

Association
mondiale
de la Route



World Road
Association

***WORLD ROAD ASSOCIATION
PIARC***

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2000 – October 2001

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1. President's Foreword

Having been in office since 1st January 2001, I have pleasure in presenting my first Annual Report to the PIARC Council and Executive Committee. Once again I wish to express my gratitude and congratulations to Past President Dr. Hiroshi Mitani for all his achievements and dedication towards the goals of our Association.

In August 2001, PIARC had 97 member governments—of which two thirds are developing and transition countries—and 27 National Committees. There are about 2000 other members—of which half are individual members—from about 130 countries.

In addition to the President, the Council elected the members of the Executive Committee, the Vice-Presidents, the Chairs of Commissions, and the Executive Committee elected the Theme Coordinators for the 2001-2004 period. Due to changes of posts in the course of their term, the Council will elect a Vice-President and two Theme Coordinators at its meeting in Rome in October 2001.

Grouped under 5 Strategic Themes, the 20 Technical Committees have started their activities in accordance with their respective work programmes with the aim of achieving practical results by the next World Road Congress in 2003 in Durban. I wish to pay tribute to all members of Technical Committees and particularly to the Chairs and Secretaries for their excellent work.

At its meeting in Vienna, the Strategic Plan Commission suggested directions for the topics of the Strategic Direction Sessions of the World Road Congress in 2003. The Finance Commission met twice in Brussels and focused its activities on the 2000 accounts, the 2001 budget, the assets of National Committees and the follow-up of the on-going projects. The Communication Commission, at its meeting in Turin and Copenhagen, worked out a new editorial policy for the "Routes/Roads" magazine, launched the PIARC Prizes competition and the PIARC Reference Shelf Project.

As a leading forum, PIARC is actively involved in organizing many seminars in developing countries and countries in transition, in creating technology transfer centres and in keeping close links with other international organizations active in the road sector.

Now that the structures and bodies are in place we will make every effort to translate the Strategic Plan into practical achievements.

I wish to express my warmest thanks to Mr. Jean-François Coste, who will soon reach the maximum age for retirement, for his excellent work as Secretary General. His successor will be appointed by the Council in Rome. Lastly, I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to all my colleagues of the Council, of the PIARC Executive Committee and of the General Secretariat for their strong support and cooperation.

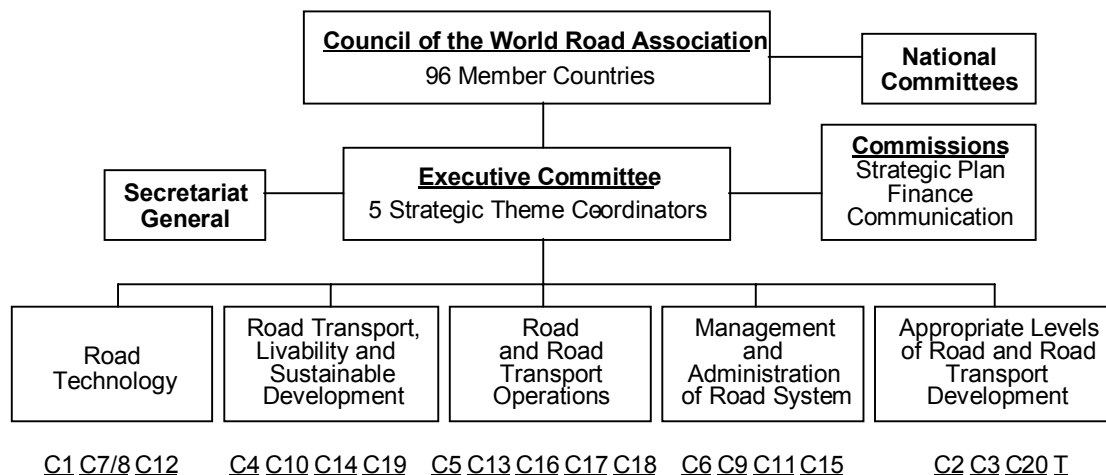
I wish success to all PIARC members.

