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EDITORIAL

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The XIIth PIARC Winter Road Congress, 27-30 March 2006, Turin, has been successfully organised by the Italian hosts. More than 900 participants attended the congress sessions, exhibition, technical visits and equipment demonstrations. The technical content of the sessions was outstanding and this was the first time in the series of PIARC Winter Road Congress, that a minister's session was organised with the theme: "Road safety in adverse weather conditions".

www.aipcr2006.it

A number of PIARC National Committees (NC) were present at the exhibition in the national pavilions (Austria, Canada-Quebec, France, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, USA, the Nordic and the Baltic Road Association), while further NC representatives attended the sessions and meetings. Contact with representatives of countries with newly established National Committees, and representatives of countries who are intending to create one, could be intensified on this occasion. Additional information about NC's activities was also available at the joint booth with the PIARC Secretariat General.

Friedrich Zotter

Representative of National Committees on the PIARC Executive Committee

Your opinions and comments to

Friedrich Zotter: friedrich.zotter@bmvit.gv.at

NC News, Events, Seminars and Conferences

News

BELGIUM



On February 10, 2006, M. Chris Caestecker, Director General of the "Infrastructure Agency" at the Flemish Ministry of Mobility and Public Works since October 1, 2005, has been elected as President of the Belgian Road Association (ABR/BWV), the Belgian National Committee of PIARC.

M. Chris Caestecker has always been very active in PIARC Technical Committees. As the President of ABR/BWV, he will also be the first delegate for Belgium. M. Marc Lemlin, the former President, has been elected as Honorary President.

SWITZERLAND

The new secretary of the Swiss National Committee is: Mrs. Anne-Lise Morf
a.morf@vss.ch

MALI: CREATION OF A NEW NATIONAL COMMITTEE



The PIARC Executive Committee approved in its meeting on 31 March in Turin, the creation of a new National Committee in Mali. As representative of all NC's it is a special pleasure for me to welcome Mali to the group of National Committees.

Your contact partner in Mali is:

Mr. Gabouné Keita
National Director of Roads
E-mail : dntp@cefib.com

NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL



Franck Charmaison (France) was appointed by the Executive Committee in its meeting in Turin as the new Deputy Secretary General of PIARC.

charmaison.aipcr@wanadoo.fr

WEBSITE UPDATE

The area of National Committees within the PIARC website has been re-organised and updated in order to facilitate the access to National Committees events, activities and individual homepages. All the information about a single NC you can find now in one place.

www.piarc.org/en/nationalcommittees/

NC Events, Seminars and Conferences

CANADA

2006 Annual Conference & Exhibition of the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC)

17-20 September in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada

Hundreds of representatives from the public and private sectors, and from academic circles, will assemble on Prince Edward Island in September for Canada's premier annual transportation event. The 2006 TAC conference theme of "Transportation without Boundaries" clearly focuses on the importance of providing an efficient, seamless and barrier-free transport system for Canadians. Some of the 150 presenters will delve into the theme with talks on road safety, sustainable-transportation implementation and performance, transit and transportation corridors, in-career training, intelligent transportation systems at border crossings, and low-volume roads. Among the other presentation topics to be addressed at sessions, panel discussions, and workshops, are: transit priority system strategies; noise measurement and mitigation;



2006 TAC Annual Conference & Exhibition

September 17-20
Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island

Transportation without Boundaries

road pricing as a solution to congestion; geotechnical innovations; road salt management; and the benefits of modern communications for maintenance and construction projects. A panel discussion on road network optimization is also being organized by PIARC's Canadian National Committee. Rounding out the program are special luncheon presentations, a series of technical tours, and an exhibition of transportation products and services.

www.tac-atc.ca/English/annualconference/annualconference.cfm

CANADA-QUEBEC

10th International Conference on Asphalt Pavements

ISAP 2006

12-17 August 2006, Quebec City

And

Coordination meeting of the Strategic Theme 4 committees (ST4), Quality of Road Infrastructure

9-12 August 2006, Quebec City

The work on the fourth theme — (ST4) Quality of Road Infrastructure of PIARC — is intended to ensure efficient management of road assets by implementing management systems that are capable of integrating all infrastructure components based on indicators that reflect functionalities, and taking into consideration the expectations of users and residents. The theme approaches this topic from two perspectives: methodology and the description of the condition of pavements, bridges, and geotechnical structures.

