



Major development of India's highways

On a recent visit to India Tony Pearce, IRF Geneva/ Brussels Director General, explored opportunities and developments in India's road sector and identified ways in which the IRF can help India to realise the development of its road network.

Developing India's road network

During meetings with the Hon. Thalikkottai Rajuthevar Baalu, Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and Mr Dhanendra Kumar, Secretary of the Road Transport & Highways Department, Tony Pearce learnt of India's strategy for developing its road network. India is currently two years into a seven year plan to develop PPPs in the road sector and welcomes international participation.

Mr Kumar explained that around 30 projects would be tendered in the coming months for the construction or improvement of around 6 000 km of roads as part of the National Highway Development Plan (NHDP). The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), responsible for devising the NHDP and also the issuing of project tenders said they welcomed a dialogue with international companies on the size of the contracts they were proposing and were prepared to adjust contracts if necessary.

The government and NHAI welcomed Mr Pearce's offer to organise a business development mission in India, which would bring international companies from the IRF membership to the country to learn about the proposed contracts and see first hand developments in India's road sector. The proposed mission would take place the 6-12 June, prior to the IRF World Meeting in Bangkok.

The interest in developing PPPs in India was also demonstrated at the India Infrastructure Summit, where Mr Pearce chaired a session and gave a presentation of international experience in PPPs.



Tony Pearce with (from left) Sri Dhanendra Kumar, Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Sri Indu Prakash, Director General of Roads and member of the NHAI

The challenge of road safety

Another major issue in India is road safety; the Institute for Road Traffic Education (IRTE), says that official figures place road deaths at 85 000 per year; however in reality this figure is likely to be significantly higher.

Major problems in India include a large number of drivers not holding valid licenses and poor law enforcement. The IRTE has been particularly active in carrying out driver education and also providing training to police. The IRTE was also responsible for establishing India's first accident investigation centre.

Road Safety is also of concern to Rajinder Singh, President of the All India Interstate Lorry Owners Association, who Pearce met while delivering a speech at the Indian Road Transport Development Association's annual meeting. Mr Singh has established the Institute of Road Safety and Truckknowledge with three objectives: banning the sale of alcohol close to roads, creating safe, secure truck stops every 50 km along national highways and establishing a proper training and licensing system for truck drivers. Mr Pearce offered the IRF's assistance in helping the organisation to meet these objectives.

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



The IRF's role in India

Meetings with the Builders' Association of India (BAI) and the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) suggested there is great potential for the IRF in India and that opening a local office in the country would boost membership. The two organisations said that they would be willing to share their experience in India with foreign companies and that Indian companies would be interested in the networking opportunities provided by the IRF.

Mr Pearce also visited some of India's

leading universities and technical institutes, including the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and the National Institute of Technology, Warangal. There was interest in joining the IRF and also collaborating with other academic institutions from the IRF membership.

In all Pearce had meetings with some 67 people including IRF members Larsen & Toubro Ltd, National Highways Authority of India, the Central Road Research Institute and Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats to discuss their involvement in future IRF activities.

Obituary – Gerald P Shea



After a struggle with cancer over the past year, Gerald P Shea of Hilton Head, SC passed away on April 9 at his home. He was 69 years old. He is survived by his wife Joan, his five children and eight grandchildren.

Mr Shea enjoyed a successful career as a consulting engineer, notably with Tibbetts Abbot McCarthy Stratton and the Louis Berger Group. After leaving the Berger

Group in 1998 he was appointed President and CEO of IRF Washington. Upon his retirement from the IRF he was named an honorary life member of the board of directors and appointed as President of the IRF's International Road Education Fund.

Further to his achievements as a consulting engineer and his contributions to the road sector, Mr Shea was also active in community affairs in Hilton Head. He was a member of the board of directors at the Long Cove Club and involved in volunteer activities associated with the Hilton Head orchestra and Concours d'Elegance. Mr Shea was also an avid golfer until the last few months when his health curtailed his ability to play.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Gerald P Shea Scholarship fund, Notre Dame Club of Hilton Head, PO Box 6463, Hilton head, SC 29938; or to Gerald P Shea Fellowship Grants, International Road Education Fund, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 410, Washington, DC 20001.

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