



WORLD ROAD ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY REPORT 2008 - 2011

FROM THE PARIS CONGRESS (SEPTEMBER 2007)
TO THE MEXICO CONGRESS (SEPTEMBER 2011)



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PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

When I was elected President at the end of 2008, I promised to devote myself to the future of our Association by harnessing the dynamism and commitment of its members and bodies. I also wished to explore a number of avenues that not only aimed to consolidate the Association's achievements, but also mobilize the global road community to face the challenge of maintaining the fragile equilibrium, which exists between social development, economic vitality and preservation of the environment. The Congress provides a good opportunity for a progress report.

One of my first wishes on starting my term of office was for the Association to listen to its members in order to be able to meet their expectations. In this spirit, the way the **Council** and **Executive Committee** meetings are organized was changed in order to encourage active participation on the part of member governments and promote discussions on the issues and challenges facing them.

The adoption of the **Strategic Planning Commission's** proposal that the Chairs of the Technical Committees should be appointed at the time of the Congress will make it possible to optimize the transition from one work cycle to the next. To permit this, the considerable amount of work involved in developing the next strategic plan was conducted in a much shorter timeframe than in the past.

The knowledge exchange and sharing which the Association has taken upon itself has received attention from the **Communication and International Relations Commission** in order to ensure that information circulates freely, that it meets the needs of members and is accessible at all times. The Commission's communication and marketing plan provides for the National Committees to be involved in disseminating the work of the Association.

During these four years, the work of the **Technical Committees** has followed the four Strategic Themes of the Association's fourth Strategic Plan: sustainability of the road transport system, improving provision of services, safety of the road systems and quality of road infrastructure. The Technical Committees, which are the driving force of the Association, have dealt with some issues that are of major importance for member organizations. By the time of the Congress, they will have delivered reports setting out the results of their work and shared their knowledge via the Association's various communication forums (seminars, articles and congresses).

In order to make **international collaboration** the cornerstone of progress in road transport, the Association has strengthened its ties with a number of bodies and countries. Whether through the Memorandum of understanding signed with REAAA, the agreement reached with the Indian Roads Congress or the close ties that have developed with the Nordic Road Association, the CEDR, DIRCAIBEA and AGEPAR, the Association has consolidated and extended its links with national and international roads communities.

As far as **road safety** is concerned, the Association is keen to become a major forum for the exchange of ideas. In this connection, it has underscored its commitment within the global road community by formulating a declaration in support of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety.

The **International Winter Road Congress** held in Quebec City in February 2010 belongs to the long list of successful events organized by the Association. With as its theme "Sustainable Winter Service for Road Users", it attracted some 1 500 participants from 44 countries. The exhibition that was held on the fringe of the congress provided the opportunity for almost 500 persons from 175 firms and bodies from

America, Europe and Asia to present their know-how, including the technologies they are developing and the machine parts they manufacture or distribute.

With the theme of “Roads for a better life: Mobility, Sustainability and Development”, **the Mexico World Road Congress** will be concerned with the political, strategic and technical challenges facing the transport sector and roads. The global road community will be able to use this event to demonstrate its ability to respond to the aspirations of society and implement a fully responsible approach: how can we satisfy demand today without adversely affecting the potential for tomorrow? How can we reconcile demand for infrastructure, which is still considerable at a global level, with the need to safeguard the planet’s major equilibria?

The Congress is not only the culmination and summary of four years of remarkable work by several hundred persons representing 118 member governments and drawn from 32 National Committees from all over the world, but it also launches the next work cycle.

The 2012-2015 Strategic Plan continues the reform process which got under way in the cycle that is drawing to a close and that aimed to respond as well as possible to the expectations of the Association’s members by putting in place mechanisms that make it easier for them to contribute and which simplify access to the results of the Association’s work. The 18 Technical Committees will work on current issues in the area of roads and transport systems. These are grouped in four Strategic Themes that focus on, respectively, management and performance, accessibility and mobility, safety, and, lastly, infrastructure.

Behind us, lies a century of progress and achievements that have helped provide sustainable, safe and environmentally-friendly mobility for all. The proceedings of the Congress and the next cycle’s work will reinforce the efforts THE WORLD ROAD ASSOCIATION has made in the last 100 years to remain the principal forum for discussions and the exchange of views in the sphere of transport.

The different sections of this report set out the principal features of the last cycle and we therefore recommend it to your attention. It reflects the involvement of the members and the unflinching support of their organizations. I would like to express my gratitude to all those who, both now and in the past, have believed in the World Road Association’s mission and shown themselves willing to invest the necessary time and resources to ensure the Association’s success at an international level.



Anne-Marie LECLERC
President of the World Road Association (PIARC)

1. GOALS AND ACTIVITIES CONSISTENT WITH NEEDS

1.1. History and role of the Association

Founded in 1909 following the first International Road Congress held in 1908 in Paris, PIARC (Permanent International Association of Road Congresses) is the oldest international association in the road sector. It was renamed World Road Association in 1995. The World Road Association is a non-profit, non-political association. Its goal is to develop international cooperation and foster progress in the area of roads and road transport.

Founded by 15 countries, the World Road Association has 118 government members, as at October 1st 2010, as well as other members (regional authorities, collective members and individual members) from some 140 countries approximately.

Since 2007, five new governments were admitted as members of the Association: Moldavia, Monaco, Niger, Singapore and Cyprus.

The World Road Association (PIARC) 118 National Member Governments (*January 2011*)

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| ALGERIA | IVORY COAST | KUWAIT | RUSSIA |
| ANDORRA | CROATIA | LATVIA | SALVADOR) |
| ANGOLA | CUBA | LITHUANIA | SAUDI ARABIA |
| ARGENTINA | CYPRUS | LUXEMBOURG | SENEGAL |
| AUSTRALIA | CZECH Rep. | MADAGASCAR | SINGAPORE |
| AUSTRIA | DENMARK | MALAYSIA | SLOVAK REPUBLIC |
| AZERBAIJAN | DOMINICAN Rep. | MALI | SLOVENIA |
| BANGLADESH | ECUADOR | MAURITANIA | SOUTH AFRICA |
| BELGIUM | EGYPT | MAURITIUS | SPAIN |
| BENIN | ESTONIA | MEXICO | SRI LANKA |
| BHUTAN | FINLAND | MOLDAVIA | SWAZILAND |
| BOLIVIA | FRANCE | MONACO | SWEDEN |
| BRAZIL | GABON | MONGOLIA | SWITZERLAND |
| BULGARIA | GERMANY | MOROCCO | SYRIA |
| BURKINA FASO | GHANA | NAMIBIA | TANZANIA |
| BURUNDI | GREECE | NEPAL | THAILAND |
| CAMBODIA | GUATEMALA | THE NETHERLANDS | TOGO |
| CAMEROON | GUINEA | NEW ZEALAND | TONGA |
| CANADA | HONDURAS | NICARAGUA | TUNISIA |
| CANADA-QUEBEC | HUNGARY | NIGER | TURKEY |
| CAPE VERDE | ICELAND | NORWAY | UGANDA |
| CHAD | INDIA | PAKISTAN | UKRAINE |
| CHILE | INDONESIA | PANAMA | UNITED KINGDOM |
| CHINA (PEOP. REP.) | IRAN | PAPUA NEW GUINEA | UNITED STATES |
| COLOMBIA | IRELAND | PARAGUAY | URUGUAY |
| CONGO (REP.) | ISRAEL | PERU | UZBEKISTAN |
| CONGO (DEM REP) | ITALY | PHILIPPINES | VENEZUELA |
| COSTA RICA | JAPAN | POLAND | VIET NAM |
| | KENYA | PORTUGAL | YEMEN |
| | KOREA (Rep.) | ROMANIA | ZIMBABWE |

Since 1995, the World Road Association (PIARC) activities—funded by the fees from its membership — have been driven by strategic plans that are developed for a four-year period.

Although technical road matters naturally still play a significant part, the World Road Association also addresses economic and environmental matters, road safety, road infrastructure financing, as well as the changing organisation and roles of the Road Administrations, which are all central to current concerns of public authorities and professionals in the road and road transport sector.

The World Road Congresses -- the World Road Association's initial reason for being—as well as the International Winter Road Congresses are organised every four years. Both events provide opportunities to review the state of the art and practices and have forward-looking discussions to give direction to our action in the years to come.

For over fifty years, the World Road Association's work has been supported by Technical Committees that represent the areas of study and discussion forums and bring together experts from the member countries.

1.2. Strategic Plan 2008-2011

1.2.1. The World road Association's Mission, Values and Vision

The World Road Association's purpose, mission, values and vision, as identified in 1995, are still considered to be relevant.

The World Road Association exists to serve all its members by:

- being a leading international forum for analysis and discussion of the full spectrum of transport issues relating to roads and road transport,
- identifying, developing and disseminating best practices and facilitating improved access to international information,
- fully considering within its activities the needs of developing countries and countries in transition,
- developing and promoting efficient tools for decision making on matters related to roads and road transport,
- providing advice on directions to the world's transportation system.

The World Road Association's values are:

- to provide universal quality service to its members,
- to be open, objective and impartial,
- to promote the development of sustainable solutions,
- to recognise road transport in an integrated transport and land use context,
- to be customer driven,
- to respect the differing international road transport needs.

