



India Chapter

8th IRF Regional Conference & 2nd Intertraffic India Exhibition 2013

3, 4, 5 October 2013

TRANSCRIPTION - INAUGURAL SESSION

Welcoming the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Women & Child Development & Languages, Govt. of Delhi, Prof. Kiran Walia, on her arrival, the compere expressed that it was an extreme honour to have the kind and gracious presence of the Chief Guest on the momentous occasion and requested the gathering to welcome her with a big round of applause.

Warmly welcoming those present to the Inaugural function of the 8th International Road Federation's Regional Conference & the 2nd Intertraffic India Exhibition 2013, it was mentioned that this edition of the 8th IRF Regional Conference has been organised by IRF India Chapter and supported by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, which is also the Nodal Agency for Roads and Highways, along with the Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Rural Development, and in association with the World Bank and Central Road Research Institute. Alongside, the parallel event namely Intertraffic India 2013 had been organized by Amsterdam RAI and IRF India Chapter and had the support of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and the Ministry of Urban Development.

The Hon'ble Chairman of the Conference, Mr. K.K. Kapila, extended a warm floral welcome to the Chief Guest, Prof. Kiran Walia, Mr. C. Kandasamy, Director General, Road Development & Special Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and Mr. Erik Dijkshoorn, Domain Manager of Intertraffic and Amsterdam RAI.

On behalf of Mr. K.K. Kapila, Chairman of the Geneva Programme Centre of the International Road Federation, Mr. N.K. Sinha, Chairman of the IRF India Chapter

and Mr. T.K. Amla, Secretary of IRF India Chapter, the Chief Guest and other esteemed dignitaries on the dais were requested to light the ceremonial lamp. Elaborating upon the important and integral part played by the ritual of lamp lighting in the Indian tradition, where divine blessings are sought while embarking upon new and auspicious beginnings, the hope was expressed that the light of knowledge would illuminate the ignorance and darkness of our lives.

Thanking the Hon'ble Minister Prof. Kiran Walia and other esteemed dignitaries for lighting the lamp, the compere announced that before the formal proceedings of the Inaugural session were taken up, an invocation to Maa Saraswati, the Goddess of knowledge seeking her blessings for the success of two major events would be sung.

Informing the gathering that the 8th Conference of IRF thematically aims to address the critical issue of the requirement of safer roads, through its very relevant theme of Road Infrastructure for Safe Mobility, it was pointed out that the Conference would provide a platform to deliberate upon and resolve all pertinent issues of road safety. Intertraffic India 2013, an international exhibition, will showcase products and services pertaining to Infrastructure Management, ITS Technology, Traffic Management, Parking Systems, Road Safety and other allied subjects. Its co-location with the IRF Regional Conference and the involvement of local, regional and national road authorities and other stakeholders makes Intertraffic India 2013 an outstanding and rare business opportunity to access latest technologies from around the world. This year, representatives from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency are participating presenters in the Conference.

Mr. N.K. Sinha, Chairman of IRF India Chapter and former DG Road Development and Special Secretary in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways initiated the Session with a welcome address on the occasion.

The Text of the Speech of Mr. N.K. Sinha, Chairman, IRF India Chapter is reproduced below:

“Respected Prof. Kiran Walia Ji, Hon'ble Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Govt. of Delhi, Mr. C. Kandasamy, Director General Road Development & Special Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Mr. K.K. Kapila, Chairman,

International Road Federation, Geneva Programme Centre, Mr. Erik Dijkshoorn, Domain Manager, Amsterdam RAI, Mr. T.K. Amla, Secretary, IRF India Chapter, Delegates, Exhibitors and Invitees, Ladies & Gentleman, Good Morning.

On behalf of International Road Federation, India Chapter and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to respected Prof. Kiran Walia Ji, Hon'ble Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Govt. of Delhi, who has kindly consented to be the Chief Guest at this Inaugural function of the 8th IRF Regional Conference and Intertraffic Exhibition 2013. We are indeed grateful to you Madam, for sparing your valuable time from your extremely busy schedule.

Madam, I wish to inform you that IRF India Chapter, which is affiliated to IRF Geneva Programme Centre, has so far organized seven Regional Conferences in India. This is the 8th Regional Conference on the very relevant theme of Road Infrastructure for Safe Mobility. Road safety is a global concern. Many countries have taken serious steps for reducing road fatalities and injuries and have been able to reverse the trend. This particular theme of the Conference has emerged from the pertinent fact that although roads and highways are being widened and developed for enabling capacity augmentation in India, yet the rate of accidents on these roads is not decreasing, but is found to be rather increasing in some cases. The topic is very vast and engrossing. This Conference will provide a platform for evolving suitable solutions through interaction with learned experts from India and abroad.

