



ORGANIZZAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE TRASPORTI A FUNE  
INTERNATIONALE ORGANISATION FÜR DAS SEILBAHNWESEN  
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRANSPORTS A CÂBLES  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR TRANSPORTATION BY ROPE  
ORGANISACION INTERNACIONAL DE TRANSPORTES POR CABLE

# OITAF: NEWS

2<sup>nd</sup> Half-year 2008

The same issue has been published:

**in German**  
**French and**  
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### **President's foreword**

The O.I.T.A.F. International Conference on Transportation by Rope 2011 is due to take place in the southern hemisphere of our planet, and precisely in Rio de Janeiro. I do hope that by then we shall be able to submit figures showing the important role our profession is playing in the world. Is it not astonishing that our organisation cannot publish, year after year, key figures of our profession, such as for instance the number of ropeway installations in the world, or, in terms of winter sports, income figures of ropeway installations transporting skiers and the overall number of skiers they carry in the whole world?

And may I say this is even more astonishing seen that sister organisations such as ITTAB, (the organisation of ropeway supervisory authorities), FIANET (the organisation of ropeway operators) and IARM (the organisation of ropeway manufacturers) are already doing an excellent surveying work of which unfortunately insufficient use is yet made in everyday practice.

It appears from the survey of our industry's financial situation at the end of the last winter season that winter sports, or rather skiing, have so far suffered rather little from the consequences of the financial crisis which is affecting the whole world ever since last autumn. Nobody would have ever thought that a free time activity, subject to the action of climate changes, would be able to resist better and have a stronger constitution than the financial citadels of the world.

Yet it is no time yet to boast, because nobody will be able to escape the adverse consequences of the crisis if the economic recession were to continue for a rather long period of time.

Hence, let prudence prevail.

### **A word of the Secretary General**

In the second half of the year 2008 the organisation's activity focused on O.I.T.A.F.'s statutory duties. After the meeting of the Management Committee in Oslo which confirmed J.C. Faraudo's re-election as president of O.I.T.A.F. the Management Committee met for their 117<sup>th</sup> meeting in Vienna, O.I.T.A.F.'s representatives have also attended a meeting of the Commission's Standing Committee for

ropeway installations designed to carry persons and a meeting of ADCO, the Administrative Cooperation Group, a group which has been set up to provide a platform for the exchange of views on problems related to the EU Directive for ropeway installations. You will find also in this issue of the *O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS* a short report on ITTAB, the international meeting of ropeway supervisory authorities and a presentation of the subject and programme of the O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2009 scheduled to take place in Innsbruck in conjunction with the INTERALPIN exhibition. The ad hoc working group O.I.T.A.F. have set up with the remit to draft a recommendation for the relocation of existing ropeway installations have completed their mission and have submitted their draft recommendation to the Management Committee for approval.

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION**

### **Meeting of the Management Committee and of the Executive Committee**

On November 2008 the Management Committee met at the Hotel Mercure in Vienna for their 117<sup>th</sup> meeting. The meeting addressed amongst others the following main items :

- Organisation of the International Conference on Transportation by Rope to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2011
- Approval of O.I.T.A.F. Recommendations for the relocation of existing ropeway installations
- Approval of the budget estimate 2009
- O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2009

### **International conference on Transportation by Rope to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2011**

The Management Committee have discussed and agreed the suggested new date of the international conference which is now scheduled to take place from October 25 to October 27, 2011 at the intermediate station "Morro de Urca" of the Sugar Loaf cableway, with October 24 being reserved for the registration of participants and the General Assembly of O.I.T.A.F.

O.I.T.A.F. have taken a final decision on the composition of the General Organisation

Committee of the international conference and appointed its members. The General Organisation Committee met for their first meeting in January 2009. Details will be published in the next issue of O.I.T.A.F. NEWS.

Should the necessity arise to provide additional information on the conference such information will be published on the O.I.T.A.F. homepage [www.oitaf.org](http://www.oitaf.org).