1.2.2. Strategic Objectives

Just like the three previous four-year plans, the 2008-2011 Strategic Plan was developed out of a survey of the First Delegates of the member governments, a consultation of the outgoing Technical Committees and the National Committees, and the conclusions of the previous Congress held in Paris in 2007. The Strategic Plan organizes the activities of the 17 Technical Committees in four Strategic Themes:

- Strategic Theme A: Sustainability of the Road Transport System;
- Strategic Theme B: Improving Provision of Services;
- Strategic Theme C: Safety of the Road System;
- Strategic Theme D: Quality of Road Infrastructure;

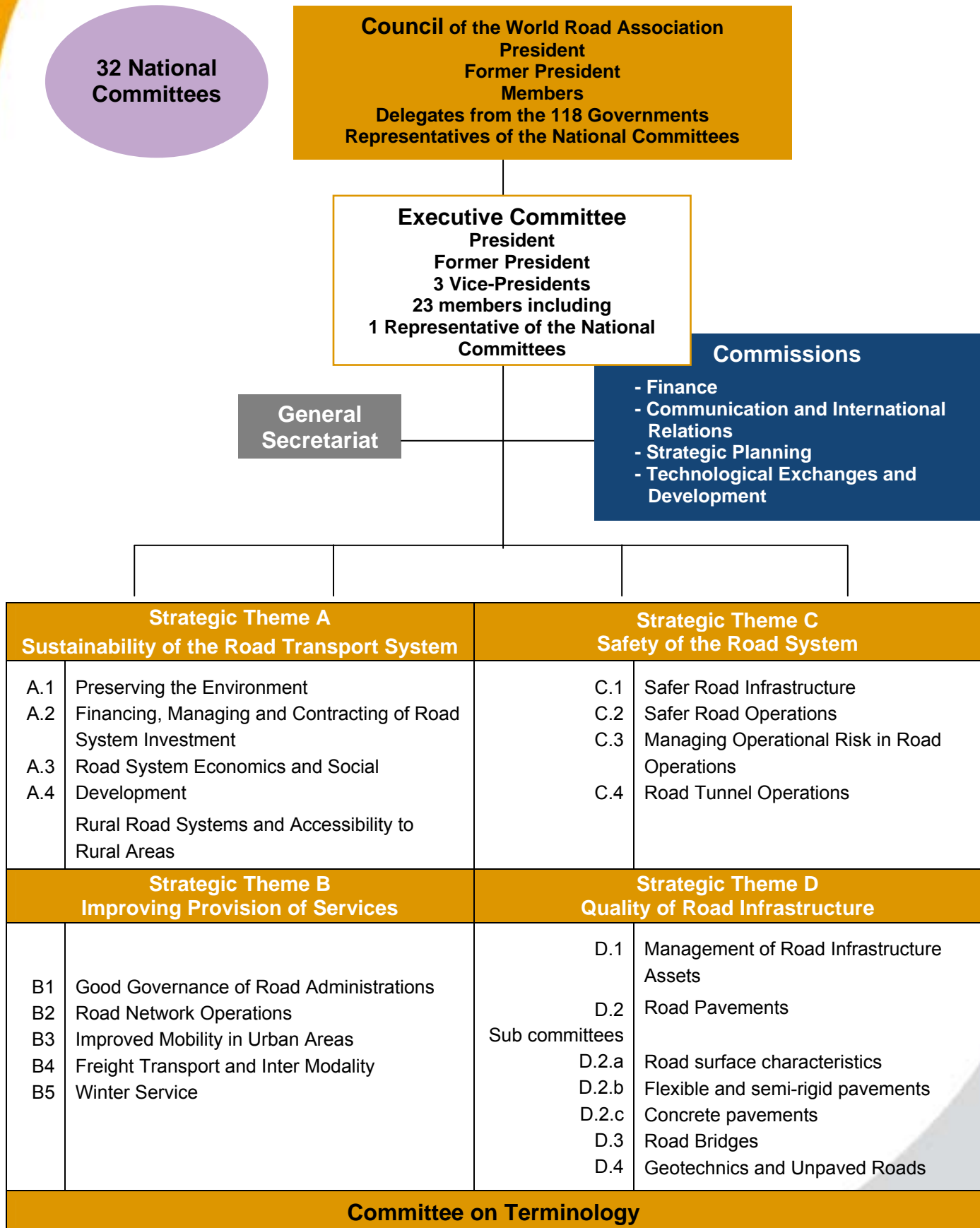
Besides the 17 Technical Committees, mention needs to be made of the Committee on Terminology whose activity runs across all themes.

In addition to the issues assigned to the Technical Committees, the 2008-2011 Strategic Plan has also defined a series of organisational goals to help the World Road Association fulfil its mission. These goals, listed below, have been translated into strategies for action:

1. Goal 1: To continuously improve the management and operation of The World Road Association in order to provide members with a service that represents good value for money.
2. Goal 2: To promote cooperation with regional organisations of road authorities and with other international organisations with related goals.
3. Goal 3: To develop and encourage professionally worthwhile and effective personal contact networks.
4. Goal 4: To host major Congresses that are valuable events for setting direction for the future, provide knowledge exchange and networking opportunities among members of the road transport community, and develop a range of options that are viable from the World Road Association's point of view.
5. Goal 5: To build and strengthen the activity and visibility of the Association at the national level.
6. Goal 6: To develop practical means for efficient and effective knowledge transfer among countries.
7. Goal 7: To improve participation of member governments, and to increase the number of members of the road community benefiting, whether through National Committees or by direct participation, in the World Road Association Technical Committees.
8. Goal 8: To produce and disseminate authoritative, impartial and interesting publications and products that address current road and road transport issues.
9. Goal 9: To put transparent and rigorous financial management of the Association in the service of its purpose and to optimise its resources in order to meet future challenges.
10. Goal 10: To identify, develop and promulgate policy and practices that contribute to safer and more effective management and use of road and road transport systems within an integrated sustainable transport context.

2. STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The following diagram outlines the way the Association operates for the period 2008–2011.



2.1. The World Road Association's Council

The Association is governed by the Council, which is made up of delegations from member governments, each led by a First Delegate, and representatives from the National Committees. The Council meets once a year.

During the period 2008-2011, the most important decisions made by the Council were as follows:

Marrakech, 29-30 October 2008

- Anne-Marie Leclerc (Canada-Quebec) was elected President of the World Road Association for the period running from 1st January 2009 to 31 December 2012. She took over this post from Colin Jordan (Australia).
- The members of the Executive Committee and the Vice-Presidents: Oscar De Buen (Mexico), Keiichi Inoue (Japan), Marc Papinutti (France) were elected for the period 2009-2012.
- The Council accepted the membership requests from the Republic of Moldavia, the Republic of Niger, the Republic of Singapore and the Principality of Monaco.
- The 2008-2011 Strategic Plan was definitively approved.
- The Council approved the increase in government membership fees for 2009.



Incheon, 24-25 September 2009

- The Council approved the signing of the Memorandum of understanding with the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia (REAAA).
- The Council approved the membership request from the Republic of Cyprus.
- The Council selected Andorra to organize the XIVth International Winter Road Congress.



Budapest, 20-22 October 2010

- The Council approved the principle of trialling a regional organization in some parts of the world with a few pilot Technical Committees;
- The Council gave the Executive Committee the green light to appoint, in 2011, the Strategic Theme Coordinators for the 2012-2015 work cycle after a call for nominations from member countries.
- The Council selected the application from Seoul (Republic of Korea) to organize the XXVth World Road Congress in 2015, and thanked Italy and the Czech Republic for their excellent proposal.



2.2. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meets at least twice a year and is in charge of supervising management of the Association. As of January 1st 2009, the Executive Committee Members have been as follows:



| | | |
|--|------------------------|--|
| President | Anne-Marie LECLERC | Canada-Québec |
| Former President | Colin JORDAN | Australia |
| Honorary Presidents | Enrique BALAGUER | Spain |
| | Victor MAHBUB | Mexico |
| | Olivier MICHAUD | Switzerland |
| | Hiroshi MITANI | Japan |
| Vice-Presidents | Marc PAPINUTTI | France (until October 2010) |
| | Keiichi INOUE | Japan |
| | Oscar DE BUEN | Mexico (until March 2011) |
| Members | Gunyaziwe MAKAULA | South Africa (until March 2011) |
| | Josef KUNZ | Germany |
| | Julio César ORTIZ | Argentina |
| | Menno HENNEVELD | Australia |
| | Claude VAN ROOTEN | Belgium |
| | Tchona IDOSSOU | Burkina Faso |
| | Bryce CONRAD | Canada (until September 2009) |
| | Martin LELIEVRE | Canada (from September 2009 to March 2011) |
| | Mario FERNANDEZ | Chile |
| | Dong-chang DAI | China |
| | Jai-Soo KANG | Republic of Korea (until October 2010) |
| | Sung-Hwan KIM | Republic of Korea (from October 2010) |
| | Jeffrey PANIATI | United States of America (USA) |
| | Christophe SAINTILLAN | France (from October 2010) |
| | Hreinn HARALDSSON | Iceland/NVF |
| | Riccardo FORMICA | Italy |
| | Abdul Karim bin JUDIN | Malaysia |
| | Hicham N'HAMMOUCHA | Morocco |
| | Gheorghe LUCACI | Romania |
| | Jim BARTON | United-Kingdom (UK) |
| | Peter PENGAL | Slovenia (until September 2009) |
| | Bojan LEBEN | Slovenia (from September 2009) |
| | Carlo MARIOTTA | Switzerland |
| | Joseph Odo HAULE | Tanzania |
| Representative of the National Committees | M. Friedrich ZOTTER | Austria |
| Secretary General | M. Jean-François CORTÉ | France |

The Executive Committee held the following meetings:

2008 – Québec (Canada-Québec), 12-13 February; Helsinki (Finland) 12 June; Marrakech (Morocco), 30 October;

2009 – Mexico (Mexico), 4-5 March; Glasgow (United Kingdom) 5 June;

2010 - Québec (Canada-Québec), 11-12 February; Budapest (Hungary) 19 October;

2011 – Perth (Australia) 5-6 April; Mexico City (Mexico) 23 September;

The important subjects covered in the Executive Committee meetings include:

Implementation of the 2008-2011 Strategic Plan

- creating the Technical Committees for 2008-2011: finalizing the terms of reference, appointing the Chairs and the English, French and Spanish speaking secretaries;
- appointing the Chairs and members of the 4 Commissions and approving their action plans and work programmes for the period 2009-2012;
- orienting and overseeing the activities of the Themes and Technical Committees.

