

Presentation at the Closing Session

Thursday, 31 January 2002, 3. 30 to 3. 40 pm

Report on the activities of Committee C17
D. Giloppé French-speaking Secretary

Preamble

In preamble to the presentation of the activities of the committee C17 I would first of all to like express thanks:

- to the Japanese Organizing Committee whose constant efforts allowed the excellent results and the full success of this congress,
- to C17 Chairman, Tadayuki Tazaki, and to the English speaking Secretary, Kent Gustafson, who has contributed to lead this Technical Committee very effectively and in a convivial way,
- to the Chairmen and Co-chairmen of the sessions as well as to the Coordinators and their assistants, thanks to whom the sessions could be held with all the effectiveness and serenity needed,
- to the members of the Committee C17 whose availability and exchanges of views and information largely contributed to the construction of this Congress and the choice of the papers,
- to the speakers at the oral sessions and poster sessions who have ably presented original approaches,
- to the delegations from the various countries: through the running of stands or their presence they have shown their keen interest and have contributed to the success of this Congress,
- to the participants to whom the congress was intended, but without whom it could not have taken place,
- to the exhibitors for the quality of their presentation and their products.

Links of C17 with other organizations

Strong links exist with SIRWEC, the Standing International Road Weather Commission, which deals with road weather issues. Its last conference was held here in Sapporo just before our Congress.

I would also like to mention the European action COST 344, which is to be completed in spring 2002.

Activities in progress

The Sapporo Congress, because it is still underway even though it is coming to a close in a few hours. C17 will draw the conclusions from this Congress, and then will coordinate the preparation of various reports in the form of articles in the "Routes/Roads" magazine and seminars.

And it is also time to look ahead and start to prepare the next PIARC Winter Road Congress in 2006, which will take place in Italy.

THREE PROJECTS

Three projects were initiated by C17:

- development of a glossary of terms relating to winter road maintenance,
- support to developing countries and countries in transition,
- development of a database on snow and ice.

Glossary of terms relating to winter road maintenance

The glossary was prepared with the aim of standardizing the definitions of terms relating to winter maintenance. It was initiated within C17 and was then taken up by the group COST 344 which had the same type of needs regarding terminology specific to winter maintenance. A classification in various topics was retained.

This glossary called WINTERTERM is now available in nine languages and contains 180 words and definitions distributed according to the various topics.

This glossary is of course open to accommodate new languages. The activities of the COST 344 group are to be completed in spring 2002. C17 is in the best position to make sure that it is updated.

Support to developing countries and countries in transition

We are currently looking into how we can support these countries. A questionnaire was circulated to the countries represented within C17 to identify the situation in terms of technological support at the international level. The results of the questionnaire made it possible to identify present actions or which have already been carried out.

Publication of a database on Snow and Ice

It is a significant action in terms of technical orientations of Committee C17 because it allows to understand which problems the various countries are facing in the field of winter maintenance management and which solutions were brought in terms of technology and organisation.

Future

ORIENTATIONS FOR COMMITTEE C17

Two main orientations for the activities of C17:

1. continue the work on the issues related to winter road maintenance,
2. support to developing countries and countries in transition.

Continue the work on issues related to winter road maintenance

This requires to structure the activities based on a number of considerations:

- winter maintenance is an activity which is difficult to plan,
- the main partners are the road users: it is necessary to explain them what we are doing and what is the limit of our actions,
- it is an activity where the management of human means is fundamental, as well as the knowledge, and know-how on which the road agencies can rely,
- it is an activity involving different parties: road owner, project manager, operators and road users; the various roles must be clearly defined.

Based on this, adequate technical themes will be defined.

Support to developing countries and countries in transition

Meeting with Committee C3 on Technological Exchanges and Development

A meeting of C17 with Committee C3 was scheduled on the occasion of this Congress. The objectives of this meeting were as follows:

- know more about PIARC's scope in technology and method transfer; in particular how these actions fall under the various strategic topics;
- better know the activities of C3: operation, actions carried out, results achieved in a sustained development approach;
- collect the countries' expectations and needs.

To organize transfers

It should be stressed that in developing countries or countries in transition, the main resources are human resources. It is thus necessary to consider an approach in terms of training and assistance to road agencies, mainly to avoid mistakes made in other countries.

Committee C17 will of course bring its support to the Organizing Committee of the next Winter Congress in 2006.

I thank you for your attention.