



IRF ACTIVE IN ASIA

A busy month in South East and Central Asia has seen the IRF organise a range of events from focused seminars to ministerial meetings, as well as the IRF's biggest networking event, the World Meeting, held every four years.

IRF experts advise Iranian Ministry



Experts from the IRF membership travelled to Tehran in June to deliver a three day seminar for the Ministry of Road and Transportation of Iran. The seminar was tailored to the needs of the Iranian Ministry and focused on three main themes: road safety, road maintenance and road finance. The seminar was attended by 50 delegates from the Ministry and other road organisations.

In a meeting with Dr Saffarzadeh, Deputy of Research at the Ministry's Education, Training and Research department, Tony Pearce confirmed that the IRF would continue to support Iran in its road development and could provide speakers for future seminars or workshops. Dr Saffarzadeh reconfirmed the Ministry's intention to work with the IRF and to host the next IRF International Silk Road Conference.

The IRF would like to thank EGIS Projects, the Institute of Road Traffic Education, Swarco, Scott Wilson Pavement Engineering and the University of Birmingham for their participation in the seminar.

Preparations for Afghan seminar

Ahead of the IRF's planned seminar on the rehabilitation of Afghanistan's roads, Tony Pearce visited the country to discuss the project with the Ministries of Transport and of Public Works.

First Deputy Minister of Public Works, Dr Eng Walid Rasooli, expressed his support for the IRF seminar, which was originally proposed by the government of neighbouring Uzbekistan.

The seminar will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 5-6 September and will bring together high level experts from governments, international donor organisations and the private sector. The focus of the seminar will be the rehabilitation of roads in Afghanistan and connecting the network with neighbouring countries.



Whilst in Afghanistan, Pearce attended a meeting of the principal aid donor organisations working in the country and presented the IRF's planned seminar. The proposal met with enthusiasm from donor organisations, many of which have confirmed their attendance.

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



IRF strengthens links with Pakistan



Whilst in the region, Pearce visited Pakistan where he met the Minister of State for Communications, Eng. M Shahid Jamil Qureshi, the National Highways Authority (NHA) and several of the country's leading engineering firms.

In a meeting with representatives of the NHA, Director of Motorways and Highways, Mr Naeem Mahmoud Khan, explained that regional connectivity and transit are important issues for Pakistan, therefore he expressed his support for the IRF seminar in Afghanistan and also the long-standing Silk Road Programme. Mr Khan had represented Pakistan at the last Silk Road Conference in Xi'an in October 2004.

Road Safety is also a concern in Pakistan and the IRF has agreed to support the NHA in launching a major, national road safety programme. The IRF also offered to assist Pakistan in organising and providing speakers for seminars on safety and other relevant issues.

IRF holds 15th World Meeting

Asia was the venue for the IRF's 15th World Meeting, held in Bangkok, Thailand in June. Over 1000 delegates attended the meeting, where a broad range of road issues were discussed. Delegates came from over 70 different countries, with particularly strong delegations from Asian countries such as China, Japan and the host nation Thailand.

Several IRF awards were presented during the meeting, including Woman of the Year 2005, awarded to Christina Malmberg Calvo of the World Bank, and several of this year's Global Road Achievement Awards, recognizing innovation and forward-thinking by the road industry. The new Dr Mino Award of Excellence was also presented to former IRF fellow Mario Leiderman from Argentina.

The IRF also organized a ministerial meeting in association with UNESCAP. Ministers responsible for transport present adopted a declaration for the IRF to establish a rapid response team to offer assistance in assessing damaged infrastructure following natural disasters. During the meeting, ministers from



IRF Chairman Manfred Swarovski and Suriya Jungrugreangkit, Thai Transport Minister, officially open the IRF 15th World Meeting and Intertraffic Asia exhibition.

Thailand and Indonesia described their experiences of the tsunami and efforts to restore infrastructure.

For those of you that were unable to attend the World Meeting, the proceedings are now available for purchase on CD-ROM. To order a copy, please contact the IRF Geneva office.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

IRF European Road Safety Award 2005



In April 2004, the IRF signed the European Road Safety Charter, a voluntary initiative launched by the European Commission as part of the European Road Safety Action Programme, to encourage progress in road safety and contribute to the EU's target of halving road deaths by 2010.

As a signatory of the charter, the IRF committed itself to establishing a permanent

technical committee on road safety (PTCRS) and to creating an **Annual Prize for the best initiatives, innovations and research work** carried out by an IRF member in the area of road safety.

We therefore invite IRF members to submit **European** projects in the field of **road safety**, either carried out themselves or by associate members, for appraisal by an IRF jury composed of members of the PTCRS, under the chairmanship of Michael Bernhard.

Submissions for the award should be submitted by 15 September 2005. For further information and an application form please see the IRF website, www.irfnet.org or contact the IRF Geneva office.

FORTHCOMING IRF EVENTS

Afghanistan Roads Rehabilitation Seminar

Tashkent, Uzbekistan – 5-6 September 2005

High level seminar focusing on the rehabilitation of roads in Afghanistan and connecting the network with neighbouring countries.

- Contact: Ansgar Kauf akauf@irfnet.org

Pioneering PPPs and Electronic Tolling: Slovakia and CEE

Bratislava, Slovak Republic – 10-11 October 2005

IRF conference focusing on major forthcoming business opportunities in the Slovak Republic and other CEE states. This event will be particularly attractive in view of the planned tenders for electronic toll collection and PPP type concessions in autumn 2005.

- Contact: Ansgar Kauf akauf@irfnet.org or Maria Galewska mgalewska@irfnet.org

IRF Executive Seminar for Roadway Safety

Baltimore, Maryland, USA – 30 September-4 October 2005

Seminar for both public and private sector participants who are involved in transportation policy, planning, construction, management, operations, engineering, and other roadway safety programs.

- Contact: Pat Sankey psankey@internationalroadfederation.org

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