Congress

- Approval of the programme of the XXIVth Winter Road Congress to be held in Mexico City in 2011: Ministers' Session, the topics for the Special Sessions and the Strategic Direction Sessions, and for the call for individual papers;
- The terms of reference for the call for applications for organizing the XIVth international Winter Road Congress in 2014;
- Validation of the requirements and issuing the call for applications for organizing the XXVth World Road Congress in 2015;
- Examination of the Memorandum of understanding with Korea for organizing the XXVth World Road Congress in 2015 with a view to its validation by the Council and signing in Mexico City.

Preparation of the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan

- Modification of the timetable for the appointment of the Strategic Theme Coordinators, Chairs and Secretaries of the Technical Committees;
- Conducting a review of the project to redesign the Road Safety Handbook that was placed in the hands of a specially formed working group;
- Preparation of the Strategic Plan 2012-2015 for validation by the Council and signing in Mexico City.

Communication and international relations

- Approving the communication and marketing plan;
- Drawing up the action plan to celebrate the Association's centenary;
- Drafting and approval of a framework for a memorandum of understanding and a process for recognizing an existing national or regional organization as acting as a National Committee;
- Preparing the declaration committing the Association to participating in the United Nations' Decade of Action for Road Safety.

2.3. Commissions

Four Commissions assist the Executive Committee in its tasks:

1. Finance Commission,
2. Communication and International Relations Commission,
3. Strategic Planning Commission,
4. Technological Exchanges and Development Commission

2.3.1. The Finance Commission



The Commission, which is chaired by Mr Carlo Mariotta (Switzerland) (*picture*), is jointly responsible, with the General Secretariat, and subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, for managing all aspects/items related to the use of the Association's funds. During this period, in accordance with Goal 9 of the Strategic Plan, which is to achieve transparent and rigorous financial management of the Association, the Commission has focused on, in particular:

- the previous year's accounts (approval of accounts that have been closed);
- implementation of the budget for the current year;
- the draft budget for the following year;
- financial considerations relating to the Mexico City Congress and the Quebec City and Andorra Winter Road Congresses.

A very healthy financial situation

The financial policy the Council adopted in 2005 has been continued in 2008-2011, resulting in an increase in the level of the Association's own funds, due to the increase in membership fees that was decided in 2005, to Congress revenues, and to continuing prudence over expenditure. As a result, an increase in individual and collective membership fees was avoided and all that was required was a limited readjustment of government membership fees in 2008.

Annual membership fees for the 2008-2011 period

- Government membership fees

| Membership category | Government membership fees (in euros) | | |
|---------------------|--|--------|-----------|
| | For reference: 2006-2007 membership fee | 2008 | 2009-2011 |
| A | 17 700 | 18 750 | 19 350 |
| B | 10 750 | 11 400 | 11 800 |
| C | 6 700 | 7 100 | 7 300 |
| D | 4 300 | 4 550 | 4 700 |
| E | 2 500 | 2 650 | 2 750 |

- Individual and collective members fees

| | Membership fees (euros) | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| | For reference: 2007 membership fee | 2008-2011 |
| Collective Member | | |
| high income countries | 440 | 455 |
| Other countries | 270 | 280 |
| Individual members | | |
| High income countries | 54 | 56 |
| Other countries | 27 | 28 |

2.3.2. Communication and International Relations Commission



The Communication and International Relations Commission, under the chairmanship of Menno HENNEVELD (Australia) (*picture*), held its first meeting on 2 and 3 June 2009 in Glasgow (United Kingdom). This meeting decided on the Commission's work programme with reference to the general goals that have been assigned to it, namely:

- increase awareness and recognition of the Association as an international forum for the exchange of information and knowledge;
- widely disseminate the output of the Technical Committees;
- increase membership.

An active communication policy

In order to increase participation in the Association's activities and build up membership, the Commission has developed a communication and marketing plan, which was put before the Executive Committee and the Council in Budapest. This document will structure the Association's activities in these areas in the coming years

Working in partnership with the General Secretariat, the Commission has produced a set of information and promotion documents on the Association, which include a presentation brochure, a guide for First Delegates and documents on the benefits that are offered to members.

With regard to the Association's communication resources, the Commission, working with the General Secretariat, decided on the content of satisfaction surveys that have been conducted among the readership of Routes/Roads and visitors to the public area of the website. These surveys were conducted in the first quarter of 2010. The results were then analyzed and used to identify measures, which have since been put in place.

Broadening the Association's audience and encouraging partnerships

The Commission has submitted a set of proposals to the Executive Committee to foster interest and involvement in the activities of the Association among young professionals.

The Commission has monitored the implementation of the protocols of agreement the Association has signed with other international organizations and performed the groundwork for new agreements (REAAA, DIRCAIBEA, Nordic Road Association).

The Commission has defined the rules of the World Road Association Prizes Competition. The Prizes will be awarded to the best individual papers selected for the XXIVth World Road Congress in Mexico City in 2011.

THE WORLD ROAD ASSOCIATION Prizes Competition 2011

This competition, which aims to heighten the profile of the road sector and promote the World Road Association's activities, elicited a large number of entries.

After a preliminary selection by member countries, 41 essays from 28 countries were sent to the international jury, which was chaired by Menno Henneveld and made up of J.-F. Corté (World Road Association General Secretariat), and a representative of each country that is sponsoring one of the prizes: Menno Henneveld (Australia/New-Zealand), Claude van Rooten (Belgium), Christian Therrien (Canada-Québec), Patrick Mallejacq (France), Hirofumi Ohnishi (Japan), Joe Burns (United Kingdom), Keechoo Choi (Korea) and Butch Wlaschin (United States).

These essays were competing for one of the following eight prizes: road construction and design, road maintenance and operation, road safety, sustainable development, intermodality, young professionals, developing countries, and the Maurice Milne medal for the most innovative idea.

The results of the competition will be announced at the opening session of the Mexico City Congress.

2.3.3. Strategic Planning Commission



The Strategic Planning Commission, chaired by Jim Barton (*picture*), met for the first time on 3-4 June 2009 in Glasgow (United Kingdom). During this meeting, the work programme was refined. The Commission is responsible for:

- overseeing the implementation of the current strategic plan,
- deciding on the technical programme for the 2011 World Congress in Mexico City,
- revising the statutory documents,
- preparing the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Planning Commission includes the Strategic Theme Coordinators, who are chosen from the Executive Committees, and has the task of advising the Technical Committees that relate to their theme and ensuring the work is conducted in accordance with the goals set out in the Strategic Plan.

For the period 2008-2011, the Strategic Themes coordinators have been as follows:

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| A. Sustainability of the Road Transport System | Mr Dong-Chang DAI, then Mr Hicham N'HAMMOUCHA | China, Morocco |
| B. Improving Provision of Services | M. Keiichi INOUE | Japan |
| C. Safety of the Road System | M. Jeffrey PANIATI | United States of America |
| D. Quality of Road Infrastructure | M. Gheorghe LUCACI | Romania |

Streamlining the operation of the Association and introducing innovative working methods.

The Commission has drawn up a set of proposals for improving the quality of the output of the Technical Committees and working procedures (a more precise definition of the role of the Theme Coordinators and the Technical Advisors).

To make it possible for work to start more quickly after the beginning of the cycle, the timetable for the appointment of the Strategic Theme Coordinators, the Chairs and Secretaries of the Technical Committees has been modified.

These proposals have been added the members' guide ("Blue Guide").

In addition, at the initiative of the Strategic Planning Commission, the Executive Committee will submit a proposal to the Council in Mexico City to organize activities regionally in some parts of the world, on a trial basis during the 2012-2015 cycle and with a limited number of pilot Technical Committees. The four geographical regions that have been selected for trialling regional groups are: Latin America, French-speaking Africa, English-speaking Africa, Australasia and Asia.

In order to produce a new version of the Road Safety Manual that promotes a holistic approach to the topic, the Commission has planned to set up a specific study group led by the coordinator of Strategic Theme C and the General Secretariat.