On Friday August 11, a PIARC-Quebec day on road asset management is scheduled as part of the mid-cycle meetings of the ST4 Technical Committees, which will be held in Quebec City from August 9 to August 12.

Topics addressed on this Round table day are: existing methods for coordinated management of all road assets; the treatment of wide road corridors in management systems; taking users and residents into consideration when defining indicators of the condition of road asset components; and, taking the expectations of users and residents into consideration when coordinating road networks.

This meeting will be followed by the 10th International Conference on Asphalt Pavements (ICAP) of the International Society for Asphalt Pavement (ISAP), from August 12th to 17th also to be held in Québec City. In addition to promoting the technological advances in asphalt pavement, ISAP is looking into future trends in the bituminous pavement industry by considering essential matters such as environmental protection, social and economic consequences and political concerns.

Information for the ST4 meeting:

Email: annick.bedard@mtq.gouv.qc.ca

Information for the ICAP conference:

www.icap2006.fsq.ulaval.ca/

CZECH REPUBLIC

The major events organised by the Czech Road Society (the Czech National Committee of PIARC) in the first half of 2006 are:

- **ROADWARE 2006 - Conference and Exhibition**
16-18 May 2006, Prague
info@silnicnispolecnost.cz, www.silnicnispolecnost.cz

and:

- **VIIth Seminar on Roads and Transport**
7-8 June 2006, Mikulov
Information:
Zuskova@bkom.cz
www.silnicnispolecnost.cz

GERMANY

German Road and Transport Congress 2006

27-29 September 2006, Karlsruhe

The German "Forschungsgesellschaft fuer Strassen und Verkehrswesen" acting as the PIARC National Committee, is preparing the bi-annual German Road Transport Congress at the Congress Centre in Karlsruhe.

Information and the congress programme is downloadable on the website.



www.fgsv.de/kongress06

ITALY

XXV National Road Congress

4-7 October 2006, Naples

After the successful organisation of the Turin Winter Road Congress, the Italian National Committee is now focusing its activity on the preparation of the "XXV National Road Congress", to be held in Naples from October 4th-7th 2006, at the University Congress

Centre. Bulletin N°1 shows the Strategic Themes:

1. Governance and management of the road system;
2. Sustainable mobility;
3. Safety and road operations;
4. Quality of road infrastructures.

Within this Congress, the INC has launched a "National Prize 2006" for Graduates in Engineering : the winners of such Prize at national level, will be admitted to PIARC International Prizes 2007.

NORDIC ROAD ASSOCIATION &

Seminar on Customer-Oriented Road Transport System

The seminar "Customer-Oriented Road Transport System" is arranged by NRA TC 2.1, Transport Planning and the Baltic Road Association (BRA), and is to be held place in Vantaa (close to Helsinki).

13-14 September.

The open seminar will be in English. **Read more.**

Launch of Via Nordica 2008 website

The Via Nordica 2008 website was launched in March 2006. The website is constantly updated as more information for the Via Nordica 2008 congress

BALTIC ROAD ASSOCIATION

becomes available. On the website you can make a preliminary registration to the congress and the exhibition. Be sure to also add your e-mail address on the mailing list to ensure that you get all the latest information.

The Via Nordica 2008 congress is the 20th Nordic Road Congress arranged by the Nordic Road Association. The congress takes place 9-11 June 2008 in Helsinki, Finland.