Along with the Conference, the 2nd edition of Intertraffic India Exhibition 2013 has also been organized by IRF India Chapter and Amsterdam RAI. The Exhibition will showcase state-of-art equipment for traffic management, infrastructure, safety and ITS. The 1st edition of Intertraffic Exhibition was successfully held in 2011.

I also extend a warm welcome to Mr. C. Kandasamy, DGRD & Special Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and Chairman, Technical Committee of the Conference, Mr. K.K. Kapila, Chairman, IRF Geneva Programme Centre and Conference Chairman, Mr. Erik Dijkshoorn, Domain Manager, Amsterdam RAI and Mr. T.K. Amla, Secretary, IRF India Chapter. We also had two other committees for this Conference and Exhibition - an Exhibition Committee chaired by Mr. V.K. Gupta, Director General (Works), CPWD and an Organizing Committee under the

Chairmanship of Mr. V.L. Patankar, Additional Director General, MoRT&H. The success of the Conference and Exhibition has been possible because of their excellent, untiring efforts. I extend a hearty welcome to all delegates, invitees and exhibitors and a special welcome to those who have travelled long distances from abroad. Your presence on this occasion is a source of encouragement for us and undoubtedly contributes significantly to the success of the event. I also welcome the Press and Media who are present here with us for reporting this event. Once again I welcome all of you Ladies & Gentleman. Thank you.”

Thanking Mr. N.K. Sinha for his warm welcome address, the compere invited Mr. Erik Dijkshoorn, Domain Manager for Intertraffic Worldwide Events Amsterdam RAI to kindly make his welcome remarks. She informed the gathering that Mr. Dijkshoorn has more than 20 years of rich experience in the arena of marketing and communication strategy and has worked with several leading media and publishing companies in senior management positions.

The Text of the Speech of Mr. Erik Dijkshoorn, Domain Manager, Intertraffic Worldwide Events Amsterdam RAI is reproduced below:

“Dear Colleagues, Distinguished Guests!

We are delighted to welcome you to Intertraffic India 2013. As organizers of the show, Amsterdam RAI and International Road Federation are sincerely committed to improving the quality of traffic mobility and traffic safety in India. The 2nd edition of Intertraffic India will attract dedicated exhibitors, all of whom are eager to share their expertise with professional visitors and stakeholders from the Indian road sectors, and those involved in assisting the Indian Government to formulate and implement safe mobility Action Plans. Intertraffic India will present International and local innovations, products, surfaces and solutions. We are very pleased to stage this showcase event to assist traffic related suppliers to expand their markets and to bring the latest technologies and information to firms, government agencies and institutions in the region. The co-location with the 8th IRF Regional Conference themed “Road Infrastructure for Safe Mobility” offers a perfect opportunity to facilitate a networking and knowledge platform for officials and executives from Central and State Government organizations and Transport Departments. Intertraffic India gives visitors and exhibitors alike, the exclusive

opportunity to get into direct contact with industry peers and offers you the good insight in the mobility challenges and opportunities of the Indian markets. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our Indian and International partners for their support of the show. Special thanks goes out to the government entities and trade associations and to our esteemed partner, IRF India Chapter. On behalf of the Intertraffic Team in Amsterdam RAI, I would like to thank you for joining us. We wish you all a fruitful event and Conference. Thank you.”

Mr. Erik Dijkshoorn’s opening remarks were followed by the address of Mr. C. Kandasamy, Director General Road Development & Special Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India and also currently the President of the Indian Roads Congress.

The Text of the Speech of Mr. C. Kandasamy, DG RD & Special Secretary, MoRT&H is reproduced below:

“Prof. Kiran Walia, Hon’ble Minister for Education & Social Welfare, Govt. of Delhi, Mr. K.K. Kapila, Chairman, IRF GPC, Mr. Erik, Dijkshoorn, Amsterdam RAI, Mr. N.K. Sinha, Chairman, IRF India Chapter, Mr. T.K. Amla, Secretary, IRF India Chapter, distinguished delegates, friends from the media, ladies and gentleman, good morning to all of you.

