

# **ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS BY TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE, GOOD PRACTISES, PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-OPERATION**

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## **Abstract**

This summary paper gives an introduction on the PIARC organisation, the scope and magnitude of the global road safety problem and an overview of past and present activities of the PIARC Committee on Road Safety. It compares succesfactors in countries with good safety records. Co-operational is promoted both between disciplines and organisations in order to implement present knowledge in favour of road safety. Special attention is given to websites and to the Global Road safety Partnership.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The PIARC World Roads Organisation, founded in 1909 in Paris has as mission to serve its members by organising world Road Conferences, dissemination of best practises, promoting effective tools for decision-making and transfer of knowledge. This takes place with a special focus on developing countries and countries in transition. This conference is an example of the implementation of this mission.

It is recognised that after the construction of roads and other infrastructure the emphasis should be laid on an efficient and safe use of this infrastructure. Those activities are being concentrated in PIARC Strategic Theme 3: Road transport and Operation, under which the Committee C 13, Road Safety, is grouped. Both bridge maintenance and road safety have in common that large sums of money are wasted when these subjects are not dealt with properly.

## **THE ROAD SAFETY PROBLEM**

Yearly about 800.000 people are killed and 10 million are injured on the global roads. The economic loss globally is estimated at US \$ 500 billion a year. For developing countries this is in the order of 1,5 to 2 % of the Gross National Product (GNP). These figures are decreasing in OECD countries and increasing in developing countries. In 2020 the WHO predicts a road toll of 2 million people if we do nothing, than road unsafety will be death course number 3 in developing countries.

## **SOLUTIONS**

A lot can be done to improve the situation by high-level decision makers and by focussed management of this multidisciplinary problem. All sectors, not only the road sector, but police, health, economics, local governments etc could contribute to the reduction of the road toll. It should be recognised that sectors that invest in road safety, like police, road administrations etc, often don't get the return on investments. A lot of techniques, good practises exist, PIARC feels it can contribute to road safety solutions by transfer of knowledge and cooperation with other organisations. Innovations and research are needed but the present knowledge is enough to organise improvements if present knowledge is better spread and implemented.

## **HIGHLITES OF PIARC ROAD SAFETY ACTIVITIES**

For the PIARC Kuala Lumpur World Conference (1999) a number of interesting documents have been presented like:

- Road safety targets, showcasing that countries that have set targets for the reduction of road fatalities show better improvements than countries without a target,
- Road safety strategies have been adopted in a number of countries like Vision Zero in Sweden and Sustainable Safety in The Netherlands. These long term strategies form a sound bases for successful short term action plans for all disciplines involved,
- Road Safety Audits, which have proved to be an effective tool in the design process, that helps to avoid mistakes in the design in a stage that these can easily be corrected in the final design.

Presently the Committee C 13 Road safety is preparing for this year and for the 2003 PIARC World Conference in Durban (October 19-25) the following activities:

- The road safety manual, a several hundred pages of relevant information guideline for road safety experts summarising present safety knowledge with regard to accident databases, cost benefit, improvement of hazardous locations, design parameters etc. The Manual will be issued on CD ROM end 2002 and contains a number of calculators for different circumstances.
- Further development and implementation experience with Road Safety Audits
- Design Standards, integration of human factor research in road design to improve the safety,
- Evaluation methods of safety concepts,
- Human factors: enforcement and education tools and measures
- Production of a booklet for high level decision makers to showcase the problem and solutions in the field of road safety,
- Organise or contribute the national road safety conferences, like in Hungary, Spain, Germany, Thailand, Argentina, Mexico and others; contributing to conferences and seminars of other international organisations like IRF, PRI, Ertico, ITE and others.

This transfer of knowledge is reported in the PIARC Magazine, Routes Roads and in the PIARC Web site [www.piarc.org](http://www.piarc.org)

## **LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER**

Effects of transport and traffic are different per country and are influenced by national legislation, politics and culture. Nevertheless we can learn from each other.

A number of ingredients for successful road safety results can be learned from a number of countries that are successful in the road risk management. These relative successful countries have a number of elements in common like:

- A clear Road safety Strategy and action plans
- Targets for reduction of fatalities and injuries, like 50% reduction in the next 10 years
- An accurate and effective accident database
- Research institutions with authority in the safety field for innovations and evaluation
- Public safety awareness and political awareness, most of the time supported by NGO,s in the safety field
- A proper coordination between all agencies involved in the various disciplines in road safety

## **CO-OPERATING ORGANISATIONS**

A lot of information is available from national and international organisations. The PIARC WIN system can help in discovering sources. The PIARC Committee C 13 would like to mention specifically:

- OECD and CEMT (Paris) for their in depth and policy oriented state of the art reports
- PRI (Lisbon) that specialises in raising public awareness by road safety information and campaigns through their national members,
- ITE, (Washington) that has valuable information for experts on its website [www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org) like on road safety toolbox, RSAudits and Traffic Calming Guide.
- IRF (Geneva), with the PIARC Road Safety Session at the IRF World Conference, June 2001, Paris.
- GRSP (Geneva) the website [www.GRSProadsafety.org](http://www.GRSProadsafety.org) shows the GRSP initiative, mission, organisation and road safety knowledge base.