A Strategic Plan for 2012-2015 that meets the new aspirations of the member countries

Preparation of the draft 2012-2015 Strategic Plan involved an iterative process of debate and consultation which expressed the concerns of member countries in the terms of reference of the new Technical Committees (for example road safety, responsibility with regard to climate change, a sustainable approach to mobility, risk management, and an intermodal approach to transport needs). The Executive Committee will present the draft to the Council for approval in Mexico City.

2.3.4. The Technological Exchanges and Development Commission



The Technological Exchanges and Development Commission chaired by Abdul Karim JUDIN (Malaysia) (*picture*), met for the first time on 27 and 28 April 2009 in Kuala-Lumpur (Malaysia).

In line with its responsibility for Goal 6 on knowledge transfer, during the cycle the Commission has:

- established, with the General Secretariat, the main directions for restructuring the Association's website with a view to improving access to THE WORLD ROAD ASSOCIATION's output, and encouraging the sharing of knowledge and experience;
- added to the directory of training organizations that is available on the website;
- supervised the programme of international seminars;
- supervised use of the Special Fund, which provides individual financial aid to help members from countries with low-income economies take part in the Association's activities. In this connection, between 2008 and 2010, 108,000 Euros were used to finance the attendance by 80 persons from 24 countries at meetings of Technical Committees, the Council, the Executive Committee and other Commissions, as well as seminars;
- developed contacts with other international organizations with a view to identifying synergies for action.

In the next cycle, an expert working group will be set up to deal with knowledge transfer instead of a Commission, and the remaining duties of the Technological Exchanges and Developing Commission will be divided between the other Commissions on the basis of their nature.

2.4. National Committees

The Association encourages the creation of National Committees in order to:



- represent it at a national level;
- widen its audience and increase participation in the activities of the Association;
- achieve wide dissemination of the results and recommendations arising from its work.

On 1st January 2011, there were 32 **National Committees**.

The Chairs and Secretaries of the National Committees meet once a year at a date that coincides with the Council meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Friedrich Zotter (Austria) (*picture*), who, in 2008, was elected representative of the National Committees on the Executive Committee.

At the national level, the National Committees organize a variety of meetings, for example workshops and seminars, either on their own or in collaboration with the Technical Committees, National Road Administrations or other organizations.

In 2008 – 2011, ***promotion and information*** operations with regard to the role and activities of the National Committees continued and intensified with:

- dissemination of the quarterly electronic newsletter which is published in French, English and Spanish; the General Secretariat is responsible for the layout and putting the newsletter on the website;
- development, in partnership with the General Secretariat, of a framework memorandum of understanding to allow recognition that an existing body acts as a National Committee. This document was approved by the Council in Budapest in October 2010;
- the corresponding modification of the Guide on the creation of a National Committee;
- introduction of a section dealing with National Committees in *Routes/Roads* .

In addition, in 2009, a very large number of the National Committees organized an event to mark **the Association's centenary**. This took a variety of forms (conferences, workshops associated with another conference, books and papers,...) particularly in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Spain, France, Japan, the Baltic Countries, Quebec, Romania, Slovenia and Switzerland.

2.5. General Secretariat of the World Road Association

The World Road Association General Secretariat's team comprises salaried administrative staff of the Association and executives seconded to the Association by several member countries.

As of July 1st 2011, the General Secretary of the Association comprises:

- The General Secretary, Jean-François CORTÉ, whose term of office was extended until 31st December 2012 by the Executive committee in Budapest in October 2010;
- A Deputy General Secretary, Jean-Marc PHILIPPEAU, who took up his post in September 2010, taking over from Franck CHARMAISON whose secondment ended in February 2010;



Both are seconded to the Association by the French government.

- Six salaried administrative staff (on the Association's payroll)
 - Véronique ANSELIN, Director's Assistant, since 1985
 - Marie PASTOL, Translator/Interpreter, since 1991
 - Nathalie SABBAN, Assistant, since 1995
 - Cécile AUROUSSEAU, Publications Assistant, since 1997
 - Céline LE GRACIET, Publications Advisor, since 2004,
 - Hanitra RABETALIANA, accountant and management assistant, since 2008.

Roger APHAREL who worked as an accountant for the Association for fifteen years, retired in June 2010.

- Five technical advisors seconded by Austroads, Spain, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Nordic Road Association (NVF) are seconded for periods varying from 9 months to more than 2 years. On an exceptional basis, other advisors coming from other countries can also be seconded: this was the case with Ivory Coast from 2007 to 2008.

Tours of duty among the technical advisors have been as follows during the relevant period of this report:

- Toussaint AGUY (Ivory Coast) worked at the General Secretariat from January 2007 to November 2008;
- Hye-Ok LEE, very first Technical Advisor from the Republic of Korea, worked at the General Secretariat from November 2009 until mid-January 2011). Byeong-Jin LEE took over in January 2011;
- Secondments by NVF: Arve KIRKEVOLD (Norway; January to October 2007); Fredrik FRIBERG (Sweden; October 2007 to December 2008); Sanna KOLOMAINEN (Finland; January 2009 to February 2010); Johanne SOLHEIM (Norway; February to December 2010); Carolina THEOLIN-PALMELL (Sweden; since January 2011);
- Secondments by Austroads: Leanne GRANT (October 2007 to June 2008); Michelle BARAN (June 2008 to March 2009); Jeremy KALTENRIEDER (March 2009 to February 2010); Mozelle Morisson (February 2010 to October 2010); Claire MURDOCH (since October 2010);
- Secondments by Japan: Masamitsu Waga (October 2006 to October 2008); Masaki TSUBOUCHI (October 2008 to October 2010); Yasuyuki MATSUMOTO (since October 2010);
- Miguel CASO-FLOREZ (Spain) has been working at the General Secretariat since 2005.



Pictures from left to right : Byeong-Jin LEE, Carolina THEOLIN-PALMELL, CLAIRE MURDOCH, YASUYUKI MATSUMOTO, MIGUEL CASO-FLOREZ

3. THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES IN 2008-2011

3.1. Technical Committees

Eighteen Committees were set up and organized on the basis of the four Strategic Themes in order to deal with the issues identified in the 2008-2011 Strategic Plan. Approximately 1200 experts and decision-makers from almost 60 countries and various international organizations took part in the work of the Committees.

Each Committee met approximately twice a year in order to carry through the work programme that was adopted in 2008. In some cases, the meetings were associated with study days, conferences or congresses, which made it possible to achieve more exchanges outside the Committee and improve dissemination of results.

Prolific activity

The Technical Committees were the backbone of the:

- seminars for developing and transition countries, with the organization of **26 seminars and workshops**,
- the **International Winter Road Congress**, in Quebec City in 2010,
- the **SURF2008** symposium on surface characteristics, held in Portoroz (Slovenia) in 2008. More information on these events is given in Section 4.4.

For the 2007-2011 cycle, which is drawing to a close, the Technical Committees have announced the production of **54 technical reports**, the first of which were sent to the General Secretariat for publication at the end of the first half of 2011.

This section will merely give a brief survey of the goals and terms of reference, which were given to the Technical Committees in the 2007- 2011 Strategic Plan. Detailed information on the activity of all the Technical Committees and their output during 2008-2011 is given in the individual committee reports which are annexed to this activity report.

3.1.1. Theme A - Sustainability of the Road Transport System



The goal of this strategic theme is to encourage the development of road transport policies and programmes that result in beneficial community outcomes for sustainable and safe mobility in economic, environmental and social terms, with special attention paid to energy issues and the mitigation of the impacts on climate from the road transport system.

Hicham N'HAMMOUCHA (Maroc)
Coordinateur du ST A

This theme covers the activities of the following Technical Committees: A.1 (Preserving the Environment), A.2 (Financing, Managing and Contracting of Road System Investments), A.3 (Road System Economics and Social Development) and A.4 (Rural Road Systems and Accessibility to Rural Areas) which have focused on the following issues:



- Identification of national policies for reduction in energy consumption when constructing, maintaining and operating the road transport system;
- Monitoring of environmental impacts of the road transport system and monitoring of alternative solutions for fossil fuel;
- Investigation of approaches to the economic evaluation of mobility pricings effects including managing demand, internalisation of external costs, modal shift and social acceptance;
- Review of the evolving roles of the public and private sectors in the provision of sustainable road systems and the levels of private sector participations in management, maintenance, operations, funding and financing

Technical Committee A1. Preserving the Environment

Chairman: Simon PRICE (United Kingdom)

French-speaking Secretary: Agnès JULLIEN (France)

English-speaking Secretary: Lisa ROSSITER (New Zealand)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: Juan Fernando MENDOZA (Mexico)

Technical Committee A2- Financing, Managing and Contracting of Road System Investments

Chairman: Henri CHUA (United Kingdom)
 French-speaking Secretary: Samira IRSANE-SEMAAN (France)
 English-speaking Secretary: Mike GOODALE (Canada)
 Spanish-speaking Secretary: Gerardo GAVILANES (Spain)

Technical Committee A3 - Road System Economics and Social Development

Chairman: Alberto COMPTE (Spain)
 French-speaking Secretary: Maxime JEBALI (France)
 Spanish-speaking Secretary: Guillermo TORRES (Mexico)

Technical Committee A4 - Rural Road Systems and Accessibility to Rural Areas

Chairman: Enrique Leon DE LA BARRA (Mexico)
 French-speaking Secretary: Tiraogo OUEDRAOGO (Burkina-Faso)
 Spanish-speaking Secretary: Eric SICKAM (Papua-New-Guinea)

3.1.2. Theme B - Improving Provision of Services



The goal of this theme is to encourage the improvement of services provided to the community by improved operation of the road transport system, integration with other transport modes, good governance and a customer-oriented approach.

