



Press release n° 292

## **UIC Executive Board and 72nd General Assembly held in Seoul at the invitation of Korean Railroads Korail in connection with World congress on Railway Research WCRR**

*Appointment of Mr. Guillaume Pepy, SNCF, as new UIC Vice-Chairman ratified - UIC membership reaches 201 railways – A commission set up to propose statutes amendments for an effective governance of the association reflecting its global character and role.*

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(Paris, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2008). The Executive Board followed by the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the International Union of Railways (UIC), the worldwide organisation for cooperation among railways, have been held in Seoul, Korea, at the kind invitation of *Mr Park Kwang Suk*, Acting President of Korean Railroads Korail. The UIC Executive Board and the General Assembly were chaired by *Mr Kalyan Coomar Jena*, Chairman, Railway Board, Indian Railways and UIC Chairman, with the participation of *Me Béatrice Dunogué-Gaffié*, UIC Provisional Administrator, and Senior UIC Executives *Mr Luc Aliadière*, and *Mr Vipin Sharma*.

UIC's statutory meetings were held in connection with 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Railway Research (WCRR) which attracted over 800 participants from the rail research community to Seoul. Further UIC meetings included the meeting of the Regional Assembly for Asia chaired by Mr. Park of Korail, and the official inauguration of IRaTCA, the International Railway Training Center developed for UIC Asia.

On behalf of all Korean railway organisations, *Mr. Park Kwang Suk* warmly welcomed all UIC General Assembly members coming from 112 countries and expressed his strong confidence in the current and future role of UIC for developing efficient cooperation links between railways and countries and also between generations of railway stakeholders.

Concerning appointments in the UIC governance, Mr Jena reported on the Executive Board meeting and informed that *Mr Guillaume Pepy*, President of French Railways SNCF, had been warmly welcomed as the nominated successor of *Mrs Anne-Marie Idrac* who has been appointed Secretary of State in the French government and requested the General Assembly to ratify the appointment of Mr Pepy as the UIC vice Chairman for the remaining term up to December 2008. General Assembly ratified the appointment unanimously. Mr. Pepy thanked the General Assembly members for their trust and stressed he would commit himself in the life of the organisation and expansion of UIC's role.

An address presented by *Mr. Brian Bock, QR / UIC*, on behalf of *Mr Lance Hockridge*, Chief Executive of Queensland Rail, Australia, informed General Assembly members on the situation and perspectives of Rail transport development in Australia.

The General Assembly unanimously welcomed twelve new UIC members from four continents:

- *Africa*: Tunisian Company for high speed rail (RFR Rapide), Tunisia; RDC National Office for Transport (ONATRA), Democratic Republic of Congo; Colis Express SARL, Tunisia; National Industrial and Mines Company (SNIM), Mauritania.
- *Asia*: Mongolian Railway Authority (MRA); Lao Railway Authority (LRA); Russian Railway Engineering Academy of Volga (VD REA).
- *Europe*: Euskal Trenbide Sarea (ETS), IM of the Basque government, Spain, Fundacion Caminos de Hierro (FCH), Spain,
- *Middle-East*: Niroo Rail Transport Company services; Mert Rayli Tasitlar Onarim ve Yenileme San. Tic. Ltd., Turkish Company for the maintenance of rail coaches.

UIC membership now reaches 201 members.

UIC Chairman gave then the floor to chairmen of all six UIC regional assemblies who informed on the progress of international cooperation activities in their specific regions: *Mr Siyabonga Gama*, CEO of Transnet Freight Rail, South Africa, Chairman of "UIC Africa", *Mr Park Kwang Suk*, Acting President Korail, Korea, Chairman of "UIC Asia", *Mr Hartmut Mehdorn*, President of the Board of DBAG, Germany, Chairman of "UIC Europe", *Mr Süleyman Karaman*, CEO of Turkish Railways TCDD, Turkey, Chairman of "UIC Middle-East", *Mr Robert Vanderclute*, Executive Vice President of AAR, USA, for "UIC North America" and *Mr Lauro Manuel Ramirez*, Secretary General of ALAF, for "UIC Latin America".

One of the most important results is the elaboration and approval of "2025 Visions for railway developments" in each specific region. These activities will contribute to the definition of the UIC global vision of the development of railways across the world. Activities of 'UIC Europe' mainly focused on the deployment strategy for ERTMS, development of the TAF TSI (interoperability of freight telematics) and Sustainable development issues.

The General Assembly further approved appointments in UIC working bodies:

- *Mr Jean-Michel Richard*, Safety Director at SNCF, as new Chairman of the UIC Safety Platform and *Mr Julian Lindfield*, Network Rail, UK, as Vice-Chairman;
- *Mr Tadeusz Kaczmarek*, Security Director at PKP, as Chairman of UIC Security Platform and *Mr Moha Khaddour*, Inspecteur General Sécurité at Morocco Railways ONCF, as Vice-Chairman.

Concerning the UIC governance, the General Assembly following the Executive Board recommendation agreed on the setting up of a Commission chaired by the UIC Provisional Administrator with six members from the different UIC regions, with the objective of drafting new statutes in order to ensure a successful world governance of UIC as a worldwide organisation. These draft statutes will be submitted to members for approval at the December 2008 meeting of the General Assembly.

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