

Vietnam Seminar Opening Remarks

His Excellency, Mr.

Minister of Transport, Vietnam

Distinguished guests, all the participants, ladies and gentlemen, Good morning!

On behalf of the members of the PIARC Technical Committee 3.2 on Risk Management (or RM) for Roads, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Ministry of Transport, the people of Vietnam and those who have contributed to organizing this 1st International Seminar on Risk Management for Roads and the International Workshop on Tsunami.

TC3.2 Risk Management for roads was created by PIARC in order to introduce the Risk Management technology to the road sector. PIARC previously had two similar technical committees, studying on natural disasters reduction, and risk & crisis management. Based on the work conducted by these previous committees, we have already had 5 technical committee meetings including the 5th Hanoi meeting, and conducted 1st and 2nd international surveys, and collected numerous data on Risk Management practices from TC3.2 members and other countries to develop practical application of Risk Management into the road sector.

This seminar consists of 4 technical sessions; introduction of RM techniques in the road sector, RM of natural hazards, RM of manmade hazards, RM for projects and organizations, and finally the Tsunami workshop will follow. I am very glad that many excellent speakers, including university professors, engineers, administrators, and members of TC3.2, are gathering here today from around the world for this important seminar. Let me also note that three experts from Vietnam and three specialists on Tsunami from Indonesia and Sri Lanka are here to share their expertise with us.

The current Risk Management technology should be improved and applied to the practical field. That is to say the technology is still in the process of being developed into more comprehensive methodology. But at the same time, the Risk Management technology becomes widely used in the practical fields today, and is widely applied in the private sector. Thus our committee's mission is to introduce this RM technology to the road sector.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank once again to our Vietnamese colleagues for their great efforts dedicated to this seminar. I am very much pleased if all the participants gained an ample knowledge on Risk Management from this seminar to be leveraged back at home.

Thank you very much.

Vietnam Seminar Closing Remarks

Distinguished guests, all participants,
and ladies and gentlemen

I would like to make brief remarks for the closing.

On behalf of members of TC3.2, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all participants, speakers, our Vietnamese colleagues, and the Ministry of Transport.

We have participants from various countries much more than we expected before. When we planned the 1st International Seminar in Hanoi, I wondered if the seminar would be actually realized in Hanoi, because of shortage of my then knowledge about Vietnam. But finally it goes to the very successful event

We understand Vietnam has not only developed economics very rapidly, but also maintained cultural assets and beautiful nature. It is the best choice to hold the 1st seminar here in Hanoi.

I would like to introduce the future schedule of our TC3.2. The 2nd International Seminar on Risk Management for Roads will be held in Guatemala in early 2007. Experience and lessons gained from this Vietnam seminar will be directly carried on to the 2nd seminar. The 23rd World Road Congress will be held in Paris in September, 2007 as a target of our committee..

I believe the results of the seminar will contribute to making the RM technology spread and develop into the road sector. We would like to organize the good seminar in Guatemala too. I wish many of you would participate in it.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank once again to our Vietnamese colleagues for their great efforts dedicated to this seminar. I am very much pleased if all the participants gained an ample knowledge on Risk Management from this seminar to be leveraged back at home. I hope our friendship would continue and increase in the future. I wish you would have nice site visits tomorrow and great trip to your country.

Thank you very much.