This theme covers the activities of the following Technical Committees: B1 (Good Governance of Road Administrations), B2 (Road Network Operations), B.3 (Improved Mobility in Urban Areas), B.4 (Freight Transport and Inter-Modality) and B.5 (Winter Service) which have focused on the following issues:

Keiichi INOUE (Japon)
Coordinateur du ST B

- Transforming the road administrations into exemplary players of good governance, institutional integrity and performance measurement fostering a customer-oriented approach;
- Examine the understanding of and successful approaches, including the benefits of Intelligent Transport Systems, to managing traffic flow on major urban and interurban roads in congested areas.
- Balancing the share of urban transport modes to reduce congestion and improve mobility in cities. Investigate the best approaches towards integrating the different modes of transport, including non-motorized mobility.
- Ensure safety and sustainability of freight transport: improved management of freight corridors and interfaces of freight transport with other modes.
- Improve winter service and communication with road users in order to ensure safe driving on the road network under difficult weather conditions.

Technical Committee B.1 - Good Governance of Road Administrations

Chairman: Paul VAN DER KROON (Netherlands)
 French-speaking Secretary: André BERNARD (France)
 English-speaking Secretary: Brendan NUGENT (Australia)
 Spanish-speaking Secretary: Carmen PICON (Spain)

Technical Committee B.2 -**Road Network Operations**

Chairman: Martial CHEVREUIL
(France)

French-speaking Secretary: Alexis
BACELAR (France)

English-speaking Secretary: Richard
HARRIS (United Kingdom)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: Juan Othon MORENO (Mexico)

**Technical Committee B.3 - Improved Mobility in Urban Areas**

Chairman: Hubert PEIGNE (France)

French-speaking Secretary: Marc ELLENBERG (France)

English-speaking Secretary: Anita CURNOW (Australia)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: Cecilia OLAGUE (Mexico)

Technical Committee B.4 - Freight Transport and Inter-Modality

Chairman: Hans SILBORN (Norway)

French-speaking Secretary: Benoit CAYOUILLE (Canada-Québec)

English-speaking Secretary: Cecil SELNESS (USA)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: Juan Carlos ESPINOSA (Mexico)

Technical Committee B.5 – Winter Service

Chair: Gudrun OEBERG (Sweden)

French-speaking Secretary: Didier GILOPPE (France)

English-speaking Secretary: Paul PISANO (USA)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: José DEL PINO ALVAREZ (Spain)

3.1.3. Theme C - Safety of the Road System

The goal of this theme is to improve the safety and efficiency of the road system, including the movement of people and goods on the network, while effectively managing the risks associated with road transport operations and the natural environment.

This theme covers the activities of the following Technical Committees: C.1 (Safer Road Infrastructure), C.2 (Safer Road Operations), C.3 (Managing Operational Risk in Road Operations) et C.4 (Road Tunnel Operations) which have focused on the following issues:

Jeffrey PANIATI (Etats-Unis)
Coordinateur du ST C

- Improving road design for vulnerable road users and for urban roads, ensuring a better integration of human factors in road design standards, and improving safety of road workers
- Studying and comparing cost/benefit analyses used by different road administrations for investment in safety schemes.
- Introducing risk management in the road sector; Identifying approaches being used to assess the risks associated with natural disasters, climate changes, man made disasters and security threats.
- Providing a safer tunnel infrastructure; improving operations and maintenance of tunnels; ventilation and fire extinction; integrating human factors in the safety of tunnels.

Technical Committee C.1 - Safer Road**Infrastructure**

Chairman: Hans-Joachim VOLLPRACHT
(Germany)

French-speaking Secretary: Lise FOURNIER
(Canada-Québec)

English-speaking Secretary: John DOUGLAS
(Australia)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: Roberto
LLAMAS (Spain)

**Technical Committee C.2 - Safer Road Operations**

Chairman: Ahmad FAHRAN Mohd Sadullah (Malaysia)

French-speaking Secretary: Etienne WILLAME (Belgium)

English-speaking Secretary: Paul GUTOSKIE (Canada)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: Jesus LEAL (Spain)

Technical Committee C.3 - Managing Operational Risk in Road Operations

Chairman: Michio OKAHARA (Japan)

French-speaking Secretary: Johanne LEGAULT (Canada-Québec)

English-speaking Secretary: Hiroyuki NAKAJIMA (Japan)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: Gustavo MORENO (Mexico)

Technical Committee C.4 - Road Tunnel Operations

Chairman: Pierre SCHMITZ (Belgium)

French-speaking Secretary: Alexandre DEBS (Canada-Québec)

English-speaking Secretary: Robin HALL (United Kingdom)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: Ignacio DEL REY (Spain)

3.1.4. Theme D - Quality of Road Infrastructure

The goal of this theme is to improve the quality of road infrastructure through the effective management of assets in accordance with user expectations and managers' requests.

This theme covers the activities of the following Technical Committees: D.1 (Management of Road Infrastructure Assets), D.2 (Road Pavements), D.3 (Road Bridges), D.4 (Geotechnics and Unpaved Roads).

Gheorghe LUCACI (Roumanie)
Coordinateur du STD

Technical Committee D2 was organized in three sub-committees: road surface characteristics, flexible and semi-rigid pavements, and concrete pavements. The three sub-committees while autonomous were called to work on the same issues. This way of working in sub-committees did not prove its effectiveness and therefore will not be renewed for the next cycle.

The Technical Committees have focused on the following issues:

- Improving knowledge of asset infrastructure and its condition in order to plan maintenance and allocate limited resources across asset types; conceiving an effective data collection system to help road administrations' budgetary decision-making;
- Reducing time and costs of construction of new road pavements; increasing durability through adequate maintenance and encouraging pavement recycling;
- Review inspection regimes and strategies for assessing the conditions of bridges;
- Analysing the latest techniques for non destructive testing for surveying the condition of structures; analyzing innovative techniques for maintenance and rehabilitation of bridges.
- Encouraging the use of local materials and promoting innovations in the areas of construction and maintenance of unpaved roads in developing countries.



Technical Committee D.1 - Management of Road Infrastructure Assets

Chair: Anita KÜNKEL-HENKER (Germany)

French-speaking Secretary: Ghislaine BAILLEMONT (France)

English-speaking Secretary: Mick LORENZ (Australia)

Secrétaire hispanophone: Jose ORTIZ (Colombia)

Technical Committee D.2 - Road Pavements

Chairman: Michel BOULET (France)

French-speaking Secretary: Guy TREMBLAY (Canada-Québec)

English-speaking Secretary: Suneel N. VANIKAR (USA)

organized in the following three sub-committees:

D.2.a Road surface characteristics

Chairman: Francesca LA TORRE (Italy)

French-speaking Secretary: Luc-Amaury GEORGE (France)

English-speaking Secretary: Peter BRYANT (Australia)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: Rodolfo TELLEZ (Mexico)

D.2.b Flexible and semi-rigid pavements

Chairman: David HEIN (Canada)

French-speaking Secretary: Marie-Thérèse GOUX (France)

English-speaking Secretary: Hyun Jong LEE (Republic of Korea)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: Rafael LIMON (Mexico)

D.2.c Concrete pavements

Chairman: Raymond DEBROUX (Belgium)

French-speaking Secretary: Thierry SEDRAN (France)

English-speaking Secretary: Anne-Séverine POUPELEER (Belgium)

Spanish-speaking Secretary: Juan José OROZCO (Mexico)

Technical Committee D.3 - Road Bridges

Chairman: Satoshi KASHIMA (Japan)
 French-speaking Secretary: Pierre GILLES (Belgium)
 English-speaking Secretary: Brian HICKS (Canada)
 Spanish-speaking Secretary: Pablo DIAZ SIMAL (Spain)

Technical Committee D.4 - Geotechnics and Unpaved Roads

Chairman: Martin SAMSON (Canada)
 French-speaking Secretary: Jean-Claude AURIOL (France)
 English-speaking Secretary: Alex KIDD (United Kingdom)
 Spanish-speaking Secretary: Paul GARNICA (Mexico)

3.1.5. Committee on Terminology

The goals of the Committee on Terminology are as follows:

- Update the existing version of the terminology data base, including ongoing upgrading of the French and English versions of the various dictionaries.
- Increase the number of languages of translation of the various dictionaries in liaison with the member countries of the World Road Association.

Chairman: Daniel VERFAILLIE (Belgium)
 French-speaking Secretary: Bernard LOMBARDI (France)
 English-speaking Secretary: Martin LAMB (United Kingdom)
 Spanish-speaking Secretary: Cristina HIGUERA (Spain)



3.2. Communication



The World Road Association makes its activities and output known by means of a variety of media which complement each other in terms of their content, form and mode of dissemination:

- a website www.piarc.org;
- an electronic newsletter;
- Routes/Roads, which is a quarterly printed bilingual magazine (French/English);
- technical reports and other documents produced by the Technical Committees;
- the proceedings of international congresses and seminars organized by the Association;
- communication documents.