Olivier Michaud
President of PIARC

2. PIARC in 2000

2.1 Organisation

The World Road Association (PIARC), established in 1909 as a non-profit organisation, is the oldest international association concerned with road engineering, road policy and the management of road networks. It is in a unique position as an international forum for information exchange that is able to address the full range of road transport and road infrastructure issues. The main structure of PIARC is as illustrated below.



Structure of PIARC

2.2 Governing Bodies

The Council of the World Road Association has the overall responsibility for the Association. At its meeting held on 12-13 October 2000 in Durban, South Africa, there were 77 delegates, representing 35 member countries.

The Executive Committee is responsible for supervising the management of the Association in accordance with policies approved by the Council. During the last one-year period its meetings took place on 10-11 October 2000 in Durban, South Africa, and on 15-16 March 2001 in Vienna, Austria.

The Enlarged Bureau, comprising the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the three Commissions and the Theme Coordinators, met on 5 July 2001 in Paris.

In Durban in 2000, the Council elected for the period 1st January 2001 to 31st December 2004:

- Mr. Olivier MICHAUD, President of the World Road Association,
- The members of the Executive Committee of the World Road Association:
 Nazir ALLI (South Africa), Antonio J. ALONSO-BURGOS (Spain), Pablo ANGUIA SALAS (Chile), Maria Pia CERCIELLO (Italy), Henning CHRISTIANSEN (Denmark / NVF), Gerold ESTERMANN (Austria), Patrick GANDIL (France), Karim GHELLAB (Morocco), Colin JORDAN (Australia), John KERMAN (UK), Anne-Marie LECLERC (Canada-Quebec), Marc LEMLIN (Belgium), Richard RANDRIANARISOA (Madagascar), Manuel RODRIGUEZ MORALES (Mexico), Anton ŠAJNA (Slovenia), Walter L. SUTTON (USA), Michio SUZUKI (Japan), Dato' Ir. Hj. ZAINI bin Omar (Malaysia).

- The Vice-Presidents of PIARC: Pablo ANGUITA SALAS (Chile), Karim GHELLAB (Morocco), Colin JORDAN (Australia).
- Mrs. Brenda BAIRD, representative of National Committees.

In Durban, the Council also appointed Mr. Victor MAHBUB Honorary President of the World Road Association (PIARC).

In Rome the Council will elect a Vice-President to replace Mr. Karim GHELLAB who has resigned.

2.3 Membership

PIARC consists of four categories of members, namely: National Governments, Regional Authorities, Collective Members and Individual Members. As of August 2001, PIARC has 97 national member governments from all over the world. Two thirds of the member countries are developing countries and countries in transition. There are approximately 2 000 other members (of whom about half are individual members) from almost 130 different countries.

In 2000, the membership application of the Republic of Cape Verde was approved at the Executive Committee meeting in February 2000 acting on the authority of the Council. Also, the Republic of Gabon has submitted its membership application to PIARC. It will be approved at the Executive Committee meeting and reported to the Council in October 2000.

Member Countries of PIARC (As of August 2001)