### **Recommendations for the Relocation of existing ropeway installations**

At their 5<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Brussels in 2006 the Standing Committee on the EU Directive for ropeway installations designed to carry persons set up by the EU Commission have decided that the Standing Committee cannot be regarded as a body having the necessary competence to draft recommendations for the relocation of existing ropeway installations because the EU Directive for ropeway installations is not concerned with relocation of existing ropeway installations. At their 6<sup>th</sup> meeting the Standing Committee have confirmed the above decision and established that regulations for the relocation of existing ropeway installations are an issue which is within the field of competence of member states.

They further established that the EU Directive does not offer solutions for relocation projects.

As early as 2006 O.I.T.A.F. have given many a thought to the problem and taking advantage of the meetings of the Standing Committee have offered to draft an internal recommendation on relocation of existing ropeway installations, a proposal which has met the favour of all attending countries and of the chairman of the Standing Committee.

This is why the Management Committee have decided to set up an ad hoc working group of an even number of representatives of the three involved parties, i.e. the manufacturers, the ropeway operators and the supervising authorities.



Picture of the ad hoc working group  
The working groups after their last meeting from left to right: standing Istvan Szalai, Andrea Rødven, Peter Huber, Frau Ellen Brink (interpreter), Pierpaolo Siazzu, Daniel Pfeiffer, Heinrich Brugger; kneeling: Robert Tardieu, Jean Souchal, Ingo Karl, Martin Leitner.

Having discussed and where necessary amended a working document drafted by the Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F. the ad hoc working group unanimously approved at their third and last meeting held in Zürich on September 29, 2008 the draft recommendation. We would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank all delegates of the three involved parties for their commitment and highly productive work.

The submitted recommendation is concerned with the relocation of existing high rope surface lifts and fixed grip and detachable grip monocable unidirectional ropeways designed to carry persons.

No recommendations have been produced for bicable aerial ropeways because members of the ad hoc working group felt that it is not possible to write a generally applicable recommendation for bicable aerial ropeways, each bicable aerial ropeway having to be regarded as a case of its own.

It should be pointed out that it would not have been possible to finalize within such a short spell of time a recommendation had not members of the ad hoc working group shown great mutual understanding. This fact and the importance of the working group's achievements are perfectly summarized in the introduction of the recommendation..

*Relocation of existing ropeway installations may prove to be in many situations an important and economically indispensable factor of the regional development of the concerned region seen that for a rule in most instances existing ropeway installations are moved from a site situated in a region having a highly de-*

veloped infrastructure for the transport of tourists to another site situated in a region suffering from insufficient development of its touristy infrastructure and facing the challenge of the necessary modernisation and improvements. Due consideration ought to be given to the fact that the state of the art of the ropeway installation to be moved to another site is the state of the art of the moment in time in which the installation has been built and that it is hence necessary to see as a first step to be taken prior to launching the relocation project whether the level of safety and likely future cost efficiency of the concerned installation are such as to justify a relocation. Amongst other details it is necessary to assess the effective past service time in hours of the existing installation and get information on whether it has been mainly used in winter or in summer, or predominantly used in one or the other season, the number of persons carried, the effect of environmental action etc. The results of the above assessment, as well

as the result of the assessment of measures that will have to be taken to adapt the technical level of the installation to a level deemed to meet present day safety requirements are the two fundamental pieces of information permitting to evaluate the soundness of the relocation project. Seen the development of the ropeway technique which has taken place over the last twenty years and the increased demand on safety it is quite obvious that depending on the age of the ropeway installation which is to be moved to another site relocation may involve quite a great deal of retrofitting of the old ropeway installation.

The recommendation is intended for countries which do not have own regulations or only inadequate regulations on relocation of existing ropeway installations.

List of members who have served on the ad hoc working group and contributed to the production of the recommendation :

<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Country</b>
Leitner Martin	Convener of the WG	IARM (Fa. Leitner AG)	I
Souchal Jean	Secretary of the WG	IARM (Fa. Pomagalski)	F
Szalai Istvan	member	IARM (Fa. Doppelmayr – Garaventa)	A
Gruffaz Francois / Pfeiffer Daniel	member	French Ministry for Transports	F
Sedivy Peter	member	Austrian Ministry for Transports	A
Siazzu Pierpaolo	member	Italian Ministry for Transports	I
Wilk Tomasz	member	Polish Ministry for Transports	PI
Huber Peter	member	FIANET (VdS - Association of German Ropeway Operators)	D
Chatrian Danilo	member	FIANET (ANEF – Association of Italian Ropeway Operators)	I
Rødven Andreas	member	FIANET (ALF – Association of Norwegian Ropeway Operators)	N
Tardieu Robert	member	FIANET (SNTF – Association of French Ropeway Operators)	F
Karl Ingo	member	FIANET - president	A
Brugger Heinrich	expert	O.I.T.A.F.	I

The recommendation is available in four language versions, German, English, French and Italian and can be loaded down from the O.I.T.A.F. homepage.

