

SAFE ROADS TO PROSPERITY

## **SUMMARY REPORT**

# **PIARC INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR: ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT**

**Swakopmund, Namibia-4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

### **1. Introduction**

The World Road Association (PIARC) is a non-political and non-profit making association. PIARC aims to be a world leader in the exchange of knowledge on roads and road transport policy and practices within an integrated sustainable transport context. The Piarc International on Road Asset Management seminar forms part of the PIARC program of International Seminars and this is the first time that such an International Seminar on this topic was held in Africa.

The overall objective of this Seminar is to identify and to review methods aiming at coordinated management of all road assets, taking into account expectations of various stakeholders. Piarc's knowledge and expertise are shared and disseminated worldwide through publications, participation and organization of international conference and comparisons of practices in different countries and regions of the world.

The seminar was organized by the PIARC Technical Committee D1, responsible for Management of Road Infrastructure Assets, in association with the Roads Authority of Namibia, Ministry of Works and Transport of Namibia and the Association of Southern African Road Agencies (ASANRA), sponsors and donors.

### **2. Discussion**

#### 2.1 Sponsors and Organisation:

The sponsors of the Seminar were; Roads Authority of Namibia, Piarc, Ministry of Works and Transport, Asanra, (German Development Cooperation), (GIZ), (German International Capacity Building), InWent , now combined with GIZ, Element Consulting Engineers, Aurecon Namibia, Knight Piesold Consulting, Geocarta Namibia, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), South African Road Federation (Sarf), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Road Fund Administration of Namibia (RFA), Roads Contractor Company (RCC). The Engineering Professions Association (EPA), and the Engineering Council of Namibia (ECN) supported the Seminar by giving presentations.

The RA of Namibia is a member of the D1 Committee through the Road Management System Division since 2006 and has been contributing to the working group. Namibia volunteered through the support of Piarc, to bring this unique Seminar to Africa for the first time on Asset Management. It was an honour for Namibia to be hosting such a prestigious and international Seminar and as expected a lot of benefits were reaped.

The Seminar attracted close to 150 members from the Road Sector Community, members of the Association of Southern African National Road Agency, Public Sector decision makers, Government officials, Engineers, Incorporated Engineers, Technicians, members of the D1 Committee, consultants etc. Participants travelled

from as far the UK, Netherlands, Spain, France, Mexico, Finland, Japan, USA, Germany, Scotland, South Africa, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Ethiopia. Sixteen countries together with Namibia were represented.

The RA of Namibia through the RMS Division and its organisers from various divisions has put a lot of effort and energy in making this Seminar a success. The RA had transferred funds from its own account to support the cash flow challenge the Seminar had especially at the beginning when the sponsors did not pay their pledges. In addition to that the RA also sent substantial participants (although cut at the end due to costs) to participate and support the Seminar.

The composition of the Local Organising Committee is the following, Chairperson: Ms. Sophia Tekie RMS Manager; Programme: Mr. Rudolph Rittmann; Registration: Ms Jacky Mukuka, Ms Maureen Campbell; Transportation & Logistics: Mr. Jimmy Aoxamub and Mr Teklu Adamu, Public Relations: Ms Hileni Fillemon and Ms. Thoko Mdlalose, Technical Visits: Mr. Courage Silombela and Mr Adamu; Admin & Payments: Ms. Jully Mouton. This committee worked extra hours without any compensation just to make this Seminar a success. Due to the lack of sufficient funding everything was done in house to save costs. At this juncture it will be difficult to exactly calculate whether the Seminar made a loss or a slight profit, once all the registrations are finalised and the pledges from the sponsors pay, a financial report will be added as an addendum to this report. So far the figures do not look so bad, the committee might even make a slight profit.



The Committee had to cut costs to make the expenses contained within budget. (See photo left). The composition of the International Technical committee was: Anita Kunkel-Henker, Richard Abell (TRL) and Louw Kannemeyer. The Assistant of Mrs Anita Kunkel-Henker Mr Benjamin Rudolff's contribution is also recognised.

## 2.2 Programme

Day one of the Seminar focused on High level strategic Asset Management themes including Road Sector and Transportation Sector Reforms. The theme was entitled "Strategic Benefits of Asset Management". The opening ceremony was directed by the RMS Manager Mrs Sophia Belete-Tekie. It was officiated by the Minister of Works of Transport, Honourable Erkki Nghimtina who made time available through his tight schedule, to be there and experience firsthand the Seminar programme and meeting delegates. This effort is really much appreciated. He talked about high level strategic issues in the transportation sector facing not only Namibia but also Africa and that this Seminar will assist everyone to get knowledge and experience to tackle the challenges faced before the continent. The critical flooding situation in the country was also mentioned in view that Engineers and technocrats need to plan and manage to save lives and property, and that this Seminar came at the opportune time.

