BEAM
World Bridge Conference

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

FIRST PIARC WORLD BRIDGE CONFERENCE



BEAM2027

Managing Bridges for Society

12 - 14 APRIL 2027

Palais des Congrès, Marrakech - Morocco

Organized by

وزارة التجهيز والماء والغابات
Ministry of Equipment, Water and Forests

PIARC

الجمعية الطرقية المغربية
Moroccan Road Association

Nizar Baraka

Minister of Equipment, Water and Forests — Kingdom of Morocco

It is with great pride that the Kingdom of Morocco will host, in the spring of 2027, the first International Conference of the World Road Association (PIARC) dedicated to bridges, organized in partnership with the Moroccan Road Association (AMPCR).

This major international event is part of Morocco's long-standing and continuous commitment within PIARC for more than a century. It also reflects the strategic importance that transport infrastructure now holds in public policies aimed at supporting economic development, strengthening territorial cohesion, and promoting safe, sustainable, and resilient mobility.

Bridges and engineering structures are essential components of modern transport networks. Their design, maintenance, and management represent major technical challenges, particularly in a context marked by climate change, rapid technological evolution, and growing demands for environmental sustainability. This conference will provide a privileged platform for the exchange of experience, the dissemination of knowledge, and the showcasing of innovations that are shaping the future of bridge engineering worldwide.

Morocco, building on the progress achieved over recent decades in the development and modernization of its infrastructure, is honored to share its experience and expertise with the international community, while also benefiting from the knowledge and practices of experts from across the globe. We are convinced that this meeting will help strengthen technical cooperation among PIARC member countries and foster the emergence of solutions adapted to present and future challenges.

It is my sincere hope that this first edition will mark a milestone in the history of PIARC and pave the way for a lasting dynamic of scientific and technical collaboration in the field of bridges and engineering structures.

I wish this conference every success and look forward to the richness of the contributions that will be presented.

Abdelkebir El Alouaoui

Director General of Roads — Chair of AMPCR — First Delegate of PIARC in Morocco

It is with great pleasure that the Directorate General of Roads joins in organizing, in Morocco, the first international conference of the World Road Association (PIARC) dedicated to bridges. Held in Marrakech in spring 2027, BEAM2027 will bring together road authorities, experts, researchers, engineers, industry representatives and institutional partners to address the current and future challenges of bridge management.

The theme, “Managing Bridges for Society,” reflects the challenges facing road administrations today. Beyond designing and constructing new structures, the priority lies in our collective ability to inspect, monitor, maintain and sustainably preserve an increasingly demanding bridge infrastructure, while ensuring high standards of safety and service for road users.

Road authorities face increasingly complex challenges, including ageing infrastructure, growing traffic loads, budgetary constraints, climate change and more frequent extreme weather events. They must also maintain network connectivity while minimizing disruptions to mobility. These challenges call for more proactive approaches based on risk prevention, preventive maintenance and life-cycle optimization. In this context, advances in bridge inspection, structural health monitoring, digital modelling, data management and artificial intelligence offer new opportunities to improve condition assessment, anticipate deterioration and support more informed maintenance and rehabilitation decisions.

For the Directorate General of Roads, BEAM2027 represents a valuable opportunity to exchange international experience and best practices in bridge asset management, risk assessment, preventive maintenance, resilience and financing, while strengthening the connection between scientific research and operational needs. Morocco will contribute by sharing its experience in bridge construction, operation and maintenance, while exploring innovative solutions to enhance the durability and resilience of its infrastructure. The conference will also allow Moroccan engineers and experts to exchange knowledge with leading international specialists.

Our ambition is for BEAM2027 to go beyond technical presentations and become a genuine platform for dialogue among decision-makers, road authorities, engineers, researchers and industry stakeholders, fostering practical recommendations for more effective, sustainable and resilient bridge management.

On behalf of the Directorate General of Roads, I warmly welcome all participants and speakers. We hope that the exchanges, shared experiences and recommendations emerging from this conference will make a lasting contribution to advancing bridge management practices in Morocco and internationally.

Miguel Caso Florez

General Secretary of PIARC

Bridges are among the most valuable assets in any road network. They connect communities across rivers and valleys, bring regions closer together and, very often, link people and countries. Every bridge is an enabler of access to jobs, education, health care and markets, of trade, and of the daily life of millions of people. Optimizing the managing these structures, so that they keep serving society safely and efficiently for generations, is one of the top priorities of road administrations worldwide.

