

One of the most impressive events was the Executive Committee meeting that was held in Moscow, USSR, in March 1997. The Soviet-Union's Road Director, Mr. A. Nasonov, made the invitation to hold the meeting in Moscow. This meeting was the first EC meeting to be chaired by Dr. Mitani. The meeting and other social functions progressed smoothly, and all the participants were impressed by the unique

hospitality of the Russian people. It seems the Russian participation in PIARC's activities is insufficient at present. It is the hope of all the members of PIARC that Russia and other CIS countries, become more active members of the Association again.

After retiring from the Presidency in 2000, Dr. Mitani was an Executive Committee member as Past President until 2004, and an Honorary President thereafter. Dr. Mitani was the Chairman of the Japanese National Committee and President of Japan Road Association (which is the mother organization of the Japanese National Committee) from 2002 to 2006. Dr. Mitani was also the President of Japan Tunnel Engineering Association, President of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers and held other eminent positions in recent years. This often required Dr. Mitani to travel abroad to Asia and the Pacific region. Dr. Mitani made best use of these opportunities to promote PIARC activities in the region.

Dr. Mitani's relationship with PIARC goes back to as early as to 1967, when the 13th World Road Congress was held in Tokyo. Dr. Mitani was a chief of the young engineers and organized study tours and other social functions for the Congress. From 1988 to 1990, Dr. Mitani was the Director of Road Bureau, Ministry of Construction, and Japanese first delegate to PIARC. Dr. Mitani was the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Construction from 1990 until 1993 when he retired from the Ministry. From 1993 to 2001, Dr. Mitani was in the top management structure of the Tokyo Metropolitan Expressway Public Corporation, as Vice-President and then President. During this splendid career, Dr. Mitani must have always had PIARC in his mind as one of the most important things in his life.

Article prepared by:  
Hajime Ikeda, former Secretary General of the Japanese National Committee.

## NC Events, Seminars and Conferences

### CANADA - QUEBEC

#### 1<sup>st</sup> National Winter Road Congress

15-16 September in Trois-Rivières (Quebec)



The first National Winter Road Congress of Canada-Quebec will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 2006, in Trois-Rivières (Quebec). The preliminary program is available for download at:

[http://www.aqtr.qc.ca/documents/Activites/programme\\_preliminaire\\_hiver.pdf](http://www.aqtr.qc.ca/documents/Activites/programme_preliminaire_hiver.pdf)

### ITALY

#### XXV National Road Congress

(Convegno Nazionale Stradale)

4-7 October 2006 in Naples (Italy)

The sessions of the XXV National Road Congress in Naples are strictly focussed on the PIARC Strategic themes. You can find a brochure on the congress at:

<http://www.aipcr.it/CIRCOLARE%201.pdf>

### MONGOLIA



#### International seminar on «freight transport in landlocked developing and in transition countries»

6-8 September 2006 in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)

The Chairman of PIARC Technical Committee 2.4, Dr. Eiichi TANIGUCHI, will organize this international seminar on "freight transport in landlocked developing and in transition countries" on 6-8 September, 2006 in Ulaanbaatar, in Mongolia. This seminar aims particularly to discuss the problems of landlocked-developing and in transition countries, in order to provide recommendations to build better freight transport systems for these countries. Most landlocked-developing countries have suffered from high costs, inconvenience and unreliability of freight transport due to the difficulty of setting up good access routes to seaports in neighbouring countries. This seminar will focus on these complicated and urgent problems, and discuss a wide range of solutions and future perspectives.

Information can be found at:

<http://www.piarc.org/library/en/seminaires/15ahUcf2r462s10Y45.php>

### FRANCE

#### INNOVATION WORKSHOP

February 28, 2006 in Paris (France)

Asset management techniques have become key to the strategies adopted by road facility managers, whether these be State agencies, local public authorities or highway concessionary companies. As a case in point, for new road works, innovation in areas like design (pavements and infrastructure), probes and diagnostics, management system organization and financial engineering serves to: optimize use of facility management tools, increase infrastructure life cycle, and maintain or enhance the quality of road networks under capped or tightening budget conditions. PIARC's French National Committee thus organized a daylong session this past February 28 devoted to innovation in road facility management, the first workshop of its kind since 2005.