3.2.1. The Website

The website has become the main tool for the Association's communication activities and operation.

A more user-friendly public site

The majority of the respondents to the survey of visitors to the public area of the website, undertaken during the first quarter of 2010, were positive about the topics covered. However, the views expressed on some aspects showed there is a need for improvements as regards navigation within the website, readability and the organization of information. The selectivity of the search engine should also be improved.



The General Secretariat has formulated the technical specifications for restructuring the website, based on the Road Knowledge Support System proposal made by the Commission on Technological Exchanges and Development. The aim is to introduce the new version of the website before the Mexico Congress.

An increase in site traffic in the course of the cycle

The number of website visitors has been constantly increasing.

In 2008, the monthly average number of visitors was 5 700, with 17,500 pages visited approximately. These numbers have remained about the same for the following years.

In 2011, year of the World Congress, the figures of the previous years had been reached within six months already: 6 200 monthly visits and 17,400 pages visited!

Peaks of up to 500 visits per day were recorded over the whole period.

The number of visits in the Virtual Library and Terminology websites has also shown an increase:

- Virtual Library: from 2 580 visits/month in 2009 to 3 090 over the first six months in 2011 (with peaks of 250 visits day),
- Terminology: from 1 480 visits/month in 2009 to 1550 over the first 6 months in 2011 (peaks of 120 visits a day).

Regarding the Directory of Professional Training Organizations, the number of visitors has unfortunately remained low: 240 visits/month in 2009; 200 in 2010; and 190 over the first six months of 2011.

3.2.2. The electronic newsletter

An electronic newsletter has been published every 2 to 3 months since June 2005. It aims to draw attention to the events organized by the Association, and provide notification of new publications, etc. It also disseminates the National Committees newsletter, which in 2011 is sent to a readership of 6,000.

3.2.3. "Routes/Roads"

This magazine is the World Road Association's printed vehicle of communication and provides fuller information and descriptions of results than the website www.piarc.org and the electronic newsletter.



This bilingual French-English magazine is distributed in 142 pays and has a quarterly print run of 5,700. In addition to overviews (the “Features” section), each issue contains a number of short articles presenting news from member countries.

An international magazine that is highly valued by its readership

The survey of the readership of Routes/Roads that was conducted in early 2010 showed that readers were very satisfied with both its content (range of topics and the quality of the articles) and presentation.

Several adjustments were introduced in the page design already in issue 348, October 2010. A few minor changes will be made to its layout from early 2012.

A number of changes in editorial content have been made since 2008, with the inclusion of the following in each issue:

- since April 2010, there is a section on the National Committees that has so far drawn attention to the activities of the National Committees in Belgium, Burkina-Faso, Korea, Spain, India, Morocco, Mexico and the Czech Republic;
- since April 2011, there is a new section on young professionals: “*Mise en lumière d’un jeune professionnel*” / “*Spotlights on Young Professionals*”.

In addition, an Editorial Committee was set up at the end of 2010 to advise the General Secretariat on the editorial policy of Routes/Roads.

A double issue of the magazine, No. 336-337 of January 2008 was entirely given over to the Paris Congress, and in particular contains the General Report.

Two thematic issues have been published since the Paris Congress:

- one on road maintenance in Latin America, which was produced jointly with the Council of Iberian and South American Road Directors DIRCAIBEA (No. 339/3rd quarter 2008)
- the other on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) (No.351, July 2011), which was prepared with Technical Committee B2 *Road Network Operations*.



3.2.4. Technical Reports

After the Paris Congress in September 2007, the General Secretariat published 55 reports which the Technical Committees had produced during the 2004-2007 work cycle.

For the 2007-2011 cycle, which is drawing to a close, the Technical Committees have announced the production of 54 reports. At the end of the first half of 2011, the very first of these had been sent to the General Secretariat for publication. Publication will be in electronic form as PDF files on the Association’s website and will begin in the second half of 2011 and continue in 2012.

To coincide with the Quebec City International Winter Maintenance Congress in 2010, Technical Committee B5 *Winter Service* published the third edition of the



Snow and Ice Databook (2010R03) which presents the state of the art on winter maintenance practices in 25 member countries..

Since the resolution that was adopted by the Council in Beijing in 2005, the technical reports and the articles that are published in Routes/Roads can be accessed by the public free of charge from the "Virtual Library" on the website <http://publications.the World Road Association.org/en/> . In mid-2011, 196 Technical Reports and 120 articles are on line.

Electronic handbooks

The Association has started work on a web-based thematic presentation of the knowledge and output of the Technical Committees in the areas where the World Road Association is active. Two initiatives which constitute pilot operations prior to general application in the coming years are worth mentioning here:

- the updating and creation of an electronic version of the **Handbook on Intelligent Transport Systems**, which is available in the Road Network Operations area of the website. This work, which is managed by Technical Committee B2, supplements that which was carried out during the last cycle which resulted in the **Handbook on Road Network Operation** (picture) ;
- the creation of a **Handbook on Road Tunnels**, which organizes and presents the Association's entire output in this area. This work has been conducted by Technical Committee C4.

These two projects will be presented to the public at the Mexico City Congress.

Terminology

The Terminology Commission has continued to update the multilingual technical dictionaries and lexicons that are available in electronic format on the World Road Association's website.

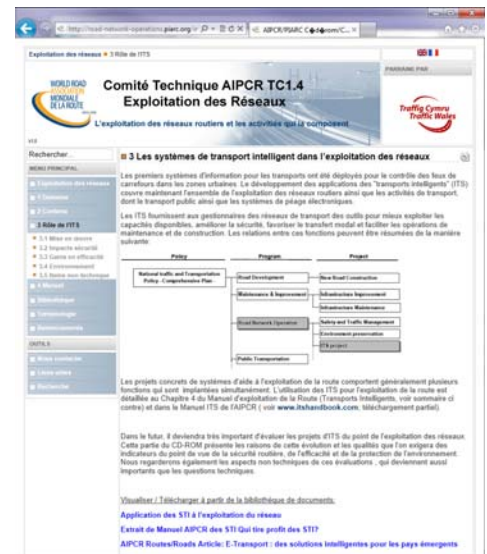
Book for the centenary of the Association

In order to mark the centenary of the Association, a book describing 100 years of Congresses has been prepared by a group of historians under the direction of the Secretary General, Jean-François Corté. This book will be presented at Mexico City.

3.2.5. The proceedings of the World Road Congress and Winter Road Congresses

In the first half of 2008, the General Secretariat produced and disseminated the DVD containing the final proceedings of the XXIIIrd World Road Congress held in Paris.

The organizing Committee of the International Winter Road Congress has produced, in collaboration with the General Secretariat, the proceedings of the congress it held in 2010.



The General Secretariat has digitized the proceedings of all the World Road Congresses since the first in 1908. These can be accessed on the new version of the Association’s website. Publication on DVD is also a possibility for 2012.

3.2.6. Communication documents

In early 2010, the General Secretariat produced a new presentation brochure for the Association which follows the new graphic charter.

The texts and graphics have been placed at the disposal of the National Committees to enable them to produce a brochure about themselves in their national language.



A document setting out the benefits of membership of the Association has been prepared with the Communication and International Relations Commission and will be distributed at Mexico City.

3.3. Congresses

3.3.1. World Road Congress

The principal goal of the World Road Congresses, which are organized every four years by the Association and a member country, is to bring together decision-makers and experts from the worldwide road and road transport sector to present and discuss recent experience and trends.

The XXIIIrd World Road Congress (Paris, 17-21 September 2007)

The XXIIIrd World Road Congress attracted more than 3,500 participants from 121 countries. Its general theme was “The Choice for Sustainable Development”, and the Congress programme included 45 half-day sessions (Technical Committees, Special Sessions, etc.).

The Ministers’ Session brought together slightly fewer than 60 Ministers who participated in three roundtable discussions on the topic of “User charging: potential and limits”.

In addition, more than 1,500 participants took part in the Congress exhibition which featured almost 200 exhibitors and included 16 national pavilions. The World Road Association had a room for its exhibition, which provided it with a single space to present its output (website, publications, the HDM4 software package) and the activities of the National Committees in sessions held throughout the Congress.



The double issue of Routes/Roads, No. 336-337 of January 2008 was entirely given over to the Paris Congress and presents the General Report.

The final proceedings of the Congress were prepared, published and disseminated in 2008.

XXIVth World Road Congress (Mexico City, 25-30 September 2011)

The XXIV^e World Road Congress will take place in Mexico City (Mexico) from 26 to 30 September 2011. Its theme will be “Roads for a Better Life” and “Mobility, Sustainability and Development”.

The official languages will be English, French and Spanish.

Information and registration are available on the Congress website, which the host country created and runs: <http://www.aipcrmexico2011.org>



Apart from the four Strategic Direction Sessions organized by the Theme Coordinators and the eighteen Technical Committee Sessions, the Congress programme includes 13 Special Sessions organized by the World Road Association jointly with other international organizations.

A very successful call for individual papers

The call for individual papers issued by the Technical Committees met with considerable success, and almost 800 proposals of abstracts had been received by the end of September 2010. The Technical Committees selected 369 individual papers from among these.

The General Secretariat developed on-line applications that enabled the authors of papers and the Technical Committees to carry out the entire process of evaluating and managing papers via the Internet.

