

First Announcement — PIARC TC2.3 International Seminar

Resilient and Safe Road Freight Systems and Infrastructure for Reliable Connectivity and Economic Development

Location & Venue: Antananarivo, Madagascar — NOVOTEL

Dates: November 2 – 6, 2026

Schedule of Events

- **November 2 – 3, 2026:** Technical Committee Meeting
- **November 3, 2026:** Clean Cooking Workshop
- **November 4 – 5, 2026:** Plenary Seminar
- **November 6, 2026:** Technical Site Visit: Road Safety and Weigh Station

Organizers and Partners

Organized by: Ministry of Public Works (MTP), Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons (MEH), PIARC, Road Agency (AR), NGO Lalana, PIC (Integrated Growth Poles).

In partnership with: The World Bank and OFID.

Background of PIARC

PIARC (World Road Association) is a non-political, non-profit organization whose mission includes organizing an international forum aimed at disseminating good practices and promoting effective tools for decision-making regarding roads and road transport.

Since 1999, the Association has organized an international seminar program that strengthens its global presence, addresses the needs of developing and transition countries, and makes the results of its work more widely known.

Technical Committee 2.3

PIARC Technical Committee 2.3 dedicates its work to road freight transport, resilience, and the infrastructure supporting it, serving as a lever for economic development and reliable connectivity.

Seminar Objectives

- Share experiences and best practices on road freight transport, commercial vehicle safety, and infrastructure resilience.
- Compare approaches between low- and middle-income countries and developed economies.

- Highlight Madagascar's initiatives — Performance-Based Road Maintenance (PBRM / MROR), school zone safety, Clean Cooking, and youth citizen audits.
- Formulate concrete recommendations for more resilient and safer road freight systems.

Who Should Attend?

Public administration, road engineers, transport and logistics operators, road safety authorities, technical and financial partners (TFPs), consulting firms, researchers, the private sector, and students. Around 200 participants are expected, including TC2.3 members, international experts, and public decision-makers.

General Information & Venue

Madagascar, Antananarivo, November 2–6, 2026 at the NOVOTEL.

Proceedings and Languages

Technical Committee Meeting: November 2–3, 2026. Plenary Seminar: November 4–5, 2026. Site Visit: November 6, 2026. Seminar Languages: French and English, with simultaneous interpretation.

Detailed Program

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Time	Session	Format
09:00 – 10:10	Inaugural Session	Plenary
10:10 – 10:30	Opening Keynote Conference	Plenary
11:00 – 13:00	Session 1 — Challenge relatings to the flow of goods in Madagascar with key economic partners	Speeches + Q&A
14:00 – 15:30	Session 2 — Territory accessibility for trucks common transport for remote	Speeches + Q&A
16:00 – 17:30	Session 3 — Intermodality between road, waterways (Pangalana Canal), and railways	Speeches + Q&A

Thursday, November 5, 2026

Time	Session	Format
09:10 – 11:00	Session 4 —Road safety Commercial vehicles : monitoring and enforcement of traffic and vehicle compliance	Speeches + Q&A
11:30 – 13:00	Session 5 — Impact of overweight vehicles on pavements and bridges: strengthening unpaved roads for heavy traffic	Speeches + Q&A
14:00 – 15:30	Session 6 —Resilience of Road freight: alternate routes to keep freight moving	Speeches + Q&A
16:00 – 17:30	Session 7 — Building a shared vision between public and private stakeholders for the effective and resilient development of freight transport	Roundtable + Q&A

Session Descriptions

Session 1 — Presentation of Madagascar's economic situation and main internal and external goods flows. The island's geographical position focuses on imports and exports via port infrastructure; distributing flows within a rugged terrain relies overwhelmingly on roads and requires meeting numerous challenges.

Session 2 — A significant portion of trade must pass through ports, making territorial connection to these nodes crucial. Relief and climate demand new solutions; the nature of transported goods — including reducing coal transport demand and deforestation via a local circular economy — will be analyzed in line with Clean Cooking initiatives (with OFID).

Session 3 — While road remains the primary transport mode, river and rail alternatives can be developed on certain routes: Railways (Antananarivo-Toamasina, Antananarivo-Antsirabe, Fianarantsoa-Manakara) and Waterways (Pangalana Canal in the mid-East: Toamasina – Mananjary – Manakara – Farafangana), reconciling greenhouse gas emission reduction with economically efficient service.

Session 4 — Heavy vehicles raise specific road safety challenges: controls, technical vehicle monitoring, and driver training. The session will present analyses and feedback to improve truck-related road safety.

Session 5 — Overloads cause major infrastructure damage and increase risks. The session will address weight and dimension controls and feedback on different types of pavements and vehicles.

Session 6 — Climatic hazards and accidents cause road closures; how can essential goods and relief be transported via alternative routes or means? Feedback including the Malagasy PBRM model.

Session 7 — High-level roundtable bringing public and private stakeholders into dialogue around the challenges of the two days to identify points of convergence and engage renewed mobilization.

Organizing Committee

Role	Name
TC2.3 Chairman	Olivier Quoy
English-speaking Secretary	Caroline Mays (TxDOT)
French-speaking Secretary	Bernard Jacob (UGE)
Spanish-speaking Secretary	Carlos Santillán Doherty (ciaO)
PIARC General Secretariat	Miguel Caso Florez · Kaouther Machta
Project Manager / Host	Christophe Rakotomavo (DG AR)

Registration & Accommodation

Registration: Registrations will open soon on the PIARC website <https://www.eventpiarcmada.mg/> and will close on October 30, 2026. Registration procedures (platform and fees) will be communicated in a forthcoming notice.

Accommodation: Proposed partner hotels: NOVOTEL and IBIS. Accommodation is not covered by the organizers.

Contact

For any additional information, participants are invited to refer to upcoming communications from PIARC and the Road Agency of Madagascar.