Over the decades, PIARC Technical Committee on Bridges have built an outstanding body of knowledge. Their work answers directly the questions road administrations face every day: how to manage bridge stock, how to inspect and assess structures, how to extend their service life, when and how to rehabilitate or replace them and how to make them more resilient to natural hazards and climate change. For the first time, all this knowledge will be brought together in a dedicated three-day event: the PIARC World Bridge Conference – Managing Bridges for Society (BEAM 2027), to be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 12 to 14 April 2027.

The conference will look at bridges from the perspective of those who own and manage them. It will show how digital tools, monitoring and new inspection techniques are transforming bridge management. It will also show how experience gained on existing bridges can lead to better design and construction, and how risk-based decision-making helps administrations make the most of their budgets. Finally, it will highlight the role of strategic bridge projects in regional integration and economic growth.

Thanks to the commitment of our Moroccan hosts, the Ministry of Equipment and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Moroccan Road Association (AMPCR), I am confident that this first edition will be a great success. I warmly thank them for their strong support, for their commitment to making this first edition a great success, and for their deep conviction in the value of international cooperation.

My sincere thanks and admiration also go to PIARC Technical Committee 4.2 Bridges, whose work addresses topics that help improve the road sector all over the world having a positive impact on society. They have done an outstanding work in preparing a high-quality program.

I invite all of you to take part in this unique event: bridge owners and managers, engineers, builders, researchers, industry representatives and policymakers. Come to share your experience, learn from your peers and help shape the future of the bridges that serve our societies.

I look forward to welcoming you in Marrakech, to connect with the people who keep the world connected.

Nicolas Bardou

Chair of PIARC Technical Committee 4.2 “Bridges”

Bridge managers today face major challenges: ageing structures, the emergence of complex deterioration mechanisms, the growing impacts of climate change, budgetary constraints, and a shortage of human resources. At the same time, public expectations regarding transparency, sustainability, and infrastructure performance have never been higher. In response to these challenges, scientific and technological advances are opening up new opportunities. Modern design and construction methods make it possible to build safer, more resilient, and lower-carbon structures. Digital tools, intelligent structural monitoring, and artificial intelligence also offer new possibilities for better understanding bridge behaviour and anticipating deterioration over time.

It is against this backdrop that PIARC’s Technical Committee on Bridges established the international BEAM Conference (Bridge Engineering and Management). This initiative is founded on the conviction that sharing experiences and fostering international cooperation are among the most effective ways to address the common challenges of bridge management.

The conference will address the sector’s key strategic topics: digital transformation in bridge management, innovative design, construction and repair methods, risk management, resilience and structural redundancy, decarbonisation, as well as sustainable infrastructure financing and management. Particular attention will also be given to the role of bridges as drivers of economic, social, and territorial development, as reflected in the conference theme: “Managing Bridges for Society.”

This first BEAM Conference would not have been possible without the commitment and unwavering support of the Kingdom of Morocco. On behalf of PIARC’s Technical Committee, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all Moroccan stakeholders, particularly the Ministry of Equipment, Water and Forests and the Moroccan Road Association. I thank them for their trust, enthusiasm, and the outstanding quality of our collaboration since the beginning of the preparations, which already bodes well for the success of this new international event.

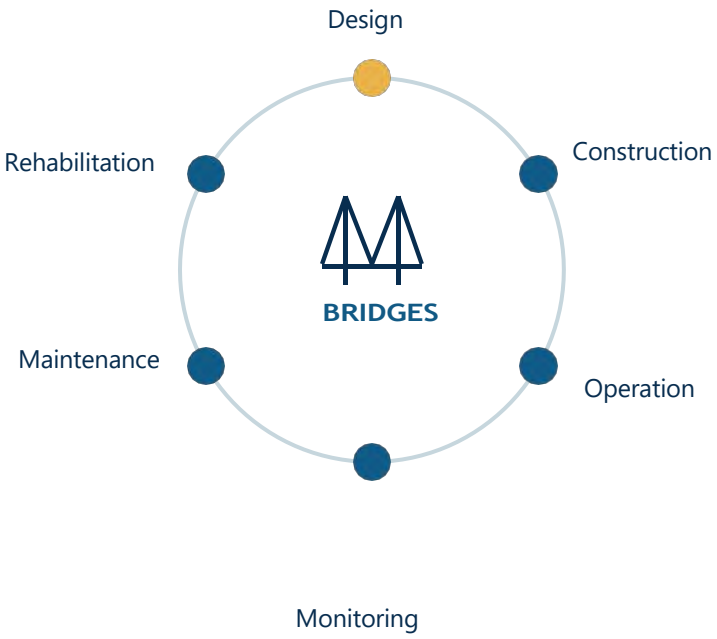
The success of this inaugural edition also relies on remarkable international engagement: 150 Technical Committee members representing 63 countries, and more than 130 paper proposals submitted by approximately 250 authors from 40 countries.