XXVth World Road Congress (Seoul, 2-6 November 2015)

The Council in Budapest (20-22 October 2010) selected the application from Seoul (Republic of Korea) to organize the XXVth World Road Congress. It will take place from 2 to 6 November 2015.

3.3.2. World Road Association's Winter Road Congress

XIIIth International Winter Road Congress (Quebec City, 8-11 February 2010)

The XIIIth International Winter Road Congress was held in Quebec City (Canada-Québec) from 8 to 11 February 2010.

The general theme of the Congress was: *Sustainable Winter Service for Road Users*, and both it and its accompanying exhibition were a success, attracting some 1,500 participants from 55 countries. 111 papers were given during 30 sessions that covered 6 themes.



In a plenary session, Ministers from 6 member governments spoke on “*How to promote winter mobility adapted to the climate?*”, and mayors of some large cities described their approach to the *Economic and financial governance of winter service*.

The first international snowplough championship was held during the Congress and attracted 20 participants from 9 countries. The winner was Ryan Campbell (USA).

The general report was published in issue 346 of Routes/Roads.



The CD-ROM of the final version of the Congress proceedings which was prepared by the Québec organizing Committee became available at the end of 2010.

XIVth International Winter Road Congress (Andorra, 4-7 February 2014)



In 2009, the Council accepted Andorra's application to organize the XIVth International Winter Road Congress.

The first meetings between Technical Committee B5 and the General Secretariat with a view to organizing this Congress have been held.

3.3.3. Symposium SURF 2008

In 2008, the 6th International Symposium on pavement surface characteristics for roads and airfields, SURF2008, was held in Portoroz (Slovenia) as the result of collaboration between Technical Committee D2 and the Slovenian National Committee.

The topics covered at the SURF 2008 symposium reflected the most recent technological advances in pavement surface appraisal techniques and provided a picture of current knowledge about vehicle/pavement interactions.

The 7th SURF symposium will be held in Norfolk, VA, in the United States in September 2012 and will be organized by the World Road Association with FHWA, AASHTO and Virginia Tech University.

3.4. Projects

3.4.1. International Seminars Programme

To gain a better understanding of the needs of developing and transition countries and to encourage exchanges and knowledge transfer that involve a larger number of participants from these countries, the Council of the World Road Association confirmed that the 2008-2011 cycle would include a programme of regional international seminars. The aim was for each Technical Committee to take part in the organization of 2 seminars.

Nine Technical Committees and sub-committee D2c achieved this, and three others very nearly did, having organized 1 seminar and one workshop in the course of the cycle. The other four Committees and the two sub-committees D2a and D2b only took part in one seminar. It should however be noted that the 3 sub-committees in D2, in particular D2a, drew up the technical programme for the SURF2008 symposium which was organized with the Slovenian National Committee in October 2008. In most

cases, the planned seminar was cancelled due to difficulties encountered by the intended host country and scheduling another event proved to be impossible.

In all, **26 seminars were organized in 19 countries. The involvement of the 17 Technical Committees** is shown in the Table below:

| TECHNICAL COMMITTEE | TOPIC OF THE SEMINAR | HOST COUNTRY | DATES |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| A.1 | Environment and sustainable transport Seminar jointly organized with TC B4 | Timișoara (Romania) | 16-18 September 2009 |
| A.1 | Reducing the carbon footprint in road construction | New Delhi (India) | 17-19 February 2011 |
| A.2 | Technical Management and Financing of Road Maintenance | Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) | 2-3 December 2008 |
| A.2 | Workshop: financing of Road Infrastructures | Rabat (Morocco) | 14 April 2009 |
| A.2 | Workshop: Public-Private Partnerships in the Road Sector | Osaka (Japan) | 13-14 October 2009 |
| A.3 | Road-toll policies applied or planned in Central and Eastern European Countries | Budapest (Hungary) | 6-7 May 2009 |
| A.4 | Sustainable maintenance of rural roads | Hyderabad (India) | 21-23 January 2010 |
| A.4 | Sustainability of rural road networks | Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) | 9-11 March 2011 |
| B.1 | Management of human resources, governance and contracting | Bamako (Mali) | 8-10 December 2009 |
| B.1 | Customer oriented approach; seminar jointly organized with B2 | Malaysia | 25-27 April 2011 |
| B.2 | Workshop: E transport conference and exhibition | Johannesburg (South Africa) | 26 March 2009 |
| B.2 | Customer oriented approach; seminar jointly organized with B1 | Malaysia | 25-27 April 2011 |
| B.3 | Workshop: Improved mobility in urban areas | Seoul (Rep. of Korea) | 19 March 2009 |
| B.3 | Improved Mobility in Urban Areas and Freight Transport and Inter Modality; seminar jointly organized with B 4 | Santiago (Chile) | 13-14 April 2011 |
| B.4 | Environment and sustainable transport Seminar jointly organized with TC A1 | Timișoara (Romania) | 16-18 September 2009 |
| B.4 | Improved Mobility in Urban Areas and Freight Transport and Inter Modality; seminar jointly organized with B 3 | Santiago de Chile (Chile) | 13-14 April 2011 |
| B.5 | Technical Solutions for Sustainable Winter Service | Hradec-Králové (Czech Republic) | 7-9 October 2009 |
| B.5 | Management of winter services in an extreme continental climate country | Oulan Bator (Mongolia) | 6-8 April 2011 |
| C.1 | Workshop: Safer road infrastructure and operation jointly organized with TC C2 | Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) | 22 October 2008 |

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| C.1 | Promoting Road Safety for Vulnerable Road Users; seminar jointly organized with C2 | Cape Town (South-Africa) | 25-27 October 2009 |
| C1 | National road development strategies and road safety on improved highways | New Delhi (India) | 14-19 March 2011 |
| C.2 | Workshop: Safer road infrastructure and operation; jointly organized with TC C1 | Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) | 22 October 2008 |
| C.2 | Promoting Road Safety for Vulnerable Road Users; seminar jointly organized with C1 | Cape Town (South-Africa) | 25-27 October 2009 |
| C.2 | Safer Road Operations | San José (Costa Rica) | 10-12 November 2010 |
| C2 | Latest developments in concrete pavements design and building/ Influence of infrastructure on road safety management; jointly organized with TC D2c | Buenos-Aires (Argentina) | 9-10 May 2011 |
| C.3 | Managing Risk in Road Operations | Iasi (Romania) | 5-7 November 2009 |
| C.3 | Risk and emergency management | Beijing (China) | 9-12 November 2010 |
| C.4 | Tunnels and ITS Applications | Buenos Aires (Argentina) | 24-26 March 2010 |
| C4 | Sub-sea Tunnels | Xiamen (China) | 25-26 March 2011 |
| D.1 | Road asset management | Swakopmund (Namibia) | 4-6 April 2011 |
| D.2 a | Maintenance Techniques to Improve Pavement Performance; jointly organized with TC D2b | Cancún (Mexico) | 24-26 August 2009 |
| D.2 b | Maintenance Techniques to Improve Pavement Performance; jointly organized with TC D2a | Cancún (Mexico) | 24-26 August 2009 |
| D2.c | Workshop Pavement | Seoul (Korea) | 6-8 October 2009 |
| D2.c | Latest developments in concrete pavements design and building/ Influence of infrastructure on road safety management; jointly organized with TC C2 | Buenos Aires (Argentina) | 9-10 May 2011 |
| D.3 | Concrete Bridges | Changshu (China) | 22-23 October 2009 |
| D.4 | Geotechnics and Unpaved Roads | Cotonou (Benin) | 28-30 October 2009 |

A.1 = technical committees which have organized 2 seminars (or 1 seminar and 2 workshops)
workshop: one-day workshop

3.4.2. The World Road Association/ HDM-4 project

In 1996, the World Road Association Executive Committee first suggested the role that the World Road Association could play when taking over the management of the HDM-4 Project (software for development studies and the technico-economic management of road networks). After two years of development from 1998 to 2000, Version 1.0 was made available in March 2000 in English, French and Russian. In 2002 after surveys made in the Member Countries with decision-makers, then with users, the Council adopted a resolution to develop a new version (version 2) to be developed by the University of Birmingham under the supervision of the General Secretariat.



So as to comply with the request of the Council to ultimately outsource the management of the project, after an international call for tender a concession contract was signed in August 2005 for a five-year-term with HDM Global. The concessionaire is responsible for promotion, sales and help to users as well as managing the evolution of the software (see dedicated site: <http://www.hdmglobal.com/>).

The very positive results of the concessionaire's action in terms of licence sales (779 licences) as well as assistance to users led to the renewal of the concession with HDM Global for another five-year-period.

In partnership with the Mexican Institute for Transports (Instituto Mexicano del Transporte, IMT), a Spanish version of the software has been produced. The translation in Spanish of the user's manuals is planned.

3.5. Cooperative Activities

Goal 2 of the World Road Association's Strategic Plan is to promote cooperation with other international and regional organizations which share similar aims to the World Road Association.

Cooperation involves exchanging information, coordinating work programmes to avoid redundancy and sharing resources to ensure the success of studies, congresses and international seminars.

A large number of international organizations and associations have representatives on the World Road Association's committees which correspond to their activities. Without attempting to create a full list, we can mention the European Commission, the joint ECMT-OECD transport research centre, the United Nations (the ILO-ASIST programme), the World Bank, the IRF, FISITA, Eurobitume, Cembureau, the International Tunnelling Association (ITA), etc.