In all, nearly 170 members of the road industry gathered at the Espace Cœur Défense meeting center where 25 papers were delivered by a wide array of actors (facility owners: State agencies, local authorities and motorway concessionaires, contractors, builders / managers, manufacturers of diagnostic equipment, researchers, legal advisers, etc.) and roundtable discussions were held. The field of road asset management must now extend to encompass new aspects: risk prevention, environmental parameters, specificities of the urban setting (frequent renovation of pavements, responsibility sharing with network managers, ownership transfer of many facilities to localities, etc.).

The session was wrapped up with explanatory demonstrations of diagnostic equipment.

For further information: [www.cf-aipcr.org/](http://www.cf-aipcr.org/)

### SPAIN

The 6<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Road Safety and the 10<sup>th</sup> Road Maintenance Conference were successfully held in Spain. The Road Safety Conference in Seville was attended by more than 300 people, and 600 people participated in the Road Maintenance Conference in Cáceres.

More information is available at:  
[comites@atc-piarc.com](mailto:comites@atc-piarc.com)

### LATIN AMERICA

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Venezuelan symposium of asphalt

27-30 September 2006 in Dairy, Anzoátegui State (Venezuela)

Mr. Fidel Delgado, head of the PIARC Technology Transfer Center in Cuba, is providing the National Committees representative with proper information about seminars and activities in Latin American countries. One of those events is the:

**3<sup>rd</sup> Venezuelan symposium of asphalt, 27 - 30 September 2006 in Dairy - Anzoátegui State.**

The Symposium is focused on the investigation, design, construction and maintenance of highways, freeways, airports and other works that use asphalt materials. An invitation is extended to consultants, constructors, companies, professionals and compatible students of engineering and architecture to participate in this symposium. The primary objective is to promote scientific, technical and commercial interchange between Venezuelan and international professionals in the technology of the bituminous materials.

Information: [cttepot@netcons.com.cu](mailto:cttepot@netcons.com.cu)

## NC Events, Seminars and Conferences

### NORDIC ROAD ASSOCIATION & BALTIC ROAD ASSOCIATION



#### Raising the profile of NordBalt seminars

The cooperation between the Nordic Road Association and the Baltic Road Association regarding the arrangement of NordBalt seminars, has been taken further. A set of seminar guidelines has been prepared to make arranging seminars easier. The guidelines aim at describing the process of building up 2-years seminar programs, making the planning and arrangement of seminars efficient and uniform, but also more convenient. At the same time, the guidelines will help raise the profile of the NordBalt seminars.

The NordBalt seminars give road and road transport professionals excellent opportunities to benchmark best practices and exchange information. The seminars help in forming valuable and lasting expert networks at the same time as they upgrade the level of knowledge of the participants and their background organisations.

Coming NordBalt seminars 2006 - 2007:

- seminar on Customer Relations, 13-14 September 2006, Finland ;
- seminar on Traffic Safety in spring 2007, Latvia ;
- seminar on Steel Pipe Bridges in spring 2007, Sweden ;
- seminar on Road Pavements in autumn 2007, Norway.

For more information about both associations and the NordBalt seminars, please visit the websites:

[www.nvfnorden.org](http://www.nvfnorden.org) and [www.balticroads.org](http://www.balticroads.org)



### ROMANIA



**XII<sup>th</sup> Romanian National Congress of Roads and Bridges**  
20-22 September 2006 in Bucharest (Romania)

This Congress takes place at a significant time for those working in the road sector in Romania, knowing that the situation of the national roads has considerably improved in the last 15 years, both due to the measures taken for their rehabilitation based on concrete programmes, and by the application of maintenance strategies with efficient technical-economic solutions.

Now, the Government Programme has created the premises necessary for the Romanian National Company of Motorways and National Roads, under the authority of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Tourism to set a strategy regarding the development of the road infrastructure.