ALGERIA	CUBA	KOREA (Rep.)	SAUDI ARABIA
ANDORRA	CZECH Rep.	KUWAIT	SENEGAL
ARGENTINA	DENMARK	LATVIA	SLOVAK Rep.
AUSTRALIA	ECUADOR	LITHUANIA	SLOVENIA
AUSTRIA	EGYPT	LUXEMBOURG	SOUTH AFRICA
BANGLADESH	ESTONIA	MADAGASCAR	SPAIN
BELGIUM	FINLAND	MALAYSIA	SRI LANKA
BENIN	FRANCE	MALI	SWEDEN
BOLIVIA	GABON	MAURITIUS	SWITZERLAND
BRAZIL	GERMANY	MEXICO	SYRIA
BULGARIA	GREECE	MONGOLIA	TANZANIA
BURKINA FASO	GUATEMALA	MOROCCO	THAILAND
CAMEROON	GUINEA	THE NETHERLANDS	TONGA
CANADA	HONDURAS	NEW ZEALAND	TUNISIA
CANADA-QUEBEC	HUNGARY	NICARAGUA	TURKEY
CAPE VERDE	INDIA	NORWAY	UGANDA
CHAD	INDONESIA	PAKISTAN	UKRAINE
CHILE	IRAN	PANAMA	UNITED KINGDOM
CHINA (<i>Peop. Rep.</i>)	IRELAND	PARAGUAY	UNITED STATES
COLOMBIA	ISRAEL	PERU	URUGUAY
CONGO (<i>Dem. Rep.</i>)	ITALY	PHILIPPINES	UZBEKISTAN
CONGO (<i>Rep.</i>)	IVORY COAST	POLAND	VENEZUELA
COSTA RICA	JAPAN	PORTUGAL	YEMEN
CROATIA	KENYA	ROMANIA	ZIMBABWE
		RUSSIA	

2.4 National Committees

Member countries can create National Committees to represent PIARC at the national level, and to contribute to a broader involvement in PIARC activities and a wider dissemination of its findings and recommendations. The representatives of the National Committees meet once a year, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Brenda J. Baird (Canada), representative of the National Committees on the Executive Committee.

In 2001, Madagascar created its National Committee. As of August 2001, PIARC has 27 National Committees, including organisations acting as a National Committee of PIARC, i.e. AUSTROADS and the Nordic Road Association (NVF).

National Committees of PIARC (As of August 2001)

Algeria	Canada-Quebec	Japan	Portugal
Argentina	Czech Rep.	Madagascar	Slovak Rep.
Austria	France	Morocco	Slovenia
Austroads (Australia and New Zealand)	Germany	Netherlands	Spain
Belgium	Greece	NVF(Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden)	Switzerland
Canada	India		United Kingdom
	Italy		
<i>In process: Hungary, Romania, Burkina Faso, Tanzania</i>			

2.5 Commissions

PIARC has currently three Commissions to assist the Executive Committee in its activities, namely: the Strategic Plan Commission, chaired by Mr. Colin JORDAN (Australia), the Finance Commission chaired by Mr. Marc LEMLIN (Belgium) and the Commission on Communication chaired by Mr. Henning CHRISTIANSEN (Denmark).

Strategic Plan Commission

The Strategic Plan Commission held a meeting in March 2001 in Vienna, where the Commission suggested directions for the topics of the Strategic Direction Sessions in Durban and for the preparation of these sessions and set the outline of its work program.

Finance Commission

The Finance Commission met in Brussels in February and September 2001. Its main concerns at these meetings included PIARC's accounts for 2000, the 2001 budget implementation, the assets held by National Committees, the follow-up of on-going projects such as HDM-4, the program of PIARC International Seminars, the creation of technology transfer centres, etc. It also worked on the preparation of the 2002 budget forecast.

Commission on Communication

The Commission on Communication has held two meetings, in November 2000 in Turin and in January 2001 in Copenhagen. The Commission has contributed to define a new policy for the "Routes/Roads" magazine. It has also launched the PIARC Prizes Competition and the "PIARC Reference Shelf Project".

2.6 General Secretariat

As of 1st September 2001, the PIARC General Secretariat led by the Secretary General, Mr. Jean-François COSTE, is composed of six salaried support staff (of whom one part-time) and four executive staff seconded by France (2), Japan (1) and NVF (1). Staff changes that occurred over the past year are as follows:

- Mr. Gilbert Batac, seconded by France, took up his post as Deputy Secretary General on 1st September 2000;
- in February 2001, Mr. Neil Robertson, HDM-4 Coordinator, returned to his roads agency in Australia, while continuing to devote part of his time to DHM-4;
- on 1st June 2001 Mrs. Ulrika Sundgren (Sweden) replaced Mr. Per-Morten Lund (Norway), as Technical Adviser, seconded by Sweden as part of an agreement between PIARC and the Nordic Road Association (NVF);
- Mrs. Nathalie Poirier, formerly Secretary to Mr. Neil Robertson, HDM-4 Project, on a fixed-term contract, now works for the General Secretariat.