High level delegation consisting of: Hon. TjikeroTweya, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry; Hon. HafeniNdemula, Counsellor of Walvis Bay Rural Constituency gave a very warm welcoming remarks; representing Hon. CleophasMutjavikua, Governor of Erongo region; her Worship, Roasina //Hoabes, Mayor of Swakopmund; Deputy Permanent Secretary of Works and Transport Ms Pienaar; Members of the Board of Directors of the Roads Authority, Road Contractor Company and Roads Fund Administration, high delegation from the donors, participated among other distinguished guests.

The other speaker for the opening was the Chairlady of D1 Committee, Mrs Anita Kunkel-Henker who talked about the role of Piarc and the work of D1 Committee and highlighted the importance and the full support of Piarc to this international seminar mentioning that they were happy with all the organisation that went to make this event a success. She also mentioned that the various Seminars conducted is to share knowledge and in this particular case to bring the meaning of Asset Management to all stakeholders, and this time the Seminar came to Namibia through the proposal of the RMS Manager supported by the Chief Executive Officer and was agreed and trusted that Namibia will pull off this seminar successfully. She also was thankful to the Namibian government the RA and the governor to be in such a wonderful city and to see so many participants.

The opening ceremony had two technical key note speakers. Dr Nils Bruzelius who was involved of the crafting of the Act of the RA, talked on the subject of "Road Sector Reform Namibian Experience after ten years of formation" giving his personal impression and where the three entities formed i.e Roads Authority (RA), Road Fund Administration(RFA) and Roads Contractor Company (RCC) should be going taking into context international trends and the reasons they were formed. His speech was very inspiring as it came from the heart and practical experience on the ground, which gave food for thought for participants. Basically his message was Namibia has a great potential to grow and implement fully the good governance principles instilled in the Act, but so far many challenges have been experienced and need to be tackled.

The second technical key note speaker, Dr Malcolm Mitchell, who is the Executive Director of Southern Africa Road Federation (Sarf), spoke on "Asset Management in Southern Africa – Realities and Issues" - with over fifty years experience in the road sector he talked about the benefits of Asset Management and that Asset Management is not only a "System" and that we need to have a paradigm shift. The vote of thanks was given by the Chairlady of the Roads Authority Board Mrs HilleniKaifanua. Over 250 participants attended the opening ceremony.

Day two dealt with the theme, "Development of Asset Management System", this is Asset Management for Technocrats and Policy makers in the Roads and Transportation Sector. A number of interesting papers from various countries were represented. The speakers were excellent with high track record of engineering. One aspect focused on Capacity building which was very interesting and some good recommendations came out of this session to be taken up by the industry in another forum. The leading Engineering institutions, donors working specifically with capacity building, and practitioners gave presentations on their roles in the country, challenges and opportunities. I would particularly want to thank ASANRA President Mr Nelson Kundenga and Professor Semar for their contribution. In addition the professional way the whole session was conducted, by Mr Immanuel Shipanga is not to be passed without mentioning. The rest of the day was all about the ingredients of Asset Management for example that "system" does not mean "computer system" but has various facets.

The evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, the Official Gala Dinner was held at the Swakopmund Entertainment Center for 250 people and dignitaries. The master of ceremonies was the Corporate Communications Manager Dr Audrin Mathe who executed his duties in a very professional way. The highlight of the evening was when he called representatives of each country to stand up and be introduced to the people. The event was attended by various CEOs of parastatals, governor of Erongo region Mr Hon. CleophasMutjavikua, Regional Counsellors etc. His Worship the deputy Mayor of Swakopmund, His Worship JuusoKamueshe gave the opening remarks on behalf of the Mayor. The Acting CEO Mr Conrad Lutombi gave the vote of thanks for the evening. RA Corporate Video was played and also some traditional entertainment for the guests. D1 Committee

Chairlady Mrs Anita Kunkel-Henker thanked all the participants especially the Minister of Works, the governor and the Deputy Mayer, the Chair lady of the RA Board and also gave gifts of appreciation to the said officials including the Chairlady of the Organising committee Mrs Sophia Tekie and the Senior Engineer Mr Rittmann.