Visit the website www.vianordica2008.fi

ROMANIA

The Romanian PIARC National Committee will organize the following seminars and meetings:

• June 2006:

The fifth National Conference of Urban Roads,

22-23 June 2006, Timisoara.

The themes will be: The administration of the streets, construction, maintenance and road signalisation in cities.

• July 2006:

The Timisoara branch of APDP is organising a conference named "The meeting of the engineers without frontiers" with the participation of the Chamber of Engineers from Bekescsaba, Hungary.

• September 2006:

The principal event of the year is the:

XIIth Romanian National Congress of Roads and Bridges,

20-22 September 2006, Bucharest.

The themes of the Congress are the same as the PIARC Strategic Themes. An exhibition will be organised in the vicinity of the session halls, a technical visit concludes the programme of the conference.

For more details regarding the Congress, please visit the **website www.apdp.ro**

or contact the Romanian Professional Association of Roads and Bridges (acting as PIARC Romanian National Committee) at apdp@ir.ro



AUSTRIA

In order to improve the transfer of knowledge between the international and national level, the annual meeting of the Austrian National Committee with its members in PIARC Technical Committees was extended to a joint meeting with the board and working group leaders of the National Research Association (Forschungsgesellschaft Strassen-Schiene-Verkehr) - www.fsv.at.

The Austrian members of PIARC Technical Committees reported on recent developments and results in their respective committees, followed by a discussion about implementation at the national level. On the other hand, the joint preparation of the Austrian National Report for the Paris 2007 World Road Congress by representatives of the two bodies was considered with the First Delegate, who was present at the meeting also.

The presentations are downloadable at:
www.fsv.at/piarc/index.html



NC Publications, magazines and newsletters

GERMANY



The Forschungsgesellschaft fuer Strassen-undVerkehrswesen (Road and Transportation Research Association) is currently

reviewing the German Guidelines for the Design of Rural Roads. The new design guidelines will be based on the principle of the "self-explaining road".

The meaning of self-explaining in this context is that roads are designed in such a way that road users can

recognise subconsciously how they are expected to behave. Both targets can be reached by defining a limited number of sets of design options, taking operational aspects into account, and by defining a close relationship between these sets and the function of the road.

The main point is to establish a new guidance figure in order to define the right combinations of different types and sizes of design elements. Up until now, the guidance figure for road design has been the design speed. But the design speed only defines the minimum radius of a

curve with a maximum cross slope under defined circumstances. The design speed does not determine the type and width of cross sections, the type of intersection or the operation mode.

This principle has been explained in papers given by Roland Weber and Gert Hartkopf. Their paper won the "Best Paper Award" at the 3rd International Symposium on Highway Geometric Design 2005 in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

For more detailed information please contact: rweber@bast.de

FRANCE

Paris 2007 World Road Congress



At its meeting in Turin, March 2006, on proposal of the Strategic Planning Commission, the Executive Committee approved the topics:

- **the Ministers' Session:**
User charging; future trends.
 - **The Strategic Direction Sessions:**
ST1 Challenges for the sustainable development of road systems;

ST2 Sustainable roads: part of the transport chain in a globalised world;

ST3 Risk management: a new approach to improving safety;

ST4 Asset management: technical inputs to decision making.
- First Delegates of PIARC member countries are invited to submit **National Reports** for the Strategic Direction Sessions. The decision, for which sessions a National Report will be submitted, should reach the Secretariat General in Paris by

15 June 2006. All National Reports must be forwarded by **31 October 2006**. National Committees should support their First Delegates in preparing these reports.

On proposal of the Strategic Planning Commission, the Executive Committee approved 19 topics for Special Sessions.

Congress information:
www.paris2007-route.fr

A **call for individual contributions on selected topics** has been launched in order to enrich and broaden **the views and work of the PIARC Technical Committees**.

Information on topics and key dates at:
www.piacr.org/en/paris2007/callforpapers/

Your opinions and comments to

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