



Internship Assignment Environment & Climate Change

Terms of Reference

May 2011

The International Road Federation

Founded in 1948, the International Road Federation (IRF) is the only world forum advocating better and safer roads through optimum road design and construction. IRF is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation with the mission to promote roads that are safe, economically viable and ecologically friendly. As a unique global platform bringing together public and private entities, IRF is committed to sound road infrastructure that brings prosperity, fights poverty, furthers education and gives better access to health services. www.irfnet.org

Context

Environment and climate change score high in governments' agenda as there's no longer any doubt on the impact that human economic activities have on them. The challenge ahead is how to balance economic growth with responsible energy consumption and environmental protection. This is particularly evident for the road sector. With feverish roads and highways construction in emerging countries and an estimated 70 million vehicles entering the market every year, the steadily increasing demand for mobility of people and goods presents environmental challenges that need to be addressed in the interest of long-term sustainability and public concern. Alongside other industries, the road infrastructure sector is assuming with great responsibility the challenges ahead.

Rather than an ideological approach, the IRF has been pursuing a pragmatic approach sought to bring real improvements in environmental performance of the road infrastructure sector. Willing to support and enhance the efforts of its members, the IRF has - amongst others - developed a GHG calculator for road infrastructure named CHANGER (www.irfghg.org) and set up an Environment Working Group.

Since its inception in 2007 the IRF Environment Working Group has met on a regular basis, providing a platform for discussion and exchange of experience amongst the members. It has delivered the goals originally stated in the initial Terms of Reference (collection of innovative practices, development of a policy statement and compilation of a publication with case studies) and is actually being restructured in an "Environment Committee" articulated in sub-group and given a new focus.

Four potential new areas of work have been identified:

1. Policy and Regulatory Measures
2. Environment and Climate Change Impacts Assessments and mitigation and Adaptation measures
3. Technology Advancements
4. Urban Environment

The inaugural meeting of the new Committee will take place in Brussels on 21 September. The objective of the meeting is to identify within these four broad themes specific areas of intervention, prioritise them, define a strategy and deliverables to be met.

The Committee is open to IRF members (public and private sector), national and regional authorities, intergovernmental institutions and other organisations upon invitation by the IRF.

Assignment

The intern will be asked to:

1. Perform background research and draft an inventory of existing studies and literature related to the four theme areas identified;
2. Draft fact sheets on each of the four theme areas with due referencing;
3. Provide support the drafting of a work plan proposal for the Environment Committee;
4. Review, update, and develop relevant webpages pages under the Environment & Climate Change section of the GTKP (www.gtkp.com) and of the IRF website (www.irfnet.ch)
5. Assist in the preparation of the inaugural Environment Committee meeting (follow-up with speakers, preparation of background documents, etc.).
6. Establish contacts with relevant partner organisations to obtain useful inputs, references, case studies, for the work of the Committee.
7. Provide ad hoc support for the development of CHANGER project (e.g. research, review and analysis of studies/reports on GHG assessment methodologies, case studies, on-going projects, etc.)

If interested, please send your CV and motivation letter to:

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