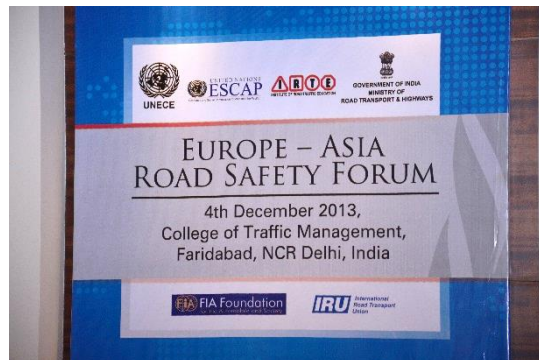


Europe-Asia Road Safety Forum

IRTE organised Road Safety Forum with UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) together with UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) to participate in an extraordinary session of the Working Party 1 (WP1) on road traffic safety to take place in Faridabad, near New Delhi.



The Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) is a non-profit research based organisation formed in December 1991 by an interdisciplinary group composed of experts in education, from the automotive industry, architects, doctors, journalists, engineers, ex-militaries, police forces... with a single goal to make Indian roads safer for their users.



The event was supported by IRU (International Road Transport Union) and FIA Foundation. 130 delegates from 37 countries participated in this event organised for the very first time in Asia since the creation of the UNECE WP1.

WP1 including government officials representing member states of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) were invited to take an active role during the inaugural Europe-Asia Road Safety Forum, the purpose being to ease the participation of Asian countries and facilitate the exchange of experience as far as road safety is concerned.

Mrs Luciana Iorio, Chairperson of the WP1 chaired this session: "I am particularly proud to be here today for the very first meeting of the Europe-Asia Road Safety Forum".



Dr Rohit Baluja, Director of IRTE said: "It is an honour to formally welcome all participants and speakers for the first time today in India. I recently travelled to Germany, I could compare the way Indians living in Germany drive there and the way they drive in India. Nothing to compare, Indians in Germany respect traffic rules, which is not the case in India, this shows that this is not completely a question of culture. IRTE has been conducting much research on traffic management. A good traffic management system brings to better road safety."



Other distinguished persons spoke in the opening session: Mr G.K. Pillai (former Union Home Secretary, Government of India, IRTE Advisor), Mr Vijay Chhibber (Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways), Mr Oscar Fernandes (Union Transport Minister, Government of India), Dr Eva Molnar (Director, Transport Division, UNECE) and finally Mr Dong-Woo Ha (Director, Transport Division, UNESCAP).



Mr G.K. Pillai stressed the importance of the Road Safety Forum and regretted that there is not too much political support for road safety issues in his country, despite the high number of fatalities in India.