



IRF ENGAGES IN AFRICA

IRF confirms its commitment to Africa during visits and meetings held on the continent.

IRF visits Libya



IRF Chairman, Manfred Swarovski and Geneva/Brussels Director General Tony Pearce have recently visited Libya, where meetings were held with the Authority for Roads and

Bridges and the Committee for Infrastructure and Urban Development.

Libya has some 24 000km of roads, although the network requires major upgrading and repair work. The country faces particular problems with the harsh desert conditions across much of the country and the need for appropriate standards and technology. The authority expressed interest in the training opportunities offered by the IRF.

Whilst in Libya, the IRF also met several of the country's major engineering and construction companies.

IRF participates in 1st African Road Congress

In December, the IRF participated in the 1st African Road Congress in Algiers, Algeria. Tony Pearce addressed the conference highlighting ways in which the IRF could support the development of road infrastructure in Africa. He also chaired a round table discussion on the urban environment and road safety.

The congress, attended by over 1000 delegates, including a number of transport and public works ministers, highlighted that although there is a desperate need to improve

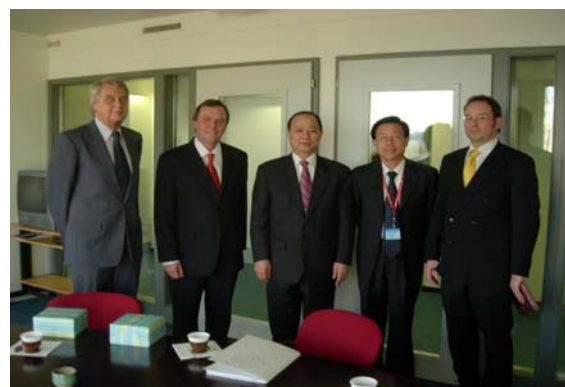
road infrastructure throughout the continent, the specific needs differ from one region to another.

The IRF is committed to helping the African continent to improve its road infrastructure and in 2006 will be increasing its activities in the region by co-organising its 3rd Regional Conference for Africa in collaboration with the South African Road Federation (SARF). The conference will be held from 11-13 September in Durban.

Chinese delegates visit the IRF

During a European visit, Mr Xu Zuyan, Vice Minister for Maritime Affairs of the Chinese Ministry of Communications, and Mr Li Guanling, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the MOC visited the IRF office in Geneva.

The visit underlined the strong relations between the Chinese Ministry of Communications and the IRF. Issues discussed included progress made towards establishing an IRF presence in China.



INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IRF opens 2006 GRAA programme

The IRF has announced the opening of the 2006 Global Road Achievement Awards programme. The GRAA programme seeks to promote the positive projects and actions taken by IRF members who demonstrate innovation and excellence in the road development industry.

Building on the success of previous years, this sixth edition of the awards programme will be open to entries in twelve award categories. The award categories are: Research, Design, Innovative Finance, Technology, Equipment & Manufacturing, Advocacy & Lobbying, Environmental Mitigation, Construction,

Maintenance Management, Safety, Traffic Management & Intelligent Transportation Systems, Program Management and Quality Management.

The awards programme is open to all IRF members as well as the members of IRF members. Further information and an application form can be found on the IRF website, www.irfnet.org or from Scott Pearce, spearce@internationalroadfederation.org.

Winners of the 2005 award programme are currently being profiled in the IRF section of World Highways.

FORTHCOMING IRF EVENTS

Middle East Regional Conference – *Roads for the future: smart and safe*

Abu Dhabi, UAE – 12-14 March 2006

IRF conference looking at the development of first class road infrastructure in the Middle East, to be held in conjunction with ROADEX 2006.

- Contact: Sibylle Rupprecht srupprecht@irfnet.org or Magid Elabyad melabyad@internationalroadfederation.org

Regional Conference for India – *Business & environment for future road development in India*

New Delhi, India – 20-21 March 2006

IRF conference on road infrastructure development in India, to be held in conjunction with the BMCT Exhibition.

- Contact: Sibylle Rupprecht srupprecht@irfnet.org

IRF Geneva Annual Meeting

Amsterdam, Netherlands – 4 April 2006

- Contact: Sibylle Rupprecht srupprecht@irfnet.org

European Traffic Safety Conference – *Safer roads through innovation*

Amsterdam, Netherlands – 5 April 2006

IRF conference dedicated to road safety, to be held in conjunction with the Intertraffic Amsterdam exhibition. The conference will be preceded by the presentation of the inaugural IRF European Road Safety Award.

- Contact: Sibylle Rupprecht srupprecht@irfnet.org or Andy Bastienne abastienne@irfnet.org

IRF/SARF Regional Conference for Africa – *The contribution of the road industry to social and economic growth in Africa*

Durban, South Africa – 11-13 September 2006

- Contact: confplan@iafrica.com

For details of IRF events see www.irfnet.org

INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION

17-19 rue de la Tourelle bte 1, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium Tel : +32 2 234 6630 Fax : +32 2 230 7907

2 chemin de Blandonnet, 1214 Vernier Geneva, Switzerland Tel : +41 22 306 02 60 Fax : +41 22 306 0270

1010 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20001, USA Tel: +1 202 371 5544 Fax: +1 202 371 5565