Approval of the budget estimate 2009

The Management Committee have discussed the perfectly clear and precise budget esti-

mate submitted by Claudio Canessa Parodi, the treasurer of O.I.T.A.F. and have approved it. The outlay and the adopted approach of the budget estimate are perfectly in line with the guidelines for the triennial budget estimate which the General Assembly had approved in 2008. Based on the calculations which have been made the estimated overall expenditure amounts to 97.705,00 Euros. It should be pointed out that translation of working documents of O.I.T.A.F. study committee and interpretation of their working sessions, as well as interpretation of meetings of managerial bodies, as well as normal running expenses of the organisation and the amount put aside for the organisation of O.I.T.A.F. international conferences .make up for quite a significant part of the estimated expenditure .

### **O.I.T.A.F. Seminar 2009**

O.I.T.A.F. study committee 3 "Electrical equipment and components of ropeway installations" have accepted to organize the O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2009. We would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank to F. Lang and all members of the study committee for their willingness to organize the seminar and their commitment.

The following members of the study committee have accepted to present the following lectures:

**"The EU Directive 2000/9/EC – A Swiss manufacturer's views on the Directive. Practical experience of application and maintenance of standards"**

Erich meger, - SISAG, Altdorf (CH)

**„The EU Directive 2000/9/EC – A certifying examiner's opinion of the EU Directive“**

Ernst Rahnefeld – Consulting engineer and independent expert having an advisory function in ropeway authorizing procedures

**"The EU Directive 2000/9/EC – Suggestions for a possible approach to retrofitting and spare parts problems for existing ropeway installations"**

Elmar Fuchs – Doppelmayer Seilbahnen GmbH, Wolfurt (A)

**„Contribution of certified electrical safety components to the safety of the latest generations of ropeway installations"**

Johann Disl – TÜV Süd Industrie-Service GmbH, München (D)

**"Electrical safety functions for ropeway installations – Latest experience"**

Fabrice Jacquier – Société SEMER, La Fayette (F)

**« Partial retrofitting of the electrical equipment of a ropeway installation. Case study of an Italian project"**

Günter Tschinkel – LEITNER AG, Vipiteno, (I)

The seminar was scheduled to take place in conjunction with the INTERALPIN Exhibition on April 24, 2009 at the Kongresshaus Innsbruck and was to be moderated by the chairman of study committee 3.

The interpretation service into four languages, i.e. German, English, French and Italian was to be organized and paid for by the Kongresszentrum.

We would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank Georg Lamp, the Director of the Kongress and Fair Centre, and his co-workers and assistants for the support they are giving to our initiative.

Without Georg Lamp's help and the support given to us by the Innsbruck Congress- und Messecenter which has kindly taken upon itself the responsibility for the organisation of the interpretation service into 4 languages and the necessary arrangements by reserving a meeting room with all the necessary technical equipment we would not have been able to organize the seminar and offer participants all provided facilities and would not have had a chance to organize a successful seminar.

Additional information may be found in and loaded down from the O.I.T.A.F. homepage [www.oitaf.org](http://www.oitaf.org).

### **O.I.T.A.F. statistical survey of ropeway installations**

Under the provisions of art. 1 of the statute O.I.T.A.F. are required to publish statistical surveys of ropeway installations. This exercise has a twofold objective: collect and spread to own members useful information on the technical progress and economic im-

portance of the ropeway industry and as a second objective, rouse the interest of sister organisations and the public opinion for them to become knowledgeable of the development and particularities of the ropeway industry. These statistical surveys may be regarded as a valuable source of information for research projects on manufacturing trades and services and the assessment of their likely development in the future and planning of their activities. This is why surveying of ropeway installations ought to be a continuous exercise or at least a recurrent one. Collected information ought of course be made available to all interested researchers and members for them to have a helpful instrument permitting to achieve highly productive results and developments promising an improved accord between society and technology.