Photo on Right: Opening Ceremony

Day three was Technical visit (photos are shown below), to a salt road maintenance unit and a visit to Adeva Desalination plant, 38 km from Swakopmund. Before that a very informative Virtual talk on the Uranium Mining was given which was very interesting. The salt road maintenance was an eye opener not only to the



guests who came from overseas but to Namibians who have never seen anything of this nature before. Some Managers from the RA could not believe how much work and expertise was needed to do such a delicate job, and had more appreciation for Engineering work. At this juncture the contribution of the area Manager of Swakopmund Mr Victor Uiseb; and the Regional Engineer of Otjiwarongo, from RA Maintenance Division is much appreciated. The desalination plant also was very interesting, the whole process was explained to about 70-80 participants in an hour and a half. It is one of the major plants in Namibia that does desalination without disturbing the environment. Just seeing the mega pipes, learning how toxic and dangerous the chemicals used are, and the reverse osmosis used for the purification was astonishing. The amount of water produced is enough to supply the whole Swakopmund and Walvis Bay cities. The clean water after the process tasted very normal and no trace of salt was detected. On the return our guests were treated to dune 7 with some refreshment to also promote our country for tourism.

On Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April afternoon the closing ceremony was conducted. The closing remarks were made by the Deputy RA Chairperson Mr P. Maritz. Questionnaires were given and collected regarding feedback on the Seminar. Prizes were given to those whose names were drawn, and that was fun.



Technical Visit



Deputy Permanent Secretary Mrs Pienaar. Chances were given to Namibians to chair the meetings, to show how far the RMS of Namibia has developed. The RMS of Namibia was also part of the presentation which was much appreciated especially with the live demonstration. The two entities CEO's, RCC and RFA also spoke about their challenges and opportunities and this seminar gave a good platform to discussions of common interest for better services and performance. Some good debates came out of the discussions which could not be finalised, but will open other forums to continue such knowledge sharing forums. The RCC presentation was very provocative and interesting and basically it was said RCC to be profitable business principles needs to be instilled. And RFA to continue funding, government needs to understand the increase of fuel levy as for the last few years minimal increments were made. This short report does not go into the details of the technical proposals and lessons learnt to keep it short.

One fascinating paper by the JICA representative was to say that Japan, build the repairs of a full express way and made it operational within four working days! That is now efficiency.

The two moderators or rapporteurs, Mr Nehemiah Kapofi from the RA and Mr Mick Lorenz's (Secretary to the D1 Committee) contribution is also recognized.

The Seminar was only composed on presentations and not papers, the presentations will be loaded on the RA web site, [www.ra.org.na](http://www.ra.org.na)

#### 2.4 D1 Committee Meeting

The last committee of the D1 was also conducted 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of April in Swakpmund. 22 people participated including Namibia. This was a great turn out. The D1 Committee Chairlady Ms Anita Kunkel-Henker thanked the chairperson and member of the D1 Committee again, and the organising team who did a wonderful job and said she will report good things about Namibia to Piarc itself. It was a very nice culmination to the whole Seminar and Committee meeting before the Mexico Congress. At Mexico Congress the RMS Manager will present the Seminar outcome as a presentation among the RMS of Namibia as the committee has a special session among other presentations. The work of the committee with the working group will be finalised in the next two months and Namibia's case study on the RMS of Namibia will also be finalised. (This part is included for the benefit of the RA of Namibia). The three working groups have deadlines to meet. The

attendance list and all preparations and logistics were done successfully by the RMS Division during the meeting. Dvd containing all the photos of the Seminar were given to the committee members and a copy to Piarc Secretariat. All the proceedings of the Seminar were also given to Anita to be put on the Piarc web site, and D1 Committee ftp sites. It was a great pleasure to host the committee meeting in Namibia.



D1 Committee Members: Swakopmund Namibia 8 April 2011

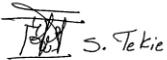
### **3.0 Conclusion**

The RA of Namibia would like to thank all the sponsors, Piarc itself and the D1 Committee under the leadership of Mrs Anita Kunkel-Henker, for entrusting this mighty task on the RA and we are also very happy to inform all stake holders of the success of this Seminar which was a true team work. Obviously like any project there were challenges but they were overcome. We also gained a lot of experience and networking from our visitors and we made Namibia proud and be seen on the map again. The amount of time and hard work that went to the Seminar is tremendous, but it was worth each and every effort.

Thank you for all our sponsors, speakers, the Acting CEO Mr Lutombi, RA Management and Board and above all the Minister - our Minister who was able to be there most of the time during the Seminar. I would also like to thank personally the Secretary General of Piarc Mr Jean Francois Cortefor his personal attention to all our request. The support of Mr Nazir Ali, the CEO of South African Roads Agency for his personal interest is much appreciated. I would also like to thank personally Mrs Anita Kunkel-Henker for all her assistance and personal encouragement to me when the times got tough. All in all, we are all very happy and we are very confident that the industry has benefited out of this Seminar tremendously.

If there are names not mentioned or contributions, it is not intentional, it is just to keep the report short but on the other hand to also keep tracks of all contributions as much as possible, and in such a short time some names could have been omitted, for that a great apology is extended.

Report Submitted by:



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21 April 2011