



International Road Federation  
Fédération Routière Internationale  
Federación Internacional de Caminos

# NewsFlash

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## IRF ON THE ROAD

### IRF Chairman speaks at the China Business Summit

Roads are a vital element of China's economic development, but the country must meet the challenges of road safety, congestion and construction quality to maintain its level of competitiveness. This was the key message of a presentation delivered by IRF Chairman Manfred Swarovski at the World Economic Forum China Business Summit on 10 September.

Swarovski highlighted the essential role of roads in supporting competitiveness in an economy focused on manufacturing and addressed three major challenges associated with the country's road development: rising congestion, an alarming road accident rate and the necessity to improve construction quality. Swarovski recommended using international best practice to meet these challenges, with solutions such as telematics to tackle urban congestion and applying cost-efficient lifecycle approaches to improve construction quality whilst reducing medium term costs. However he also emphasised the need to create secure business conditions and a clear legal framework for international highway developers active in China.



During the visit to China, Swarovski, accompanied by IRF Director of Programmes, Ansgar Kauf, held a number of meetings with various departments of the Ministry of Communications and the Chinese private sector, including a high level meeting with Vice-Minister of Communications Weng Mengyong. Discussions focused around the IRF's involvement with China, how the IRF can assist the Chinese in their highway development and also assist Chinese companies' involvement abroad. The Vice-Minister confirmed that China is keen to work with the IRF partners in the US and the European Union.

For further information about the IRF's activities in China, please contact Ansgar Kauf on [akauf@irfnet.org](mailto:akauf@irfnet.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Call for Submissions - IRF European Road Safety Award

The International Road Federation is committed to Road Safety and for this awards an **Annual Prize for the best initiatives, innovations and research work carried out in the area of Road Safety.**

We are pleased to invite you to submit projects in the field of **ROAD SAFETY** either carried out by yourself, or by any other associated Body. We encourage IRF members to ensure that this information is spread within their company and that other known bodies active in Road Safety Projects are aware of it.

The projects are appraised by an international Jury composed of experts in the field of road safety under the chairmanship of Michael Bernhard, Chairman of the IRF Permanent

The projects are appraised by an international Jury composed of experts in the field of road safety under the chairmanship of Michael Bernhard, Chairman of the IRF Permanent Technical Committee for Road Safety (PTCRS).

The winners will be announced and awarded at the international IRF Conference held on 14-16 May 2007 in Istanbul, Turkey. This prestigious award is given international coverage.

*Submissions must be received by the IRF Geneva secretariat by 30 October 2006. For further information visit, [www.irfnet.org](http://www.irfnet.org)*

## **World Road statistics 2006**

The 2006 edition of the IRF World Road Statistics is now available.

The new edition again shows extended country coverage and improved data quality. Over the past two years, data from 50 additional low and middle income countries has been added to this important publication. Collaboration with the World Bank's Transport Unit and the World Development Indicators team has brought improvements in the data checks and cleaning process and finally, a new section of thematic maps showing the spatial distribution of main road indicators has been added.

In terms of data analysis, the new IRF World Road Statistics is a platform that allows users to perform several multi-layered investigations on the correlations that could exist between road sector indicators, to look at historical trends and to foresee future developments.

The IRF statistics team (Geneva Programme Centre) would be pleased to assist users in performing such analysis and to share knowledge and competencies in this field.

Links:

[World Road Statistics Order Form](#)

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **2nd European Road Congress—only weeks away**

Brussels, Belgium—6-8 November 2006

Only two weeks remain until the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Road Congress. To be held in Brussels on 6-8 November 2006, the Congress comes at a decisive moment for European Transport Policy, following the mid-term review of the European Commission's 2001 Transport White Paper.

With all major European Institutions represented, headed by Vice-President of the European Commission, Jacques Barrot, the 2nd European Road Congress will provide an opportunity to interact with renowned transport specialists. A mix of high level policy makers and industry leaders from the European road sector will make the 2nd European Road Congress a unique experience-sharing platform for the road community.

*Only a limited number of Congress hotel rooms remain, book by Friday to benefit from discounted Congress rates.*

Links:

[Congress Programme](#)

[Registration form](#)

[Hotel booking](#)

[www.europeanroadcongress.com](http://www.europeanroadcongress.com)

### **IRF Geneva Board Meeting**

Brussels, Belgium, 8 November 2006

### **IRF Roads and Environment Conference**

Geneva, Switzerland, 5-6 February 2007

Is the road responsible for pollution and the destruction of the environment? Do governments have to choose between roads as an economic vector and the protection of the environment? Has technology advanced enough to master environmental constraints in road construction? Will new technology help manage congested networks in urban areas or will they attract more traffic?

environment? Has technology advanced enough to master environmental constraints in road construction? Will new technology help manage congested networks in urban areas or will they attract more traffic?

Experts will examine these questions and more, in the first IRF conference dedicated to roads and the environment. Key subjects covered will include the environmental considerations during road planning, design and construction, the role of road management and innovations in technology.

Links:

[Conference Brochure](#)

[Registration Form](#)

[Hotel Booking Form](#)

### **IRF Roadside Safety Seminar**

Doha, Qatar – 11-12 April 2007

Contact: [melabyad@irfnews.org](mailto:melabyad@irfnews.org)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Black Sea and 4<sup>th</sup> Silk Road Conference**

Istanbul, Turkey – 14-16 May 2007

Contact: [abastienne@irfnet.org](mailto:abastienne@irfnet.org)

Links:

## CONTACT

### **IRF Geneva Programme Centre**

2 Chemin de Blandonnet  
CH-1214 Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 306 0260  
Fax: +41 22 306 0270  
Email: [info@irfnet.org](mailto:info@irfnet.org)



**For more information about the IRF visit [www.irfnet.org](http://www.irfnet.org)**