I would also like to thank the PIARC General Secretariat for its support and confidence in this new international platform for knowledge exchange. Finally, I warmly invite decision-makers, bridge owners and managers, engineers, researchers, students, and bridge enthusiasts from around the world to take part in this event, dedicated to knowledge sharing and international cooperation.

Connecting Territories. Preserving Bridges.

From 12 to 14 April 2027, Marrakech will host the first PIARC World Bridge Conference. Bridge owners and managers, public institutions, consultants, contractors, manufacturers, researchers, universities, students, international organisations and financing stakeholders will gather around a shared ambition: “Managing Bridges for Society”.

A LIFE CYCLE BASED APPROACH



Anticipating needs

Ageing, traffic, climate change and resource constraints call for decisions based on sound knowledge of bridge assets and risk prevention.

01

Share

Compare experiences and disseminate knowledge.

02

Connect

Bring research and operational needs together.

03

Cooperate

Develop solutions suited to different contexts.

EIGHT TOPICS, ONE SHARED OBJECTIVE

Design and preserve bridges.



Moulay El Hassan Bridge - Rabat

01

Innovation and digital transformation for advanced bridge management

Artificial intelligence, robotics, monitoring, digital twins and advanced inspection technologies: enhancing data collection and analysis, improving structutral condition assessment, and supporting more effective bridge management.

02

Advanced bridge design and construction based on experience in managing existing bridges

New methods, technologies and construction solutions to enhance structural performance and durability, taking future operation into account.

03

Bridge rehabilitation balancing engineering innovation and societal needs

Extending bridge service life, optimising interventions and preserving long-term performance through appropriate maintenance and rehabilitation strategies.

04

Sustainable and low-carbon bridge design and construction

Reducing environmental impacts through material selection, design and construction methods, and resource optimisation.

EIGHT TOPICS, ONE SHARED OBJECTIVE

Anticipate and connect.



Sidi Maarouf interchange - Casablanca

05

Enhancing bridge resilience and structural redundancy

Strengthening the ability of bridges to withstand ageing, climate change, extreme events and evolving operating conditions.

07

Financing sustainable bridges

Exploring financing mechanisms, strategies and models for construction, maintenance, rehabilitation and long-term infrastructure sustainability.

06

Risk assessment, decision making in existing bridge engineering

Improving knowledge of existing bridges, prioritising risks and defining intervention strategies according to needs and available resources.

08

Strategic bridge projects for regional integration, connectivity and economic growth

Examining the role of bridges in mobility, territorial integration and economic development, aligning infrastructure decisions with society's needs.

Three days of dialogue and discovery.

Technical sessions, presentations, exchanges and roundtables will bring together stakeholders from across the bridge sector.



Bridge over Oued Ykem - Rabat

12 April Conference opening and technical sessions

13 April Technical sessions



Bridge over Oued Beht - Khémisset

14 April Technical sessions and conference closing



Bridge over Oued Tensift - Marrakech

Beyond the sessions

A professional exhibition, gala dinner and technical and cultural visits will complement the conference.

Conference languages

English and French.

Simultaneous English <–> French interpretation during the technical sessions.

Plan your participation.

Registration opens in January 2027.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	PER PERSON
Morocco – Public sector	2 000 MAD
Morocco – Private sector	3 000 MAD
Low and middle income countries	300 €
Other countries	450 €

Included : conference sessions, coffee breaks and lunches over the three days.
Not included : Accommodation and transport.

GALA DINER	PER PERSON
Moroccan participants	**600 MAD**
International participants	**100 €**

Places are limited. The second announcement will specify registration and payment arrangements.

Present your solutions.

Present your activities to an international community of bridge managers, engineers, researchers and decision-makers.

Professional Exhibition
Modular 3 × 3 m booths, to be fitted by exhibitors.

3 000 MAD/m²
(300 €/m²)

Sponsorship Packages

Benefits included	Platinium 200 000 MAD (20 000 €)	Gold 100 000 MAD (10 000 €)	Silver 50 000 MAD (5 000 €)
Logo on AMPCR website homepage.	**Yes**	—	—
Logo and Sponsor presentation in a dedicated page of the AMPCR website with a link to the Sponsor's website.	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Logo and sponsorship mention in the conference materials.	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Advertising page in conference guide.	**1 page**	**1 page**	**1 page**
Logo on conference banner.	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Sponsor documents in participant kits.	**Yes**	**Yes**	—
Registration to the conference.	**5 pers.**	**3 pers.**	**1 pers.**
Exhibition space.	**18 m²**	**9 m²**	—

— : Benefit not included.