### SWITZERLAND



**The annual conference of the Swiss National Committee** is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006 in Zürich. The main theme will be "technical and political aspects of road asset management".

Contact:

[www.swissroads.ch/home/aipcr/aipcr.php](http://www.swissroads.ch/home/aipcr/aipcr.php)

## Other NC activities and examples of good practice

### AUSTRALIA

#### Young Professionals study tour

Austrroads is supporting a young professionals' study tour to visit Canada and the United States in September 2006 to study asset management. The tour will be led by the program manager for the Assets program, Gary Norwell, from Main Roads WA. The study tour has

been arranged in conjunction with the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) and the group will attend the TAC annual conference. Austrroads has a collaboration agreement with TAC. Australasian road authorities have been invited to nominate young professionals to participate in the study tour.



## FRANCE

### "Mirror" Committees

The French road industry plays a particularly active role within PIARC and its technical committees: 58 experts participate in the work of 18 TCs, with four individuals currently serving as Committee Chairs and ten assigned the function of French-speaking secretary. Nonetheless, output from these committees only enjoys limited exposure in our country and French experts from all sectors of our technical community are encountering difficulties when disseminating information from their experience.

For this reason, the French Committee has decided to set up six mirror committees, to serve as forums for exchanges and strategic reflection between members of the French road industry and experts with the following technical committees:

- Economic and financial aspects (TC 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3) ;
- Mobility and sustainable transportation (TC 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4) ;
- Road safety (TC 3.1) ;
- Road pavements, structure and surfacing (TC 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5) ;
- Management of network operations and Intelligent Transport Systems (TC 1.4), in conjunction with ATEC ;
- Road asset management (TC 4.1 and 4.4).

These mirror committees do not function like working groups, but rather like a meeting place to assemble and disseminate information on practices both in France and abroad, by focusing on topics of keen interest to our road industry. Attendees are asked to help with proposals for better orienting the work programs of PIARC's various technical committees as part of the mission they will receive following the 2007 World Road Congress. The committees' current scope of

investigation will wind down towards the middle of 2008, subsequent to a daylong forum on the key results stemming from the September 2007 Congress in Paris. The upcoming "French committee sessions" will be scheduled, as customary, for the end of the year.

These gatherings will provide another opportunity for all French members to keep abreast of technical committee progress, especially as regards Congress preparation. They will be organized around the six mirror groups and held within workshop settings in order to foster exchanges and enhance the quality of discussions. Upon completion of the day's agenda, a plenary session will collate the content presented and debated. These groups will be laying out their programs and are seeking input from all members who would like to participate in such exchanges: don't hesitate signing up, your contribution definitely counts.

## NC Publications, magazines and newsletters

### AUSTROADS PUBLICATIONS

Austrroads produces high quality publications which assist road agencies in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation and stewardship of roads. Topics include asset management, bridge and pavement technology, road design, road safety, traffic management, transport planning, project delivery and evaluation. Recent releases include:

- Austrroads Design Vehicles and Turning Path Templates ;
- Guide to Asset Management Part 5B: Roughness ;
- Guide to Road Design Part 2: Design Considerations ;
- Guide to Pavement Technology Part 4D: Stabilised Materials ;
- Guide to Road Safety Part 7: Road Network Crash Risk Assessment and Management.

All Austrroads publications are available through the Austrroads website [www.austrroads.com.au](http://www.austrroads.com.au) by clicking on "Publications" in the home page left-hand menu.

## PIARC Congresses

### FRANCE

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> World Road Congress

17-21 September 2007 in Paris (France)

#### Important deadlines:

- National reports must be forwarded by **31 October** to the Secretary General.
- Abstracts of individual papers should be submitted by **30 September** to the Secretary General.

Information about the call for papers is available on PIARC website:

[www.piarc.org/en/paris2007/callforpapers/](http://www.piarc.org/en/paris2007/callforpapers/)

Congress information:

[www.paris2007-route.fr](http://www.paris2007-route.fr)



Your opinions and comments to

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