O.I.T.A.F. have carried out statistical surveys in 1986, 1988 and submitted the last one to the International conference in San Francisco in 1999. The last one has actually been the first survey covering all ropeway installations of the world.

It was felt that these statistical data ought to be made available also to other interested persons and not only researchers, involved parties and members and therefore decided to publish collected statistical data in the ISR – the International Ropeway Magazine and thus make it available to persons who are likely to draw some benefit, teachings and experience from this information and in particular from the information on the latest developments of the industry in the last few year. This is also why efforts will be made to update regularly the statistical material so as to have a chance to publish and circulate updated statistical surveys every three years and not only in the years in which an O.I.T.A.F. international conference is being held.

The statistical survey of ropeway installations covers 23 countries and almost all continents and is to be published next by the end of June, 2009. Orders for copies of the statistical survey may be passed with ISR- Internationale Seilbahn-Rundschau – Bohmann Druck und Verlag GmbH & Co. KG A 1110 Wien, Leberstr. 122.

The statistical survey includes information on technical data of all aerial ropeways and funiculars for the years 2006 to 2008

O.I.T.A.F have in mind to publish every three years a statistical survey of ropeway installations in order to keep all interested parties all over the world regularly informed on the latest technical developments of ropeway installations.

We would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank all members and persons who have sent us their national statistical surveys.

## **INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION**

### **EU Directive 2009/EC relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons**

#### **Meeting of the Standing Committee**

In the last issue of O.I.T.A.F. NEWS we have already informed our readers that the last meeting of the Standing Committee was scheduled to take place on October 21, 2008. At their last meeting the Standing Committee focused their attention on the following issues:

- Publication of the Standing Committee's Internal Rules in CIRCA
- German comment to EN 12929-2 relating to the problem of carrier truck brakes (Cf *O.I.T.A.F. NEWS*, semester 1, 2006 and semester 2, 2007. The Commission informed the meeting that the German comment has been rejected and that hence the harmonized standard EN 12929-2 is regarded as being conform with the requirements of the EU Directive
- Application of the EU Directive in member countries

A permanent item of the agenda of all meetings of the Standing Committee is the discussion of the results of enquiries carried out in all member countries to assess any arising difficulties of application of the EU Directive. It appeared from that enquiry that apparently there are no significant problems which ought to be discussed by the Standing Committee. However, it has been pointed out, there might be some problems with the application of the Directive on Machinery to ropeway installations.

- Progress report to be submitted to the Commission

The Standing Committee is required to submit to the Commission at regular intervals a report on the application of the EU Directive. The Standing Committee has hence undertaken to write the report and has invited all member countries to report their application difficulties through CIRCA.

- Progress Report on the New Legal Framework of the New Approach

The Commission has submitted a report on the following new regulations and decisions of the European Parliament and their implications :

- Decision No 768/2008/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 9 July 2008 on a common framework for the marketing of products repealing Council Decision 93/465/EEC
- Regulation (EC) No 764/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 laying down procedures relating to the application of certain national technical rules to products lawfully marketed in another Member State repealing Decision No. 3052/95/EC
- Regulation (EC) No. 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products repealing Regulation (EEC) No. 339/93

In principle the above documents define among other things a new legal framework for accreditation procedures of Member States, increase the stringency of market surveillance, define the formal recognition of the principle of marketing of technical products which conform to prescriptions of Member States without being conform with the requirements of a Directive on the Internal Market.

These steps which are being taken with a view to establishing a new legal framework of the New Approach may imply the need to revise and adapt some, non technical safety requirements of the EU Directive 2000/9/EC..

- Approval of RfU No. 005 relating to the assessment of certificates, declarations of conformity, quality assurance systems for safety components, sub-systems etc.

Minimum information to be provided in certificates.

This RfU (Recommendation for use) has already been discussed by the Standing Committee in the meeting held on January 28, 2008. Members however have decided to postpone their decision because no agreement could be reached on the minimum information to be provided. The new draft of the RfU has in the meantime met the unanimous approval of all members of the Standing Committee.

