Dear colleagues,

In Santiago we had a very constructive and fruitful discussion about financial constraints and challenges to keep our members. One of the possible mentioned solutions was also the need to persuade members of the real (business) opportunities of being a World Road Association's NC member can bring.

For solving the financial situation, the Association and each of the NCs must work on different approaches about how to promote the World Road Association membership, so as in an individual manner in the National Committees’ community to attract business sector for their participation. Discussion in Santiago has shown that exchange of our experiences can give some stimulus to others to improve their own situation. I am looking forward for your comments on this.

You have seen from the top that this issue has a new name. Yes, after our discussion in Santiago and later with representatives from the World Road Association Secretariat, it has been agreed that until better solution is found, the NC letter is renamed BULLETIN of the National Committees. Together with Bine, I am looking forward for your contributions and to success of this exchange of information.

I see that some of you have reported about national meetings of your valued members in the World Road Association TCs. I take this as a sign of preparation for the major event we are approaching at the end of this year: World Road Congress 2015 in Seoul.

A fast review of your respective web pages has shown that you are more inclined to present national activities and events and not so much activities of World Road Association as a whole. General secretariat in Paris has decided to contact individual NCs and propose the information that is great value and that will improve visibility of the association, to be published on national websites.

Greetings to all

Opinions and comments to Bojan Leben at bojan.leben@zag.si
Seminar and webinar on Maintenance of rural roads
25th March 2015, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Seminar will be held in conjunction with the webinar of the International Road Federation (IRF) on Maintenance of Rural Roads. The event will feature special participation of the World Road Association’s Technical Committee 2.5 on Rural Road Systems and Accessibility to rural areas and numerous other experts from public, private and academic sectors.

More information: www.aacarreteras.org.ar

Seminar on Exploiting bi-national mountain highway tunnels
15th – 17th April 2015, San Juan, Argentina

Argentinian Roads Association will participate in organizing the World Road Association’s International seminar on Exploiting Bi-national Mountain Highway Tunnels, to be held in the province of San Juan, Argentina.

More information: www.seminariodetuneles.com.ar

Iberoamerican Congress on Concrete roads
23rd – 24th April 2015, Puerto Iguazu, Argentina

Argentinian Roads Association planes to participate at the 6th Iberoamerican Congress on Concrete Roads to be held in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina.

More information: www.hormigonfihp.org

Seminar on Challenge to the integrity of transport policy
29th April 2015, Buenos Aires, Argentina and on-line

On April 29th 2015, an event will be held in conjunction with the webinar of the International Road Federation (IRF) on The challenge to the integrity of transit policy. The event will feature experts from public, private and academic sectors.

More information: www.aacarreteras.org.ar

Course on Transport and climate change
29th – 30th April 2015, Buenos Aires, Argentina

A refresher course on Transport and Climate Change will be organized by Argentinian Roads Association and conducted by Prof. A. Haydee Lordi, Senior Transport Economist.

More information: www.aacarreteras.org.ar

Joint meeting of the Austrian Technical Committee Members
3rd December 2014, Vienna, Austria

Austrian National Committee hosted a meeting of all Austrian experts represented in the Technical Committees. An update of the current status of the working program in different Technical committees was given in view of the upcoming World Road Congress in Seoul 2015. Details of the Austrian National Reports and the organisation of the Austrian participation at the Congress were
discussed and an outlook on the next working period of the World Road Association was presented on the base of the decisions of the 2014 Vienna Mid-term meeting and the Executive Committee and Council meeting in October 2014 in Santiago de Chile.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Austrian Road and Rail Research Association, representing an audience of 1,200 members. These kind of annual meetings provide for a seamless information flow from international to national level.

10th ASTRAD Symposium and Austrokommunal 2015 Trade Fair on Road Management and Winter Maintenance
22nd – 23rd April 2014, Wels, Austria

For the 10th time the ASTRAD-Symposium on Road Management and Winter Maintenance will be held on 22nd and 23rd April 2015 in Wels, province of Upper Austria. More than 150 exhibitors are expected to welcome 3,000 professionals from the Road Management and Winter Maintenance sector at this biennial Austrian Winter Road Congress. The newest developments in equipment and technology for road operation and winter service will be presented in several technical sessions and in an exhibition area of 20,000 m² indoor and outdoor at free admission for registered visitors. The new concept since 2011 does foresee an enhanced approach on urban and community issues by merging the Symposium with the Austrokommunal Trade Fair.

Experts from Switzerland, Germany and Austria will present the latest state of the art in the entire field of Road Management and Winter Maintenance in their lectures at the Symposium.

Information is provided via the Austrian National Committee at http://www.fsv.at/piarc/ or visit directly www.astrad.org for further information.

Annual meeting of PIARC NC France
3rd December 2014, Paris, France

The annual meeting of the PIARC NC France was held in the premises of the Association of Mayors of France on the following topic: A global overview of the World Road Association work and articles from Routes/Roads. The meeting was organized by PIARC NC France and IDRIM (Institute of Roads, Streets and Infrastructure for Mobility) who have partnered to host these meetings in the future to allow players in the French road community to participate in the work of mirror committees of the French World Road Association National Committee.