I am glad to be here at this Inaugural Session of the 8th IRF Regional Conference on Road Infrastructure & Safe Mobility. Both IRF and also Mr. Kapila personally, are taking great initiatives focusing on road safety. In this Conference, I find that sessions on safety first approach, vision and policy, planning, design and operation of rural and urban highways and also expressways, safety through technology, institutional strengthening and financing of road safety, strategies, all of which are topical issues, are being covered.

In one of the earlier IRF Conferences in Delhi, a suggestion that emerged was that Government should have a dedicated fund for road safety. I am happy to inform you that suggestion has since been implemented. We have made provisions to reserve 10% of the Annual Plan of each state for road safety purposes. I look forward to the deliberations of the current Conference and the take away from this Conference so that we are able to improve our safety record.

I wish the Organizers and the Participants all success. I would like to thank the organizers of the Conference for giving me the opportunity to address the gathering.”

Thanking Mr. Kandasamy for his address, the compere, introduced Mr. K.K. Kapila, Chairman of the International Road Federation, as the first Non-European to be unanimously elected to this position and re-elected for the further tenure of 3 years in March 2013 at Marrakech, and informed the gathering that he had also recently been elected as a Member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers for a period of 4 years. A Champion and crusader of the cause of road safety in India, he is the recipient of several awards and honours. Mr. K.K. Kapila then addressed the gathering.

Text of the Speech of Mr. K.K. Kapila, Chairman, IRF GPC is reproduced below:

“Prof. Kiran Walia Ji, Hon’ble Minister for Education & Social Welfare, Mr. Kandasamy Ji, Director General Road Development & Special Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Dignitaries on the dais, Invitees, Delegates, Ladies and Gentleman.

The Road safety scenario inspite of all efforts from various quarters is grim. The world loses over 1.2 million people every year. Another 50 million get injured, some of them with lifelong injuries and the resulting economic loss is pegged at 1.2 trillion US dollars as per the World Bank’s latest report. Imagine the kind of development that would be generated were this money used for development instead of losing it on the roads. It is, therefore, an absolutely inescapable necessity, that we all work dedicatedly towards trying to minimize and reduce road accidents and fatalities and to help the cause in whatever way we can. In India, we lose 1.4 lakh people or 140 thousand people every year on roads, the economic loss of which is pegged at 40 billion US dollars, a loss which we as a country can ill afford. In conjunction with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, we have taken various initiatives to reduce road accidents working on all the four E’s; the Engineering measures, the Education, Enforcement and Emergency care. As a result of our efforts, we have been able to get the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to issue recommendations in the form of Guidelines on 10th April 2010. These guidelines focus on what needs to be done

on roads in order to improve safety and ensure that nobody dies because the roads are not forgiving or the roads have anything lacking in them. Despite these guidelines being issued, and a specific provision of 10% contribution from the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways being made in the Annual Budget of the States, the engineering fraternity in the PWDs has unfortunately shown no zeal or enthusiasm for using it effectively to address the issue of road safety. From this platform, I wish to address all my fellow engineers and urge them to please pay heed, to recognize that improving road safety is absolutely an inescapable necessity and not wait for somebody from your own family to get hurt to bring home the realization that this is indeed a requirement. Unfortunately, it is only when somebody gets hurt or suffers a loss that he becomes a champion of road safety. I repeatedly appeal to you to please pay attention before you get hurt, and please try to save others from getting hurt.

On the education front, we have addressed this issue by getting road safety as a subject included in the syllabii of Classes VI to X in schools. This has been innovatively done, not by adding another subject but by introducing the subject of road safety as a part of their English, Hindi, Mathematics, Science and Social Science curricula. This effort has been greatly supported by Madam Kiran Walia Ji and I indeed am grateful to her for all the help that she has extended to us in the capacity of Education Minister of Delhi. This year, road safety signs were printed on the inner front and back covers of 3 lakh school diaries, which were distributed in Delhi. These are small but effective measures to try and sensitize the children, who can in turn sensitize their parents that road safety is an important aspect.

A lot of work is also being done by us related to emergency care and trauma centres. We have mooted a scheme with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways that every heavy duty vehicle driver should be trained in First Aid Trauma Care and we hope that this singular act will help accident victims substantially. Armed with this critical knowledge, the driver of any truck or bus that passes an accident site would most certainly stop and help the accident victims, thus saving invaluable lives by providing the necessary aid within the golden hour.

Another issue that is of concern, particularly in India, is the licensing framework which must be strengthened. Every effort is being made to see that strengthening

the process of issue of license takes place within the next couple of years, and licenses will no longer be available as easily as they are today, an action which will help substantially.