As for RfU No. 006 so far the notified bodies have submitted no new draft proposal and hence a final decision is still pending.

- Progress report on CEN standards

The President of CEN TC 242, Monsieur Laravoire, reported that CEN standards are being revised and that the suggested amendments are being examined by the project group. As for the revision, Monsieur Laravoire reported that suggested amendments will be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines of a special revision procedure which has been laid down by the TC.

With a view to meeting the requirements of the procedure the working groups of TC 242 have been reactivated in the meantime.

Monsieur Laravoire further reported that the working group on "Operation" has started work on information panels for users of ropeway installations.

A special ad hoc working group has been set up two years ago and assigned the task to draft standards for loading bands for up-hill conveyance of skier in ski-areas. In the meantime the ad hoc working group has produced a first draft which meets the requirements of the Directive on Machinery and has it submitted for further consideration to the competent Technical Committee on Machinery. It is hoped that the draft will be approved without being submitted to additional steps of procedure.

### **First meeting of the ADCO group.**

We had already the opportunity to report that the Standing Committee have more than once expressed the view in their last meetings that it was necessary to set up

the ADCO group and convene a first meeting of that group.

On October 22, 2008 the Administrative Cooperation Group among National Market Surveillance Authorities for the Directive 2000/9/EC relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons convened in Brussels for their first meeting.

17 Member States have attended the meeting.

The suggested agenda included three sets of problems

- Mission of the ADCO group
- Organisation of the ADCO Group for ropeway installations
- Request to address the problem of the use of spare parts to retrofit existing ropeway installations which have been built before the date of enforcement of the EU Directive.

Mrs. Barbagallo made a presentation of the ADCO group which is actually a forum for the exchange of information between authorities responsible for market surveillance. ADCO Groups have already been set up to assist the application of all enforced Directives and hence the time has come to set up an ADCO Group for the EU Directive 2000/9/EC relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons.

Mrs. Barabagallo stressed in particular the fact that the decision to refrain from serving on the ADCO Group will be regarded as a violation of clause 24 of the Regulation (EC) No. 765/2008. There is no longer any scope for further discussions. The President, Herr Johann Renders suggested to take a vote on the establishment of the ADCO Group. The establishment of the ADCO Group is one facet of this issue which is linked to another facet of the issue, i.e. the approval of the proposed candidate for the election of the chairman of the group. France had already declared that France would accept to chair this group. The proposal has been accepted with one vote against.

Thereafter Herr Renders declared that having taken these decisions the meeting may regard the ADCO Group as having been established with France in the chair.

He thanked all present for their acceptance of the final decision and passed the chair onto Daniel Pfeiffer after having given him full assurance of his willingness to support him.

Thereafter the group discussed the Commission's standard draft proposal for internal regulations of the group which has been circulated with the invitation to this meeting. The group agreed to adopt the following amendments of the draft internal regulation:

- a) rotation of the mandate of the chairman of the working group every three years
- b) countries may be represented by a delegation composed of more than one person
- c) Representatives of CEN, OITAF, FI-ANET and IARM may attend meetings of the ADCO Group if Member States have made it explicit that they wish them to attend.

As for the use of spare parts to retrofit existing ropeway installation it has been recalled that the problem has already be dealt with by the European Commission in the guidelines for the application of the EU Directive relating to ropeway installations. Indeed the Commission's answer has been worded as follows: *Safety components and sub-systems which have ceased to be manufactured for new installations but continue to be produced, in the context of normal maintenance, as identical or virtually identical replacements for parts of existing installations, i.e. constructed before 3 May, 2004 .do not have to bea given the CE marking and can remain subject to national rules.*

The next meeting has been scheduled to take place in February or March 2009 in conjunction with the next meeting of the Standing committee.

#### **ITTAB (Meeting of technical supervisory authorities for ropeway installations)**

The 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of ITTAB convened in Lam, Upper Bavaria, from September 22 to 25, 2008. Markus Sackmann, Secretary of State of the Bavarian Government,

opened the meeting. Prof. Ing. Dr. Neiß, Bavarian State Ministry of Trade, Infrastructure, Transports and Technology was in the chair.