The presentations are available on our website: www.cf-aipcr.org

Heavyweight 2012-2015 cycle
10th March 2015, Marne la Vallée, France

Our third day of heavy goods vehicles cycle will take place in the premises of Ifsttar in Marne la Vallée, on the following topic: Intelligent freight transport systems. You can view the pro-gram for
the day as well as the registration form on our website: www.cf-aipcr.org

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Two new honorary members of the PIARC NC France

On the unanimous recommendation of the Board, Michel Chappat, president of NC PIARC France from 2000 to 2004, was appointed an Honorary Chairman and Brigitte Mahut, Secretary General of the NC PIARC France from 2000 to 2004, as an honorary member.

We send them our most cordial congratulations.

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CANADA-QUEBEC

20th Anniversary of World Road Association NC Canada-Quebec

The PIARC Canada-Quebec National Committee is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year! It is important to remember the highlights of this period and the key players' contribution to the Committee's development.

In February 1995, the Association Québécoise des Transports (AQTr) presented to the Ministère des Transports du Canada-Quebec (MTQ) a proposal to create a PIARC Canada-Quebec National Committee. Canada-Quebec then made a request to the General Secretariat of the World Road Association which granted an authorization to have the status of the NC Canada-Quebec approved under the name of PIARC-Canada-Quebec. The Committee was given the mission to represent the World Road Association in Canada-Quebec and promote its influence. The Committee liaises with the other national committees within the World Road Association and suggests, to the First delegate of Canada-Quebec, candidates that could represent it within the Association's Technical Committees. It also coordinates the Canada-Quebec road community's participation in congresses and other activities within the Association and ensures the promotion of Canada-Quebec's know-how at exhibitions organized during these congresses.

The year 1995 was certainly an appropriate time to create our national committee as it coincided with the 20th World Road Congress, which was held in Montréal and gathered 2642 participants and 645 accompanying persons from 113 countries. This congress was marked by the adoption of the first strategic plan of the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses (PIARC), which changed its name at that time to become the World Road Association, but kept its PIARC acronym.

The PIARC Canada-Quebec Committee, which represents the Canada-Quebec Road community, is working in close cooperation with the MTQ, a PIARC member since 1925. Canada-Quebec obtained the status of member government of the World Road Association (PIARC) in 1973, under the name Canada-Quebec; 2013 marked the 40th anniversary of Canada-Quebec’s involvement with the Association as member government. It is worth noting that Canada-Quebec is the 6th government to host two major PIARC congresses (the World Road Congress in 1995 and the International Winter Road Congress in 2010), and the 8th government whose first delegate was elected as President of the Association. Indeed, Ms. Anne-Marie Leclerc, Assistant Deputy Minister at the Direction générale des infrastructures et des technologies of the MTQ, is the first woman president of the World Road Association, from 2009 to 2012, and is currently the past president, until 2016.
Since its creation, the PIARC Canada-Quebec Committee has proposed candidates to be appointed to the World Road Association Technical Committees for five work cycles of four years each; the Committee is currently taking part in the preparation of the 2016-2019 cycle. The Committee also supported the MTQ in coordinating Quebec’s participation in the 21st World Road Congress and Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur in 1999, in the 22nd Congress and Exhibition in Durban, in 2003, in the 23rd Congress and Exhibition, which marked the 100th anniversary of the Association, in Paris in 2007, and in the 24th Congress and Exhibition in Mexico, in 2011. It also contributed to Canada-Quebec’s participation in several International Winter Road Congresses: in the 10th International Winter Road Congress in Lulea, in 1988, where Canada-Quebec set the basis to host a future winter road congress, in the 11th Congress and Exhibition, in Sapporo in 2002, and in the 12th Congress and Exhibition, in Torino and Sestriere, in 2006. In 2010, the City of Quebec hosted the 13th Winter Road Congress, which gathered 1500 participants from 44 countries, and organized the first International Snowplough Competition, a competition that was organized again during the 14th Winter Road Congress in Andorra la Vella’s, in 2014.

Members of the NC Canada-Quebec participate in all of the World Road Association Technical Committees and, over the years, various reports have been issued. The Canada-Quebec National Committee members regularly publish articles in the Routes et Transports magazine, in the AQTr’s PIARC-Canada-Quebec Bulletin and in Routes/Roads magazine. The Committee also hosted several meetings of the PIARC technical committees in Canada-Quebec. Committee members coordinated the production of PIARC’s first Road Safety Manual, the second edition of the ITS Manual and the first edition of the Snow and Ice Databook published in 2010, as part of the Canada-Quebec Congress. PIARC-Canada-Quebec takes advantage of the AQTr’s annual conference to disseminate the results of the work performed by the Association, highlight key events and deliver the prize of the PIARC-Canada-Quebec “Concours de mémoires” (essay competition) intended to young Canada-Quebec students working on a Master’s degree. The competition is aimed at researching new avenues to meet the challenges of the expected growing demand for transportation in Canada-Quebec.