## **GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (GRSP)**

The last organisation, the Global Road Safety Partnership is an initiative taken by the World Bank, The Red Cross and the World health organisation in 1999 in order to reduce the road toll in developing countries and countries in transition. Nowadays GRSP is active in 11 focus countries, where it has a national GRSP network, a safety program and other initiatives. The innovative element in GRSP is that Business, civil society and governments are partnering in improving road safety. Especially the marketing and other skills in international and national business partners like Shell, BP, Daimler Chrysler, 3M, Ford Volvo, IRU and many others are a welcome activity in order to showcase solutions and to promote road safety interventions. The PIARC committee encourages cooperation with GRSP and contributed to its program.

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Date of Birth : 29 July 1941  
Place of Birth : Arnhem (The Netherlands)  
Present position: Director Special Projects  
Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management  
Directorate-General for Passenger Transport

### Education:

HBS-B (secondary education) 1958  
Technical University Delft (1965), mechanical engineering, specialism: vehicle technology  
Practical training in Austria (VOEST), France (SNCF) and 2 Dutch companies.  
Languages: Dutch, English, German, French and passive: Spanish.

### Functions at the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management:

1965 - 1977 Institute for Road Engineering Research, Project Engineer, and from 1970 on Head of Department: Measurements on roads, member of the Board of Directors of this Institute

1977 - 1987 General Directorate of Public works, 3 positions in succession:  
- Head of the Bureau of Road Planning (National Road System)  
- Head of Road Safety Department (National Roads)  
- Head of the Traffic Policy Division

1987 - 1989 Transportation and Traffic Engineering Institute,  
Head of the Geometric Design and Traffic Engineering Department, The Hague, Member of the Board of Directors and Deputy Director of the Institute.

1989 - 1997 Director of the Transport Research Institute in Rotterdam. The Transportation and Traffic Engineering Institute has been reorganized in 1993 and is involved since then in road design, traffic management, waterway design and traffic, traffic forecasts, public transport research, road safety, transport of goods and all other road and transport related research, in total about 400 people are active in this intermodal Institute.

1997 - 1999 Director of the Traffic Safety and Vehicle Directorate in the Directorate-General of Passenger Transport. This is an intermodal organization so it was responsible for the safety on road and rail and report to the Director-General and Minister.

1999 - present Director of Special Projects reporting to the Director General of Passenger Transport, involved in a number of special projects in the Ministry and internationally.

## **Some activities resulting from these functions:**

### **Activities in the past:**

- Secretary of the board of the Foundation for Road construction (presently CROW)
- Several functions concerning the development of national road maintenance
- President of PIARC Committee on "Road maintenance"
- Member of PIARC Committees: "Surface Characteristics", "Interurban Roads" and "Road Safety".
- Former member of TRB (Transport Research Board) committees on "Skid resistance" and on "Winter Maintenance"
- Member of several national and international committees related to roads and traffic, e.g. President of the steering committee RONA (design guidelines national roads)
- Member of the OECD Steering Committee Transport and Road Research, and from 1995-1998 Vice Chairman of this Committee, and other activities related to this responsibility.
- General reporter on QII "Urban and Transport and Landuse Planning" at the PIARC Montreal-congress 1995
- Secretary of the Dutch Delegation PIANC (N=Navigation).
- Chairman of the Working Party Road Safety and Infrastructure (WP 4) - advising the High Level Group for Road Safety of the EC (DG VII)
- Member of ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers)
- Member of the Advisory Board of ECIS (European Centre for Infrastructure Studies)
- Member of the Board of ESTI (European Society of Transport Institutes)
- Member of the High Level Group on Road Safety in the EC (DG VII)
- Member of the Dutch Road Safety Advisory Board.
- Member of the Advisory Board of SWOV
- Member of the Advisory Board of TNO Institute for Road Vehicles.

### **Present Functions:**

- Past International Director for District 8, Member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), in Washington DC, and vice chairman of the District 8 Executive Committee.
- Member of ITE Safety Council
- Member of the ITE Coordinating Council
- Member of the TRB Committee on Safety Strategies (A3B01)
- Advisor for the European Transport Safety Board ETSC in Brussels
- Global Road Safety Partnership, Senior Advisor (part-time function); GRSP is an initiative of the World Bank, WHO and Red Cross Organizations to reduce unsafety in traffic on global level.
- Chairman of the GRSP Knowledge Base International Advisory Panel
- Member of the SANTF (South Africa-Netherlands Transport Forum), and co-chairman of its road safety working group.
- Chairman of PIARC World Road Association Technical Committee C 13 Road Safety

### **Other activities:**

- Member or chairman of Schoolboards, Church Council, and local council of a political party.
- Member of the Noise Abatement Committee of Rotterdam Airport, appointed by the Major of Bergschenhoek representing their residents.
- 1987 - 1994 Chosen member of the Parliament (83 members) of the Province Holland South (3,4 mln inhabitants) and speaker for land use planning affairs (CDA).
- 2001- present Member of the Board of ROC Midden Brabant, Tilburg. (Union of schools for professional education wit about 15.000 students).