Advertising

10 000 MAD (1 000 €) /page in the conference programme brochure.

Reservations and payment

Contact Ms Hind Bendidi, AMPCR treasurer (bendidi@mtpnet.gov.ma).

Welcome to Marrakech.

At the foot of the High Atlas Mountains, Marrakech is a city open to the world, where history unfolds through its monuments, gardens and encounters.



KOUTOUBIA MINARET

Nearly a thousand years of history

Founded in 1070–1072 by the Almoravids, Marrakech later became an Almohad capital. Its political, commercial and cultural influence shaped exchanges between North Africa and Andalusia.

Successive dynasties enriched the city with palaces, gardens and monuments. Its medina, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985, remains a living heritage site animated by souks, traditional crafts and Jemaa el-Fnaa square.



THE MENARA, ITS PAVILION AND THE ATLAS

An international destination

Marrakech combines rich cultural heritage with a longstanding tradition of hospitality. Its gardens, gastronomy and craftsmanship offer visitors a wide variety of experiences.

The Koutoubia minaret and the Menara pavilion are among the city's best-known landmarks. Blending architecture, water and landscape, they invite visitors to explore the city beyond the conference programme.

Historical references : UNESCO- Ministry of Culture - Photographs provided.

Conference venue

Palais des Congrès.

Boulevard Mohammed VI - Hivernage, Marrakech



Palais façade



Overview of the auditorium

HOTELS NEAR THE CONFERENCE VENUE



© OpenStreetMap contributors

- **P Palais des Congrès**
- **1 Mövenpick Mansour Eddahbi**
- **2 Grand Mogador Menara**
- **3 Opera Plaza**
- **4 Kenzi Rose Garden**
- **5 Savoy Le Grand Hotel**

Indicative selection. No hotel partnership is implied

Getting to Marrakech

Participants can arrive through Marrakech Menara Airport or Casablanca Mohammed V Airport. Marrakech is also accessible by road, motorway and rail.

Accomodation

Marrakech offers a wide range of accommodation across different categories and budgets. Accommodation and transport are the responsibility of participants.

Entry requirements to Morocco

Participants should check current visa and entry requirements with the relevant consular authorities or the official Accès Maroc portal. An invitation letter may be provided on request to duly registered participants.

Photos : Official portal MICE Marrakech-Safi - Indicative location.

Bringing our expertise together.

PIARC

World Road Association

PIARC promotes international cooperation and knowledge exchange on roads and road transport. Its work informs public policies and professional practice.

TC 4.2

PIARC Technical Committee 4.2 "Bridges"

Its work covers digital transformation, post-tensioned grouted-duct bridges, structural redundancy, forensic engineering and low-carbon materials.

AMPCR

Moroccan Road Association

AMPCR brings together road-sector professionals in Morocco and promotes consultation, research, training and technical exchanges.

The Ministry of Equipment, Water and Forests, PIARC and AMPCR contribute to the organization of the BEAM2027 conference.

Organizing Committee.

PIARC General Secretariat

Miguel Caso Florez
General Secretary (Spain)

Mallory Trouvé
Technical Director (France)

PIARC Technical Committee 4.2 "Bridges"

Nicolas Bardou
Chair (France)

Pierre Gilles
French-speaking Secretary (Belgium)

Marta Pertierra Rodriguez
Spanish-speaking Secretary (Spain)

AMPCR

Abdelkebir El Alouaoui
Chair

Omar Essekelli
General Secretary

Hind Bendidi
Treasurer

Mohamed Hamdi
Member

Directorate General of Roads - Morocco

Khalid Abdellaoui
Deputy Director General of Roads

Mehdi Lazrak
Deputy Director General of Roads

Meryem Boucetta
Director of Road Studies, Development and Research

Hajar Zoubir
Head of Bridge Design Unit

Abdelkrim El Allaoui
Head of Road Serviceability and Operations Division

Soumaya Jannan
Head of Communication and Legal Monitoring Unit

Houda Taybi
Head of Technical Support and Control Coordination Unit



BEAM2027

Managing Bridges for Society

12–14 APRIL 2027

Palais des Congrès - Marrakech, Morocco

AMPCR

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