

ENGLISH

AIPCR 2002 PIARC

XIth INTERNATIONAL WINTER ROAD CONGRESS
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CONGRESS GUIDE



Association
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de la Route



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World Road
Association



XIth PIARC International Winter Road Congress

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Welcome to Japan and Sapporo!





Chikage OOGI

Minister of Land, Infrastructure and
Transport, Japan

The first PIARC International Winter Road Congress of the new millennium will be held in Japan. It is our great pleasure and honor that many people throughout the world have been invited to participate.

Cold, snowy regions account for more than 60% of Japan's land area of 380,000 km². Twenty percent of the nation's 120 million people live in these regions. The population is unusually large for cold, snowy regions anywhere in the world.

To stabilize and improve living and economic activities in those regions, the most important mandate is the securing of road traffic in winter. Recent road facility development, snow and ice control technology advancement, and effectively organized traffic control have succeeded in achieving a winter road service level sufficient to free people from the winter hardships associated with unreliable traffic. However, we also are requested to satisfy other needs including those for safer traffic, an improved road environment, and the development of energy-saving technology.

We expect the Congress to be a great opportunity to introduce a wide range of the latest domestic advances including those concerning ice and snow control, ITS and telecommunications. It also will be a chance for people to exchange innovative research, and information on outstanding technologies of the world. It is my wish that as many overseas visitors as possible will come in contact with a unique feature of our culture: our coexistence with the snowy surroundings even in cities as large as several hundred thousand in population – or even more than one million in population. I believe that the Congress will provide you with a rewarding and enlightening experience as the first meaningful step in the 21st century.



Olivier MICHAUD
President of PIARC

As President of the World Road Association (PIARC), it is a great honour for me to invite you to the great City of Sapporo, Japan, which is hosting an International Winter Road Congress for the first time in Asia.

Founded in the early XXth century, PIARC has been a leading international forum for road and transport matters throughout the last century. Through its activities PIARC has played a key role in uniting the road community, helping it progress, and thus promoting growth and social welfare.

In addition, in accordance with its Strategic Plan, PIARC has put emphasis on the necessity to meet the needs of developing countries and countries in transition. In that spirit, PIARC has sponsored representatives from those countries to participate in this Congress through its Special Fund.

Winter road maintenance remains a key challenge in many countries. For several years now, PIARC has had the ambition to enhance knowledge in this field by organizing winter road maintenance congresses and related activities in specialized Technical Committees.

The overall theme of the Sapporo Congress will be « New Challenges for Winter Road Service ». In particular, I would like to draw your attention on the special session « Winter Road Maintenance in the 21st Century » during which invited speakers from different regions in the world will present innovations in road winter maintenance techniques.

In the framework of this road event of highest interest, I am pleased to invite all participants, before the opening ceremony, to a technical presentation organized by the PIARC Executive Committee on the theme of « Sustainable Road Maintenance ».

I am convinced that the XIth International Winter Road Congress will allow experts from all over the world to share information and technologies in a fruitful manner and to experience a pleasant stay in this most hospitable country.

Welcome to Sapporo!



Michio SUZUKI

President of the XIth PIARC
International Winter Road
Congress, 2002, Sapporo, Japan

As President of the XIth PIARC International Winter Road Congress, it is a great privilege for me to welcome people from various countries to the first International Winter Road Congress of the 21st century, the XIth International Winter Road Congress, which is being held in Sapporo this winter. Since the Congress venue was formally decided in November 1997, the Japanese Organizing Committee has been making preparations for a successful Congress that will attract as many participants as possible. For this purpose, the Committee has asked the PIARC headquarters, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and many other organizations for their support and assistance. We would like to thank all those who have assisted us in preparing for the Congress.

Sapporo Dome, the Congress site, was completed last June. This huge structure is serving as a new center of cultural and athletic exchanges in Sapporo. Local people are showing great interest in this Congress, because this is the first time the Dome will be used for an international conference. For the opening and closing ceremonies, at which all the participants will gather, a specially designed stage will be erected to afford a sweeping view Enjoy the spectacle!

A number of papers on this year's Congress theme of "New Challenges for Winter Road Service" were selected for the Technical Program. It is hoped that these papers will prompt active exchanges during the sessions, toward achieving fruitful results and demarcating a new starting line for global development of winter road technologies in the 21st century. Thanks to the exhibitors, the arena's vast 14,460 m² is being used to the fullest. It is expected that this space will be put to versatile use by the participants as a place for the interchange of information on cutting-edge technologies and research.

On behalf of the Japanese Organizing Committee, I sincerely hope that all the attendees at the Congress in Sapporo will enjoy a pleasant stay and will find the Congress meaningful.



Tatsuya HORI
Governor of Hokkaido

On behalf of the people of Hokkaido, I would like to welcome the participants in the XIth PIARC International Winter Road Congress, who have come to Sapporo from within and beyond Japan.

In its 130 years of modern development, Hokkaido has witnessed great struggles against this land's severe climate. Our forebears persevered in their ambition to overcome the Northern inevitabilities of snow and cold.

And they succeeded. They built roads, cultivated farmland, developed towns. However, we have come to reconsider the extreme climate as a blessing. We Hokkaidoans today use snow and live with it, as we develop this land of great natural richness and beauty that is home to some 5.7 million people.

Hokkaido accounts for an impressive 22% of Japan's land area, a vastness that is sparsely dotted by the prefecture's 212 municipalities. This has made dependence on road transportation among the highest of any prefecture in Japan: Road passenger transportation accounts for 90% of all passenger transportation, and road freight transportation for 98% of all freight transportation.

Since the land is covered with snow for half the year, the creation of a safe, stable, and comfortable winter road environment is our greatest challenge.

The many participants in this international Congress have come to Hokkaido to actively discuss winter road technologies and related topics. We hope that such discussions will yield great progress on issues specific to snowy regions, and that international and inter-regional exchanges will be promoted.

We also would be grateful if you might take this opportunity to discover all that Hokkaido has to offer, from natural splendor to cultural richness and more.



Nobuo KATSURA
Mayor of Sapporo

It is a great honor for us to be hosting the XIth International Winter Road Congress here in Sapporo, thanks to the support that so many have provided.

The city administration is endeavoring to make Sapporo even more vibrant and attractive, under two basic planning concepts: "serving as a core city of the North" and "realizing a city whose living environment meets the new era."

Although Sapporo's modern development dates back just 130 years, the city has grown to number 1.8 million residents. One of its attractions is the harmony that has been achieved between the urban and the natural, a harmony that highlights the turn of the seasons.

For nearly half the year, Sapporo is blanketed by snow, which means that citizens face serious challenges related to everyday life. The city government has been working to secure a comfortable winter environment that is less susceptible to adverse weather, such as by promoting subway construction, establishing a snow removal and disposal system for roads, and developing snow disposal facilities such as snow-flowing gutters and snow-melting tanks.

Of course, winter does have its compensations. We emphasize these by promoting various winter sports, the Sapporo Snow Festival and other events that let us enjoy snow and winter. In this way, the city is implementing policies to improve the winter living environment so that residents may better enjoy the cold season.

Snow and ice control has been an important issue for us and will remain so. It is highly significant for us to be hosting this Congress, where experts from many snowy countries will be exchanging information.

On behalf of the citizens, let me close by welcoming you to Sapporo and to Sapporo Dome, the city's new center of sports and culture.

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As of October 31, 2001

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	Honorary President of Japan Road Association
Hiroshi MITANI	Past President of PIARC

As of December 31, 2001