Since 1st January 2001, the French law on the 35-hour week applies to the salaried staff of PIARC, excluding the executive staff.

At its meeting in Rome on 10-11 October, the Council will appoint the Secretary General who will succeed Mr. Coste who has reached the maximum age for retirement.

The daily work of the General Secretariat remained at a high intensity in 2001 as a result of the various PIARC activities, e.g. finalising the new Strategic Plan, assisting the Technical Committees, coordinating the various on-going projects, representing the Association at various international congresses and exhibitions (TRB, IRF, etc.).

The PIARC Website <www.piarc.org> has been updated regularly by the General Secretariat. As of July 2001, it comprised nearly 2 000 HTML files with a total size of about 140 megabytes. Part of the website can be accessed by PIARC members only. During the first half of 2001, there were on average 2 500 visitors and 3 000 requests per day. The General Secretariat has started a consultation aiming at the upgrading of the website.

3. Strategic Plan 2000-2003

3.1 PIARC's Vision, Mission and Values

The PIARC Strategic Plan, first adopted in 1995, was revised in 2000, opening the way to the next World Road Congress to be held in 2003 in South Africa.

It was printed and circulated in February 2001.

3.2 Strategic Themes

The PIARC Strategic Plan 2000-2003 has identified five «Strategic Themes» and their goals and the Theme Coordinators, as listed below.

PIARC's Strategic Themes for 2000-2003

Strategic Theme 1: Road Technology

Goal: To improve the provision and maintenance of road infrastructure in accordance with international best practice.

Coordinator: *Mr. Antonio J. ALONSO-BURGOS (Spain)*

Strategic Theme 2: Road Transport, Livability and Sustainable Development

Goal: To encourage the development of road transport policies and programs that take full account of the need for integration with other transport modes and that result in beneficial community outcomes in economic, environmental and social terms.

Coordinator: *Mr. Patrick GANDIL (France)*

Strategic Theme 3: Road and Road Transport Operations

Goal: To improve the safe and efficient use of the road system, including the movement of people and goods on the road network, while effectively managing the risks associated with road transport operations and the natural environment.

Coordinator: *Mr. John KERMAN (United Kingdom)*

Strategic Theme 4: Management and Administration of the Road System

Goal: To improve the performance of road administrations in the provision, operation and management of road infrastructure and its use in accordance with international best practice.

Coordinator: *Mr. Gerold ESTERMANN (Australia)*

Strategic Theme 5: Appropriate Levels of Road and Road Transport Development

Goal: To foster the development of road transport policies and programs which take account of the particular needs of developing nations and countries in transition and of rural and remote areas.

Coordinator: *Mr. Karim GHELLAB (Morocco)*

At the Rome meeting, the Executive Committee will nominate the new Strategic Theme Coordinators 3 and 5 as Mr. John KERMAN (United Kingdom) and Karim GHELLAB (Morocco) have resigned.

4. Activities of PIARC

4.1 Congresses

World Road Congress

PIARC organises a World Road Congress every four years. The last one which took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 3-9 October 1999, gathered nearly 2 800 participants from 115 countries.

The next PIARC World Road Congress will be held in Durban, South Africa, on 19-25 October 2003. The Congress Handbook and Circular n°1 are under preparation.