I would also like to briefly mention two more initiatives that we have taken. You are aware of the local area development fund available to MPs called MPLAD. We have tried to get expenditures on road safety included in MPLAD, so that various members of Parliament and legislatures can spend money from their allocation on road safety. The second initiative is with regard to Corporate Social Responsibility Fund of Companies which is pegged at 2% of the average profits of last three years. We have moved the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to permit usage of funds from the Corporate Social Responsibility Funds on road safety.

These are some of the various initiatives, which have been taken by us. Our Educational Initiative is now being followed up and not only reviewed by NCERT in India but also by the World Bank at Washington. The inclusion of road safety as an integral part of the education curriculum globally is under contemplation and I am confident that these steps, and the continued efforts on the part of all of us will help the cause substantially.

Parallel to the Conference, we are holding the Intertraffic Exhibition 2013. I would request that everyone should try and spend time there to view the various displayed items, which would help to bring in road safety, have good interaction with exhibitors and to understand and observe information about the materials, the information technology systems, the lighting and other items which have been displayed. With these words, I would like to thank you all again for being here with us and I hope that we will all work together to remove and reduce road accidents, the world over. Thank you.”

Thanking Mr. K.K. Kapila for his illuminating Address, highlighting the importance and effectiveness of measures of road safety in India, the compere stated it is better to lose one minute of your life than lose life in a minute.

She then requested Hon’ble Minister Prof. Kiran Walia, the Chief Guest to give the Inaugural Address. She described her as a dedicated and extremely popular candidate of her party, born and brought up in a family of freedom fighters and in

an environment which nurtured a pride in serving the nation. Education and women's welfare and rights, she pointed out, are issues close to her heart.

Dr. Kiran Walia then took the floor to deliver the Inaugural address.

The Text of the Speech of Prof. Kiran Walia is reproduced below:

“Thank you very much. It is not only a matter of joy to be in the beautiful ambience chosen for this Conference, but also to see the seriousness with which the issue is being taken up by all organizers. I must congratulate them because it does require this kind of seriousness. At the outset, I must mention that each one of us thinks that this is one work that Mr. Kapila, who I know personally, is doing, but believe me he takes up every task as a very concerned citizen of the country. I know from my own personal experience, the passion with which he has been following issues being at the International Road Federation Geneva, because when I was in the Health Ministry, he was wanting that drivers to be trained about being careful as drivers. Now that I am in the Education Ministry, he wants the subject of road safety to be incorporated in the school curriculum, which has already been done. His belief is that issues must be taken up right at the grass root to be able to achieve something. I must congratulate him for this.

We also have on the dais people, who have all given so much to this cause, Mr. Sinha, the President of the India Chapter, Mr. Amla and of course Mr. Kandasamy who I also met on the last such occasion and with whom I was sharing my views and concerns, since he would play an important part in framing and implementing policies. We also have with us here today, Mr. Erik from Amsterdam and persons from different parts of the country and different parts of the world. I wish to extend a very warm welcome to you all. You are fortunate to be here in Delhi in the nicer weather that we are heading for.

Coming to the subject, it is indeed very sad when people lose their lives in accidents which are a man-made calamity. It happens to our friends, it happens to our relatives, it happens to our neighbours and one wonders, why? What really pains me is that this number of accidents in our country is perhaps the maximum in the world. This is not really surprising since we are so many in numbers that for everything we number top in the world. I was discussing with Mr. Kandasamy that the people lose their lives on roads at night, not knowing that there is a pothole

ahead. Such things happen so many times and we need to establish accountability. I was sharing with him, and Mr. Kapila would bear me out, that even as citizens we don't stop washing cars, which just creates a pool of water. So there have to be very strict laws regarding even simple things like washing cars. As the people's representative, I spend a lot of my fund on the construction of roads, but find that barely six months later that they have been damaged because of the quality of the material that has been used. But it is not just this, we, as citizens, also contribute to the mess. Mr. Kapila was talking about the drainage system etc. So many issues, among them the engineering issues, are related issues. One of the most criminal things, I find, is when some contractor has left *malba* on the road and some poor fellow at night runs into it, with the luminosity of the lighting often camouflaged by the grown trees. So even if you have well lit roads, somehow there are various other related issues and this poor fellow has lost his life because he got on a heap of sand or some *bajri*. I find all this truly very painful.

