Introduction

This is my very last report as the Nordic Representative at the General Secretariat of the World Road Association in Paris, France. I am actually already back at my position at the Swedish Transport Administration, after almost 15 exciting, although sometimes challenging but definitely rewarding, months at PIARC. The past two months, since my last report, have been extremely busy with all preparations for the World Road Congress, which took place in Seoul, Korea on November 2-6.

The World Road Association (PIARC) prizes, which I was managing, were handed over to the laureates at the congress’ opening session with Nordic presence; Mr. Toni-Petteri Paju from Finland together with Mr. Kenneth Yamu of Papua New Guinea received the prize for Sustainable Development for their entry “Pilot project to quantifying socio-economic benefits of road rehabilitation for project prioritization”. Mrs. Anne Kjerkreit together with Mr. James Odeck received the prize for Road Design and Road Construction for their outstanding paper “The accuracy of ex-ante cost benefit analysis – evidence from the Norwegian road sector”. In September yet another prize was decided to be awarded to another fellow Nordic colleague Ms. Sonja Heikkilä, author of the paper “Revolutionizing Personal Mobility by Offering Mobility as One Full Service”, who received the prize for Intermodality. There were also Nordic success among the highly-commended papers as the paper “The Winter Model – Socio-economic cost calculations for the future” by Mrs. Anna Arvidsson, Sweden, who received a certificate of merit for her work.

I take the opportunity to thank you all for this time, it has been a pleasure working for PIARC as the NVF representative, not only for the work in itself, but also for all the opportunities of meeting many of you NVF members around the world. I will attend the annual meeting of the NVF to report on my work and the outcome of the Congress, also briefly described in this report.
The 25th World Road Congress in Seoul

The World Road Congress took place in Seoul, Korea on November 2nd-6th 2015. Under the theme of “Roads and Mobility - Creating New Value from Transport”, this five-day event brought together 2628 road and road transport stakeholders from around the world (114 different countries). The Congress was unquestionably a great success for the World Road Association and the Korean Organizing Committee with numerous sessions and workshops taking place throughout the week gathering high-levels experts and decision-makers. There were four strategic direction sessions, 17 technical committee sessions, 14 special sessions and six workshops as well as joint meetings and seminars with organisations such as UNESCAP, REAAA and GICC.

The exhibition with a total of 197 exhibitors (of which PIARC had one pavilion), had tens of thousands of visitors during the week of the Congress, and provided a forum for further networking and business.

The proceedings will be available for all Congress participants and members at the PIARC website www.piarc.org in due time. Some information and video report etc. is already available at the Congress website http://www.piarcseoul2015.org/.

Meetings of the Commissions

The Executive Committee held its meeting in Seoul on October 30th followed by the Council meeting on October 31st. The Council approved the new Strategic Plan for the next cycle of 2016-2020, which I described in more detail in a previous report. Another matter up for discussion and approval was the new Language Policy which describes the use of different languages for all of the Association’s activities, an important issue for the member countries. The policy will shortly be available at the www.piarc.org website along with the new and equally approved Strategic Plan.

As Secretary General Mr. Jean-François Corté will step down from his position on April 1st 2016, the Council, appointed Mr. Patrick Malléjacq (France) to the position of Secretary General, as of April 1st, 2016. Mr. Malléjacq will join the Secretariat already in January for a smooth transition. He will also be in charge of the kick-off meetings in Paris.
Upcoming events of the Association winter 2015-spring 2016
Neither seminars, nor workshops will take place during the winter 2015-spring 2016 as the new Technical Committees and Task Forces of the cycle 2016-2019 will begin their work starting with kick-off meetings in Paris this coming spring. Nominations of members to the committees will be handled by the First Delegate of each member country, following information from the Secretariat in November-December.

Routes/Roads
The latest issue of the quarterly magazine Routes/Roads´ was handed out to the congress participants in Seoul. This issue, with lots of information on the congress, will be available for all members during the first quarter of 2016. The coming post-congress issue will be published in January and include all PIARC prize winners´ articles along with reports from the congress.

The World Road Association´s magazine Routes/Roads is, as previously mentioned, since September 2014 available in an electronic version which can be found at http://www.piarc.org/en/publications/Routes-Roads-Magazine/.

Technical reports
Two new technical reports have been published these past few months, with more to come during this winter following the congress.

The World Road Association has completed its special project “International Climate Change Adaptation Framework for Road Infrastructure” by concluding the work into a report (with the same title) in order to help member countries adopt a consistent approach to analyse the effects of climate change on their road networks and thus help them to identify, propose and prioritize the most appropriate measures to mitigate risks associated with extreme weather events. The report can be found in the Virtual Library; “International climate change adaptation framework for road infrastructure”

Another report, prepared and published in time for the congress, is the output of the Technical Committee 4.3, “New repair and rehabilitation methods for road bridges”. This extensive report presents a survey of twenty-two cases of degradation of road bridges from different countries with a review of the countries’ standard repair methods. The report then compares the different methods and draw conclusions on reliability, availability, maintainability and safety. The financial aspect and environmental sustainability are also examined on a case by case basis. The report is published in the Virtual Library; “New repair and rehabilitation methods for road bridges”

As several reports of the Technical Committees where submitted to the Secretariat before and following the congress, they will be published subsequently. Keep an eye open at the www.piarc.org website for the latest publications.
Launch of web tools and manuals
The World Road Congress was also the main launch of several web tools and web-based manuals, produced by Task Forces and Technical Committees. Please find below links and information on all of these.

The Road Safety Manual will enable countries and regions at all stages of development to achieve the goals in the United Nations Decade of Action and create a road system to save lives. Currently only available in English, French and Spanish versions to follow, this is an interactive web tool comprising the work of the Task Force 1 on Road Safety and produced in cooperation with the World Bank and WHO among others.

The Tunnels Manual (available in ten languages) is a useful tool for effective and safe transport of goods and people in road tunnels.

The RNO-ITS (officially launched at the ITS congress in Bordeaux, October 2015) is a website, produced in partnership with ITS America, that provides an authoritative and easily accessible reference source on a diverse range of ITS and RNO topics.

- **HDM-4** [http://www.hdmglobal.com/](http://www.hdmglobal.com/)
The HDM-4 has been updated to further provide a powerful system and tool for road management, programming road works, estimating funding requirements, budget allocations, predicting road network performance, project appraisal and policy impact studies.

The Snow and Ice Data Book, already published earlier this year, but again presented at the congress, provides information on the best of winter maintenance from 27 countries, for all of you involved in managing, designing and administering winter road maintenance.

*Oscar de Buen Richkarday, PIARC president at the official launch of the Road Safety Manual and a review of the Decade of Action for Road Safety this far, with presentations by representatives from the World Bank and WHO as well as representatives from the Task Force, including Mats-Åke Belin.*
PIARC – contact information
As I have already left the Association’s General Secretariat and returned to my position at the Swedish Transport Administration, and unfortunately with no successor from the Nordic countries, I recommend you to please contact info@piarc.org for any inquiries on the work and outputs of the Association. I am certain my former colleagues will be happy to help you out.