The themes of the Strategic Direction Sessions are as follows:

- ST1: Road Technology
Road Quality Service Levels and Innovations to Meet User Expectations
- ST2: Road Transport Livability & Sustainable Development
Reducing Negative Impacts of Roads on the Quality of Life
- ST3: Road & Road Transport Operations
Operating the Network – Improving the Service
- ST4: Management and Administration of the Road System
Role of the Road Administrations in an Integrated Transport System
- ST5: Appropriate Levels of Road & Road Transport Development
Access to Mobility: A Basic Social Service

In the framework of the Durban Congress, the PIARC Prizes 2003 Competition was launched, aiming to encourage innovation, recognise professional expertise, promote developing countries' interests and support long-term thinking on the future of transportation systems.

The Competition includes the four following Prizes and the “**Maurice Milne medal**” which will be awarded to the most innovative idea put forward in the four Prizes:

- PIARC Prize for construction, maintenance and operation of roads
- PIARC Prize for developing country issues
- PIARC Prize for sustainable development
- PIARC Prize for essays of young professionals.

Essays should be submitted to First Delegates on national level before 1st May 2002. Then the International Jury will proceed to the selection and announce the winners by May 2003.

International Winter Road Congress

PIARC also organises every four years an International Winter Road Congress in the interval between the World Road Congresses. The XIth Winter Road Congress will be held in Sapporo, Japan, on 28-31 January 2002. In Rome, the Council will vote on the venue of the XIIth International Winter Road Congress in 2006.

4.2 Technical Committees

PIARC Technical Committees undertake studies on various topics related to roads and road transport issues. Under the five Themes in its new Strategic Plan, PIARC has created 20 Technical Committees for 2000-2003. The following table lists the Technical Committees and the name of its Chairs.

Technical Committees for 2000-2003 and Chairs

<i>ST 1 Road Technology</i>		
C1	Surface Characteristics	Mr. Bjarne SCHMIDT (Denmark)
C7/8	Road Pavements	Mr Nelson RIOUX (Canada-Quebec)
C12	Earthworks, Drainage and Subgrade	Mr. Giorgio PERONI (Italy)
<i>ST 2 Road Transport, Livability and Sustainable Development</i>		
C4	Interurban Roads and Integrated Interurban Transport	Mr. Gary LIDDLE (Australia)
C10	Urban Areas and Integrated Urban Transport	Prof. George HAZEL (UK)
C14	Sustainable Development and Road Transport	Mr. Anders HH JANSSON (Finland)
C19	Freight Transport	Mr. Anders K. LUNDQVIST (Sweden)
<i>ST 3 Road and Road Transport Operations</i>		
C5	Road Tunnel Operation	Mr. Didier LACROIX (France)
C13	Road Safety	Ir. Peter M.W. ELSENAAR (Netherlands)
C16	Network Operations	Mrs. Sandra SULTANA (Canada-Quebec)
C17	Winter Maintenance	Mr. Tadayuki TAZAKI (Japan)
C18	Risk Management for Roads	Mr. Minoru HIRANO (Japan)
<i>ST 4 Management and Administration of the Road System</i>		
C6	Road Management	Dr. Michel GORSKI (Belgium)
C9	Economic and Financial Evaluation	Ms. Sherri Y. ALSTON (USA)
C11	Road Bridges and Other Structures	Mrs. Brigitte MAHUT (France)
C15	Performance of Road Administrations	Ms. Miranda DOUGLAS-CRANE (Australia)
<i>ST 5 Appropriate Levels of Road and Road Transport Development</i>		
C2	Community Consultation	Mr. Willy BURGUNDER (Switzerland)
C3	Technological Exchanges and Development	Ing. Oscar DE BUEN (Mexico)
C20	Appropriate Development	Mr. Jean-Paulin NKILI BENGONE (Gabon)
T	Terminology	Dr. Angel LACLETA (Spain)

The Work Programme of Technical Committees for the 2000-2003 period was printed and circulated in February 2001. It is also available on the PIARC website.

4.3 On-going Projects

HDM-4 (Coordinator: Mr. Neil Robertson)

The Highway Development and Management System (HDM-4) is a software developed by the University of Birmingham (UK) for investigating choices in investing in road transport infrastructure. It was launched officially in 1998.

