



BUSY SPRINGTIME PROGRAMME FOR THE IRF

A busy schedule over March and April has seen the IRF host a number of major conferences, as well as its Annual General Assembly.

IRF Middle East Regional Conference



IRF delegates gathered in Abu Dhabi, from 12-14 March for the IRF's first Regional Conference for the Middle East, which was held in conjunction with the major ROADDEX exhibition. The conference titled *Roads for the future – smart and safe* focused primarily on how the region could learn from international

best practice in new technology and management practices.

Some of the key issues were smart financing, including better use of public funds and the utilization of Public Private Partnerships. Other additional issues such as smart road management, focusing on improving the organization and planning surrounding the development of transportation infrastructure also were discussed. Following this theme, new construction technology and materials such as pre-cooled concrete, which offers great advantages in application in hot climate regions, were showcased. Lastly, issues facing the improvement and maintenance of much needed public transportation were addressed, all with a strong focus on safety

IRF Regional Conference for India

Around 200 delegates gathered in New Delhi on 20-21 March for a regional conference for India organised by the IRF and the Builders' Association of India (BAI).

The conference themed *Business and environment for future road development in India* addressed three main themes: PPP potential in financing road development, preservation and management of road assets and road safety issues.

The conference deliberations and a round table discussion produced a number of recommendations for the further development of India's road infrastructure; these

recommendations have been conveyed to the Indian Government.

The India authorities are keen to attract international companies to contribute to the realisation of their major National Highway Development Programme (NHDP). One of the major goals of this conference was interaction among international companies and both government and private agencies on the ground in India. As part of this largely networking endeavour, interested contractors and companies were able to schedule site visits as well as individual one-on-one meetings with various government officials and local contractors.

INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION



European Traffic Safety Conference

To coincide with Intertraffic, the leading traffic equipment exhibition, on 5 April the IRF held a dedicated road infrastructure safety conference, themed *Safer roads through innovation*. The conference discussed European and international commitments to tackle road safety by bodies such as the EU and the UN. Industry experts then presented the latest innovations in road safety technology and also private sector approaches to road safety management, emphasizing the contribution of road infrastructure measures to reducing death and injury on the world's roads.

The European Association of Motorcycle Manufacturers (ACEM) also presented the need for road infrastructure to take into account the specific safety considerations for powered two-wheelers and introduced their new handbook on the subject.

The conference also provided a platform for the launch of the IRF's revised road safety brochure, *Maintenance of Road Signs, Markings and Other Safety Assets. A Cost Effective Means of Optimising Road Safety*. The brochure, which was originally published in 1983 has been updated by members of the IRF Permanent Technical Committee on Road Safety (PTCRS) to reflect amendments in international conventions and standards in the field of road safety and also to take into consideration advances in technology. The brochure makes a series of recommendations for the appropriate maintenance of road safety devices and the necessary budgeting requirements.

Copies of the revised brochure can be ordered from the IRF Geneva office, free of charge.

IRF European Road Safety Award

The Traffic Safety Conference also provided an opportunity to announce the winners of the inaugural IRF Road Safety Award. Attending the opening session, Zoltan Kazatsay, Director General of DG TREN, European Commission, presented three awards and commended each recipient for their commitment to improving the safety of Europe's roads.



Attikes Diadromes was awarded first prize for the Attiki Odos, motorway which features a range of road safety measures that have helped make the 65km stretch of motorway the safest in Greece and among the safest in Europe.

Zoltan Kazatsay presents Bill Halkias of Attikes Diadromes with the IRF European Road Safety Award

Other recipients were CDV Transport Research Centre in the Czech Republic for the Besidido Project applying a new approach to the design of road safety measures, which took second prize. Third prize was awarded to Eurovia for Vigioute, a programme to master accident risk and prioritise the safety of its workforce on the roads.

The award, which was launched in 2005 under the IRF's commitments as a signatory of the European road safety charter, seeks to recognize and publicize successful initiatives and projects by IRF members in the field of road safety, carried out in Europe.

The 2006 competition is now open to entries from IRF members. Further information can be found on the IRF website.

Further information about the winners of the IRF European Road Safety Award can be found in the IRF section of World Highways.

For details of IRF events see www.irfnet.org

INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

IRF Restructuring

During WEB and joint executive committee meetings, held in Amsterdam at the beginning of April, further progress was made in establishing a unified global structure for the IRF. Under the newly proposed structure the IRF will place an even greater emphasis on providing services to its membership.

As part of the restructuring and following the decision to merge the ERF and IRF, the IRF office at rue de la Tourelle in Brussels will

close at the end of April. The current ERF office will maintain the IRF's presence in Brussels, operating as the IRF Brussels Programme Centre.

The IRF Brussels Programme Centre is located at the following address:

113 Avenue Louise

1050, Brussels

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IRF Man of the Year 2006

The Intertraffic meeting in Amsterdam provided a platform for the presentation of the 2006 IRF Man of the Year Award. The IRF's most prestigious award, which recognises an individual's contribution to road development, was this year honoured to Mr Zhang Chunxian, former Minister of Communications of the People's Republic of China for his leadership during the impressive development of China's road network.

Mr Zhang, who served as Minister of Communications from 2002 until December 2005, is now Secretary of the Hunan Provincial Party Committee and was therefore unable to collect his award in person. Mr Zhang Jianfei, Director of Highways, MOC, collected the award on behalf of the former Minister and read a letter of acceptance in

which Mr Zhang thanked the IRF for its recognition and said he considered it an award for the entire highway community in China. He also recalled the fruitful cooperation with the IRF that he had enjoyed during his time as minister.



Mr Zhang Jianfei accepts the 2006 IRF Man of the Year award on behalf of the former Chinese Minister of Communications, presented by IRF Chairman Manfred Swarovski.

FORTHCOMING IRF EVENTS

European Roundtable – *Safer road infrastructure saves lives*

Brussels, Belgium – 2 May 2006

The IRF ERF (IRF Brussels PC), EAPA and Eurobitume are jointly organising a roundtable on safe road management practices.

- Contact: Eurobitume secretariat dupont@eurobitume.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

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