The challenges the Committee must face are mostly related to visibility: ensuring that our activities and their impacts are better known within the World Road Association and improving our representation with the road community in Quebec. This important anniversary is therefore an opportunity to thank all players involved in the PIARC-Canada-Quebec Committee’s activities. Their work is of considerable importance and their commitment helped ensure the dissemination of Canada-Quebec’s expertise at the international scale and benefitted the Canada-Quebec Transport community.

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MALAYSIA

International Conference on Slopes Malaysia 2015
7th – 9th September 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Conference will be organized jointly by the Ministry of Works of Malaysia and Road Engineering Association of Malaysia.

This conference is the fourth in its series, the first and second held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia respectively in 2006 and 2008, and the third in
Chiang Mai, Thailand in 2010. The main objective of the conference is to provide a platform to explore and add to the existing intellectual capital in safe engineering technologies in the area of landslide awareness, geological conditions, research, design, slope management, slope safety, slope mitigation and prevention and slope development. Main conference theme will focus Innovations in **Slope Management**. Call for abstracts is already open and the deadline is 15th March 2015.

The congress is intended for transport experts, construction engineers, road designers, network managers, public officials from transport authorities, students and all other interested stakeholders.

World Road Association’s National Committee of Slovenia is also sponsoring the event and will be present at the congress with its own parallel morning session on the 23rd April 2015. The lectures at this session will be focused on presenting the work and latest developments in the World Road Association’s TCs and it will be open to general public.

More information available at: www.drc.si and www.nc-piarc.si

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**SLOVENIA**

**12th Slovenian roads and traffic Congress**

22nd – 23rd April 2015, Portorož, Slovenia

This spring, the 12th edition of traditional Slovenian roads and traffic Congress held in Slovenian coastal town of Portorož, in the organization of DRC Company (Company for research in roads and traffic science of Slovenia).

Two days congress aims at encouraging further development and greater cooperation among Slovenian and world’s leading roads, railway, air, maritime, traffic and construction experts. The main congress theme that will be in the background of all discussions throughout the congress is Providing long term funds for investments in transport infrastructure. Other main topics that will be addressed at the technical sessions are:

- transport policies and planning;
- sustainable transport development;
- traffic safety;
- intelligent transport systems;
- materials, technologies and equipment for maintaining roads;
- management and operations of transport infrastructure;
- planning, designing and constructing of roads and tunnels.

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**SPAIN**

**6th Symposium on Road Tunnels**

11th – 13th March 2015, Zaragoza, Spain

The World Road Association Spanish National Committee soon organizes the 6th Symposium on Road Tunnels titled **Sustainable Road Tunnel Operations**.

To ensure safety in tunnels a global approach is required, identifying the most profitable activities.
and defining priorities to be implemented. All factors that influence safety should be considered: tunnel infrastructures, operations, safety management, traffic and driver behavior. Effective management of a tunnel also requires effective emergency management.

The symposium will try to update the state of the art techniques, practices and forms of management for a more effective road tunnel operation at the lowest possible cost, involving all stakeholders: ownership, management, operating companies and users.
Austroads has recently completed the first stage of a project to develop an Australasian Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Architecture. In late 2014 the Context and Vision and an initial Business Architecture (incorporating the reference, functional and service models) were published.

The European ITS Framework Architecture (usually called the FRAME Architecture or often just FRAME) has been identified as the best basis for the Australian national ITS architecture. Austroads’ next steps will be to develop an ITS Architecture Roadmap and identify transition planning for road agencies to inform the future customisation of FRAME content for local requirements.


National ITS Architecture: ITS Business Architecture

**Encouraging cycling**
Austroads has released two reports showcasing infrastructure and behaviour change projects that have encouraged cycling in Australia and New Zealand. One report focuses on infrastructure and the other on low-cost interventions.

The 15 case studies showcasing low cost interventions provide practitioners with examples of easy and effective methods to encourage cycling when working within limited budgets. The 29 case studies showcasing innovative urban and regional bicycle infrastructure are ‘non-standard’ infrastructure treatments generally not detailed in the Austroads Guides.

Report Links: Low Cost Interventions to Encourage Cycling: Selected Case Studies

Cycling Infrastructure: Selected Case Studies

**EME2 technology**

French Enrobés à Module Élevé Class 2 (EME2) technology offers the prospect of reduced asphalt thickness for heavy duty pavements, and lower construction and maintenance costs. Austroads has released a report detailing the first year of a three-year project to transfer EME2 technology to Australia.
New Guidelines to Better Manage Freight Access in Industrial Areas

Austroads has released guidelines designed to help local government plan and assess road freight access to industrial areas, including ensuring that infrastructure provided by developers is adequate to meet access needs for many years. The guidelines aim to help all participants understand the needs and challenges associated with developing road freight road access and circulation in industrial areas.

Report Link: Guidelines for Planning and Assessment of Road Freight Access in Industrial Areas


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PIARC Congresses

25th World Road Congress
Seoul 2015
2 – 6 November 2015,
Seoul, South Korea

Online registration open! Register in advance (by 31st August, 2015) to receive the Early Bird-Registration discount.

More information at:
http://www.piarcseoul2015.org

Your opinions and comments to Bojan Leben: bojan.leben@zag.si