

International Conference: Professionalism in Driver Training Systems

November 15-16, 2002

The vehicle driver is the key component of the road traffic system. Road accident research all over the world has pointed towards driver's fault in majority of road crashes. There is, however, variance in the levels of quality of driving, as witnessed in different regions of the world. For improving levels of road safety, efforts towards adopting professionalism in driver training system, have shown to yield fruitful results in developed countries, A two day conference on Professionalism in Driver Training systems was organized by the IRTE -first of its kind in India. IRTE organized the conference with the support of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, Department for Transport United Kingdom, Austrian Road Safety Board, Government of Goa and the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA), United Kingdom.

The conference aimed at facilitating training and development of drivers, while maintaining basic norms observed by international traffic authorities. To increase the level of road safety, various techniques like interactive learning, sharing of innovative ideas and best practices were demonstrated. This would help minimize fatal errors and wastage of fund, in reinvention of existent systems.

It was decided that the Conference deliberations would culminate in a GOA DECLARATION that would try to set out a common vision and the goal that are needed to create safer road environments. It was also agreed that following positioning statement would set the tone of the Conference "A Driving License is a privilege that has to be earned"

Held on November 15 & 16, 2002 at Hotel Cidade de Goa, Panaji, Goa, the conference was attended by 170 participants, across the world. Participants included policy makers from the central and state Governments, officials from the traffic police and the transport department, driver training and research institutions, scientists, automobile manufacturers and associations, oil, insurance industries and the media.

The conference was divided into 6 sessions, namely Driver Training needs and its scope, Systems and methods of training and assessment, Training and assessment of Trainers, Instructors and Licensing authorities, Role of Government, Private Sector, Automobile Manufacturers, NGO & Insurance Companies, Alcohol and Drug Addiction, Inter-global support-Innovation and Best Practices

Each session had eminent speakers and was chaired by leaders in their respective field. The recommendations of these sessions were summarized by the respective chairman and went on to drafting of the Goa Declaration, to which, there were 170 signatories.

Mr. Digamber Kamat, Minister for Power and Development, Government of Goa, inaugurated the conference in the august presence of Mr. Pandurang Madkaikar (Transport Minister, Government of Goa), Mr. Ajay Maken (Minister of Transport and Power, Government of Delhi) and representatives of the Transport Ministries of UK and Austria and RoSPA

Mr. Shripad Naik, Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Government of India graced the Valedictory session as the Chief Guest.