Version 1 of the software was released in May 2000.

Version 1.2 was issued in June 2001. It includes the Spanish version and is available for purchase in the form of an update to be downloaded. The CD-ROM version will be available by October 2001.

Version 2 will include the Russian version and will reflect demands expressed by users. It is to be released in July 2002.

PIARC-Terminology (Coordinator: Mr. Patrice Retour)

The aims of this coordinated project are to gather all existing dictionaries and lexicons on one database on CD-ROM, to facilitate addition of new languages, and to circulate and update the dictionaries via Internet.

The CD-ROM has been available for purchase since October 2000. The Italian version of the Technical Dictionary of Road Terms can be downloaded from Internet since March 2001. The German version is expected to be released by the end of 2001.

Creation of Technology Transfer Centres (Coordinator: Mr. Colin Ellis)

A Technology Transfer Centre (TTC) is a dedicated point of contact within a country for receiving road related information on technology, practices and experiences from all over the world and disseminating it in the country or neighbouring countries.

At its meeting in Vienna in March 2001, the Executive Committee has allocated the earmarked funds, i.e. 10,000 USD to India, Madagascar and Tanzania. Eight other countries have been invited to provide further details to their application.

Each TTC creation shall be formalized by a memorandum of understanding between the country and PIARC. It is envisaged to propose training sessions to meet the needs of the TTC staff. A related proposal is under preparation.

Organisation of Seminars in DC/CIT (Coordinator: Mr. Colin Ellis)

This project is implemented under the leadership of the Technical Committee on Technological Exchanges and Development (C3) and is entitled "PIARC Programme of International Seminars - Roads, Transport and Development". The first phase of the project has been fairly slow and the initial objective of 2 seminars per Technical Committee does not prove to be realistic.

By late August 2001, 4 seminars have already taken place in Benin, Czech Republic, Tanzania and Estonia, and 12 other seminars are planned.

World Interchange Network – WIN (Coordinator: Mrs. Claire Monette)

The World Interchange Network (WIN) is an internet service to assist road professionals with a specific inquiry to make direct contact with persons who are likely to be able to provide advice and solutions at national, regional and global level.

Following a decision of the Council in October 2000, the WIN Group is now integrated into PIARC activities, under the leadership of the Technical Committee on Technological Exchanges and Development (C3).

The WIN group has held 3 meetings since October 2000. It has set itself a work programme for the 2001-2003 period and has carried out a detailed assessment of the current situation. Efforts are mainly being directed towards users needs, the technical solutions to be brought to the future WIN and the resources required.

4.4 Publications

PIARC regularly publishes documents of interest to road administrators and engineers, such as Technical Committee reports, Congress documents and dictionaries.

Since October 2000, PIARC has published 3 technical reports and several documents of general interest such as the Work Programme of Technical Committees, the Strategic Plan and a presentation brochure of the Association in English, French and Spanish with the kind assistance of the British and Spanish National Committees.

The full list of PIARC publications is available on its website at <www.piarc.org>.

PIARC also publishes its quarterly magazine «Routes/Roads». About 6 000 copies are circulated per issue. In 2001, the Editorial Committee of «Routes/Roads» chaired by Mr. Pasquale Colonna (Italy) has carried out a survey among the readers aiming at taking account of their opinions, while implementing the directions set by the Communication Commission.

4.5 Cooperation with other organisations

PIARC has long developed close links with many international organizations involved in the field of roads and road transport, such as the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia (REAAA), the Maghreb Road Association, the Nordic Road Association (NVF), the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). In Europe, the European Commission has had an increasing importance for the relations with PIARC. Road Directors Groups, by now established in Africa, Western Europe and Latin America, are also important partners of PIARC.

Over the past year, depending on staff commitments, PIARC was present at international events by participating in congresses and exhibitions, such the Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) in Washington DC in January 2001 and the conference of the International Road Federation (IRF) in Paris in June 2001.