As I was also telling Mr. Kapila, accountability is so very important. It is alright to meet with the aspirations of people buying more and more vehicles and providing signal free roads and very fast, very sleek express highways but then so many accidents take place on these very expressways. I know of a group of University students who were going to attend the marriage of a friend and three of them lost their lives on the express highway - they are young, they drive fast the moment they find mobility on the roads. Such a gamut of issues that need addressing, but we can at least take care of the engineering issues and the accountability. I know Mr. Kapila is seriously thinking of a PPP mode of enforcement, which I think indeed would be appropriate.

I would just like to recount a further incident that I remember when I was visiting my daughter who lives in Switzerland, involving an Indian settled there who was returning home late at night. He encountered a red light and seeing nobody there and old habits of course die hard, crossed it. He was, however, caught by a policeman who, though no longer on duty, was on his way home and saw the incident. The policeman stopped him and questioned him as to why he was crossing when the light was clearly red. To which the man replied that he was driving at a very slow speed and had been almost stationary. Whereupon the

policeman sternly silenced him and threatened that his fine would increase with every word he uttered. This threat quieted him down. I was quite impressed to see their strictness of enforcement, with no justifications or explanations allowed. This is how people adhere to rules in these countries.

So Mr. Kapila, I am sure that these kind of Conferences will yield results, step by step. The faster we are able to achieve results, the fewer lives would be lost of our dear ones or anybody's dear ones, on the road side, for no reason. I know of a Senior Citizen from my own constituency who went out for a morning walk and somebody speeds up, a cleaner without a license... This senior citizen had a daughter marrying the next day and as you can imagine, there was total gloom.

These are all human situations and we must all work as partners, to do whatever, wherever required. I am sure that all of you would be ever ready to contribute to this very just cause, indeed a gigantic task for which a gigantic solution is required. Thank you so much for having me, it has been a pleasure for me to be here. Thank you."

The Conference Souvenir was presented by Mr. Kapila to Hon'ble Minister Prof. Kiran Walia who released the same. Mr. K.K. Kapila then presented a memento to the Chief Guest as small token of appreciation for her presence and gracing the occasion. Mr. Kapila also presented a memento to Mr. C. Kandasamy.

This was followed by the Vote of Thanks delivered by Mr. T.K. Amla, Chief Scientist and Head Information, Liaison & Training at the Central Road Research Institute and also Secretary of the IRF India Chapter.

The Text of Mr. Amla's Speech is reproduced below:

"Hon'ble Minister of Education & Social Welfare, Prof. Kiran Walia Ji, Director General Road Development & Special Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Shri. C. Kandasamy Ji, Shri. K.K. Kapila, Chairman, IRF Geneva Centre, Mr. N.K. Sinha, Chairman, IRF India Chapter and Mr. Erik, Executive Director, Amsterdam RAI.

It is my privilege to propose the Vote of Thanks at the Inaugural function of twin activities i.e. the 8th Regional Conference on Road Infrastructure for Safe Mobility and Exposition Intertraffic from 3rd to 5th October in this beautiful hall of the India

Expo Centre. The Mission of the International Road Federation is to promote development and construction of better, safer and sustainable infrastructure for road and road transportation. One key objective of IRF is to reduce fatalities caused due to road accidents by 50% by the end of 2020 as per the charter given by the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety. As described by the Chairman, IRF India Chapter is organizing a number of activities in the area of Road Safety, Intelligent Transport System, Environmental and Climate Changes and Promoting Green Technologies for Construction of Infrastructure in this sector. You will all agree with me that organizing such a mega event requires support from various stakeholders in this sector.

We received support from our Ministries of Road Transport & Highways, Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Rural Development. I thank them all for supporting this event. I would also like to thank all the Sponsors, Co-Sponsors, Exhibitors, who have supported this event and my colleagues from Press & Media who have covered this event.

You all will agree with me that Road safety requires both education and rehabilitation and we are very lucky and fortunate that the Ministry of our Chief Guest is dealing with the education and rehabilitation aspects. Madam, I saw you giving shelter to about more than 200 elderly persons yesterday and IRF India Chapter will be likewise looking forward to you for rehabilitation of the victims of the road accidents and also a number of programmes, which we are launching with respect to education, putting road safety as a curriculum in the books of NCERT etc.

I would also like to thank Mr. Erik of Amsterdam RAI, for joining with us to organize this Exhibition. Thank you all.”

The Inaugural Session ended with the National Anthem.