During the period in question, we have relied very much on regional organizations of roads administrations to pursue our goals and formalize relations with other organizations by means of framework agreements.

3.5.1. Cooperation with regional organizations of road administrations

During this period, several memorandums of understanding with regional organizations have been drawn up or updated with a view to strengthening synergies of action.

A memorandum of understanding was signed in 2009 in Seoul with REAAA along the lines of that signed with the CEDR in order to institute cooperation between the two organizations.

The General Secretariat has regularly taken part in the meetings of the Council of Iberian and South American Road Directors (DIRCAIBEA), and a new memorandum of understanding accompanied by an action plan to promote the World Road Association's activities with regard to Latin American countries and increase their participation has been prepared and will be presented in Mexico City.

A new memorandum of understanding, with the Nordic Road Association (NRA) was prepared by the General Secretariat and signed in 2010. This updates the previous agreement and confirms NRA's commitment to making a technical advisor available to the General Secretariat.

3.5.2. Cooperation with other organizations

The General Secretariat has continued to entertain regular contacts with the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank and the Transport Research Board (TRB), in order to exchange information on on-going work and projects.

Following the President's participation in the first Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety that was held in Moscow on 19 and 20 November 2009, and in discussions with the World Health Organization, the Association has confirmed its involvement in the United Nations' Road Safety Collaboration (UNRSC) in order to make a more effective contribution to the United Nations' decade of action in this area.

A joint working group has been set up between the World Road Association and the ITA (International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association) on tunnel safety issues (COSUF).

Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding with FISITA (International Federation of Automotive Engineering Societies) in 2007, a joint working group on vehicle-infrastructure cooperative systems was set up under the aegis of Technical Committee B2.

A memorandum of understanding was signed in May 2010 between the Secretary General and the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) with a view to strengthening ties with India. IRC is now officially recognized as acting as an Indian National Committee. This agreement has already had a practical outcome in the form of two international seminars which were held in Delhi in 2011.



4. FEEDBACK ON THE 2008-2011 STRATEGIC PLAN

As mentioned in paragraph 2.2.2, the 2008-2011 Strategic Plan had set a number of organizational goals to assist PIARC in fulfilling its mission. It is interesting to note what could be achieved in respect of each of the goals.

Goal 1: To continuously improve the management and operation of the World Road Association in order to provide members with a service that represents good value for money.

The review carried out by the Strategic Planning Commission, reflected in the document "Improving quality and processes" resulted in a set of recommendations on the role of Strategic Theme Coordinators and Technical Advisors, the quality processes to be implemented by Technical Committees, etc.

The nomination of Theme Coordinators, Chairs and Secretaries of Technical Committees has been brought forward to allow better continuity from one cycle to another and to speed up the start of the new cycle.

The website of the Association has been restructured taking into consideration the comments received through the user survey, with the aim to improve its ergonomics.

Conference debates are held at all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee to foster exchanges.

Goal 2: Promote cooperation with regional organizations of road authorities and with other international organizations with related goals.

Relationship with different regional organizations has been consolidated. In particular, a memorandum of agreement was signed with REAAA in 2009; the agreement with the Nordic Road Association was renewed; and a new MoU was signed with DIRCAIBEA.

Goal 3: To develop and encourage professionally worthwhile and effective personal contact networks.

This goal, assigned to the General Secretariat, is related to Goal 2. It refers to the regular contacts maintained with the various regional organizations.

Goal 4: To host major congresses that are valuable events for setting direction for the future, provide knowledge exchange and networking opportunities among members of the road transport community, and develop a range of options that are viable from the World Road Association's point of view.

The XXIIIrd World Road Congress held in Paris in September 2007, marking the centenary of the Association, was a huge success, both in terms of attendance—more than 5500 participants in the Congress and Exhibition; sixty countries represented at the ministers' session—and in terms of assessment of the event as shown by the survey of congress delegates that reflected their satisfaction.

The XIIIth International Winter Road Congress in Quebec City in February 2010, the first to take place in North America, was also a great success in terms of attendance, the quality of presentations and the organization of the first snowplough championship.

These two Congresses, and the financial arrangements adopted for the upcoming congresses, ensure to the Association a level of income enabling to contribute to the funding of the Association projects.

The Council chose by vote Seoul (South Korea) as the venue for the XXVth World Road Congress in 2015 and Andorra for the XIVth International Winter Congress in 2014. These choices will ensure an optimal geographical distribution of the location of events, which is key to the visibility of the actions of the Association in the various parts of the world.

Goal 5: To build and strengthen the activity and visibility of the Association at the national level.

The dynamics of exchanges and communication among National Committees which started during the previous cycle, has continued over this cycle.

A new partnership strategy has been adopted, to recognize an existing organization acting as a National Committee. This initiative aims to give a new impulse to the Association's influence at national level and has been well received in a number of countries. The result is the expected signature, on the occasion of the Mexico Congress, of MoUs recognizing new National Committees in Argentina, the United States and Uruguay.

Goal 6: To develop practical means for efficient and effective knowledge transfer among countries.

The principles of a knowledge transfer policy have been developed and adopted. However, several difficulties were experienced for the implementation of an action plan. This will be overcome by setting up a specific working group in the coming years.

A new operation approach at regional level has been developed for several Technical Committees and will be implemented during the 2012-2015 cycle. This should allow increased participation of developing countries in the activities of the Association and improved distribution of the results of the work of the Association in those countries.

Goal 7: To improve participation of member governments and to increase the number of members of the road community benefiting, whether through National Committees or by direct participation, in the World Road Association Technical Committees.

The number of members and corresponding members appointed to Technical Committees by member countries is clearly increasing (1200 approximately, compared to 1000 during the two previous cycles). However, the number of active and regular participants has not increased in the same way.

The budget restrictions introduced in many countries following the global financial crisis in 2008 have significantly impacted the possibility for many members to travel and attend meetings and seminars. This had also a significant impact on the smooth operation of Technical Committees.

The trial of regional groups described above is one of the responses envisaged to increase the level of participation.

Goal 8: To produce and disseminate authoritative, impartial and interesting publications and products that address road and road transport issues.

The number of users of the Virtual Library in the website of the Association reflects the high level of interest of the Association's publications, available free of charge to the public.

The organization of knowledge in electronic form on the website, which had started during the previous cycle with the *Road Network Operations Manual*, was further carried out with the *Tunnels Manual* and the *Intelligent Transport Systems Manual*, which will be introduced at the Congress in Mexico City. These initiatives, combined with the restructuring of the website, prefigure new ways to present work results through the website.

The principles of a quality control process in the production of Technical Committee reports have been developed and implemented with a view to improving the quality of the productions.

The survey of *Routes/Roads* readers reflected very positive results, confirming the need for decisions made in 2005 when the magazine was restructured. An Editorial Committee was set up in late 2010 to provide guidance to the editorial policy.

Goal 9: To put transparent and rigorous financial management of the Association in the service of its purpose and to optimise its resources in order to meet future challenges.

The policy set by the Council in 2005 has been carried out further and has resulted in balanced accounts for current operations and in limited reduction of equity capital, thanks to the membership fee increase which came into effect at the end of the last cycle (fee rates had remained unchanged for 3 years), increased income from congresses and constant control of expenses.

Goal 10: To identify, develop and promulgate policy and practices that contribute to safer and more effective management and use of road and road transport systems within an integrated sustainable transport context.

This refers to the work carried out by the Strategic Planning Commission, including in particular the draft Strategic Plan 2012-2015 which will be submitted to the Council meeting in September 2011 in Mexico City.

5. PROSPECTS

Adjustments to Strategic Directions

In September 2011 in Mexico City, the Strategic Plan for the 2012-2015 period will be submitted to the Council. The directions set in the Strategic Plan reflect the priorities expressed by member countries and show the importance of a number of subjects, including:

- Reduction of the transport sector impact on climate change and adaptation measures,
- Road safety; the Association's work will focus on the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety,
- Integration of road administrations with those of other modes,
- Optimizing the use of existing infrastructure;
- Reduction of carbon footprint in the construction and operation of road infrastructure.

Innovations in work methods

In the course of the coming work cycle, several Technical Committees organized at a regional level will be trialled in order to obtain an increased participation in the work of the Association from countries in certain regions of the world (Latin America, Africa, and Asia).

Due to budget and travel restrictions in many countries, the Association will aim to increase the use of electronic means of communication (teleconference via Internet), including meetings of the Executive Committee, Commissions and working groups of Technical Committees.

In order to cover certain topics within a short period of time, task forces will be set up, e.g. for the revision of the Road Safety Manual or to study issues related to security of infrastructure.

A clear communications and marketing policy

A comprehensive communications and marketing plan was developed by the Communications and International Relations Commission. It describes the key issues and actions that will be updated according to a rolling multi-annual programme.

Emphasis will be set on the production of several flagship publications such as the Road Safety Manual, the Road Tunnel Manual, the Intelligent Transport Systems Manual and the Road Network Operations Manual, etc. The objective is to create international reference documents that are widely recognized and therefore strengthen the profile and image of the Association.

The reorganization of productions and knowledge within the website will be continued according to the various topic areas.

A specific action programme will be implemented to draw interest and increase participation of young professionals in the activities of the Association.



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