The meeting was attended by delegations of the following countries : besides the delegation of the host country, delegations of Andorra, Argentina, Austria, China, Finland, France, Hongkong, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A.

Members submitted their national statistical surveys of accidents and discussed the most interesting ones.

The meeting also discussed the following technical subjects :

Procedures adopted in Germany to provide safety against fire and a satisfactory fire control of existing ropeway installations.

Recurrent inspection of ropeway installations carried out by the German supervisory authority

Derailment of the carrying-hauling rope of a fixed grip chairlift.

Supervisory activity of Swiss authorities and controlling bodies.

Movement of a reversible aerial ropeway track rope in its cast resin socket

Exchange of information on experience made with magnetic discs used to prevent children from falling from their seat which have been tested at Courchevel in France.

Argentina's safety measures for ropeway installations

After the meeting delegates have been taken to Arber to visit the local ropeway installations, i.e. a detachable grip chairlift equipped with an automatic opening and closing device of children's safety bars. The Bavarian Mountain Rescue Service organized a demonstration of a rescue operation by rescuing with their vertical rescue devices volunteering participants.

As a conclusion of the meeting delegates were shown by the Stuttgart IFT Institute a visual rope inspection device consisting of a film camera and automatic display of rope disorders.

The meeting ended with a sumptuous gala dinner in a glass factory offered by

the Bavarian Ministry. Let us express our compliments to the main organizer, Dr. Ing. Ralph Sondermann and his team for this successful meeting.

The next meeting will take place in Poland.

## **ACTIVITIES OF O.I.T.A.F. STUDY COMMITTEES**

### **O.I.T.A.F. COMMITTEE N° 1**

Ropeway engineering and technical recommendations

Chairman : Dipl. Ing. Dr. Peter Sedivy, Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie.

P. Sedivy has sent us the following report:

Committee n° 1 met three times in 2008.

Meetings have been organized on

January 8, 2008 in Vipiteno

April 15 and 16, 2008 in Vienna and

September 2 and 3 in Granada.

Main item of the agenda of these meetings:

Exchange of views on hazardous scenarios to be given due consideration in a safety analysis of reversible aerial ropeways.

The next meeting has been scheduled to take place in Engelberg from February 24 to 26, 2009. The meeting has been organized by Dipl. Ing. Fritz Meyer, who has been an active member of the committee for many years. Seen that F. Meyer has taken in the meantime his retirement the meeting could not be held without some sadness because it was to be F. Meyer's last presence in a meeting of committee 1. All those who have taken part in discussions of hazardous scenarios and contributed to the drafting of the recommendation hazardous scenarios and situations to be taken into account in a safety analysis will remember the importance of Fritz Meyer's active participation and contributions. Safety at the work place was and is, as in the case of Dipl.-Phys. Frank Wagner, an issue of F. Meyer's particular concern. Having met three times in 2009 the committee can now report on a satisfactory progress of their work and expects to finalize it in 2009.

## **O.I.T.A.F. STUDY COMMITTEE N° 2**

Properties and inspection of ropes

Chairman of the committee: Eric Premat, STRMTG – Supervisory authority (F)

E. Premat has sent us the following report:

O.I.T.A.F. study committee 2 has met on October 9 and 10, 2008 at the Institut für Fördertechnik und Logistik (IFT) of the Stuttgart University. The meeting, which has been organized with the kind help of Sven Winter has been attended by 10 members of the committee.

Agenda of the meeting:

1. Assessment of the internal corrosion of track ropes
2. Survey of rope inspection procedures
3. Movement of an aerial ropeway track rope in its cast resin socket
4. Production of ropes : criteria and choice of a method
5. Socketing technique: full socket and cast resin socket
6. Exchange of information on new regulations and new standards
7. CE marking of ropes and related questions: Procedure applicable to the sub-system "Rope and rope attachments"

The greater part of the exchange of views focused on the following issues:

- ITEMS 1 and 2: there was a general consensus to survey first all open and unsolved issues and having done so draw up a list of priorities. Having drawn up this list it should be possible to decide ways and means to tackle the most important questions. To this end it would seem convenient to do some preparatory work and draft a working document to be circulated to all members of committee 2 as a basis for the discussion at the committee's next meeting. In the meantime all members are invited to give a thought to this problem and try to see if and how they can contribute to the investigations to be made, without forgetting the financial means to be made available.
- As for full cast resin sockets the report further recalls that in Switzerland two new reversible aerial ropeways, one built in 2007 and one in 2008, have been fitted with this type of cast resin sockets con-

taining an optical fibre for the transmission of signals. The assessment of the system (according to module H of the EU Directive 2000/9/EC relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons) has been entrusted to a notified body. Seen however that so far no long term experience is available the Swiss authorities required the manufacturer to provide a special rope monitoring device capable of detecting without any time lag any movements or slippage of the rope in the cast resin socket. It appears from the investigations made so far in the last two years that there is no slippage of ropes in this type of cast sockets.

- As for ITEM 4 of the agenda – Production of ropes - it should be pointed out that members of committee 2 have embarked upon a very lively discussion and in the end have come to an agreement on the main purpose of the work to be done, i.e. to draft guidelines that will meet the concurrent approval of and may be applied by the whole ropeway industry.
- The committee have also exchanged views on the revision of CEN standards and have asked themselves what the O.I.T.A.F. study committee 2 can do to help the CEN TC working group on ropes (most members of the CEN working group and the convener of the CEN working group, Ing. Clerici, are members of the O.I.T.A.F. study committee 2). Committee 2 agreed to resume the discussion at their next meeting and to this end to ask a member of committee 2 to draft a working document and to use to this end a risk analysis as the basis of the document.
- The committee members were taken to a visit of the test laboratory of the IFT. The visit of the laboratory and its testing equipment, as well as the presentation of the main fields of the institute's activity triggered a wide and exhaustive exchange of views and experience of testing and measuring methods. The attention has in particular focused on the presentation of a new visual method of rope inspection which has been developed by IFT. The measuring device consists of a film camera which takes the pictures and

captures data of the state of the rope combined with a digital image processing. This visual inspection system is no doubt an important innovation and a considerable step forward in terms of automatic and rapid assessment of the state of the full length of the rope, its diameter and disorders. Besides that examiners are given a means to inspect accurately rope sections and store test results with their PC. As their last item of this meeting's agenda the committee discussed the results of an important research project on means and ways to determine the useful life of ropes.

- Committee 2 have succeeded in convincing two new members to join the committee: Josef Sutter (Doppelmayr) and Renzo Pesciallo (representing the Swiss Ropeway Association). A warm welcome has been given to both newcomers. With these two new members all involved parties, i.e. rope and ropeway manufacturers, research, notified bodies, independent consultants and experts, authorities, ropeway operators representing six member countries of O.I.T.A.F., i.e. Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Norway and Switzerland are now serving on committee 2.

The next meeting of O.I.T.A.F. study committee 2 has been scheduled to take place on May 14 and 15, 2009 in Vienna and has been organized with the help of H. Machalik, BMVIT.

### **O.I.T.A.F. COMMITTEE n° 3**

Electrical Equipment and Components of ropeway installations

Chairman of the committee: Dipl. Ing. Fredy Lang, IWM Glattbrugg, Switzerland

Committee 3 have met last in Innsbruck from October 6 to 8, 2008.

The meeting has been attended by 15 members and has addressed amongst others the following issues:

- Organisation of the O.I.T.A.F. seminar  
The organisation of the O.I.T.A.F. seminar has stimulated a lively discussion. In the end the following members of the committee accepted to present a lecture: Ernst Rahnefeld, Elmar Fuchs, Erich

Megert, Johann Disl, Fabrice Jaquier and Günter Tschinkel

- CEN standards  
The committee discussed at length problems involved by the maintenance of CEN standards and in particular standards for the electrical equipment and electrical components and have exchanged views on the applicability of EN standard 954-1, EN ISO standard 13849-1 and EN standard 62061 to ropeway installations.
- Signalling of disorders and storage of state and disorder data (Data Recording Device)  
Members were informed that the ad hoc group have convened for their last and conclusive meeting on April 30, 2008 in France. No additional comments have been made at that meeting or amendments to the last draft suggested. At present the draft is being given its definitive editorial form and will then be submitted to CEN TC 242 for submission to the statutory steps of the procedure.
- Load controlled braking without application of a load, a new testing approach  
F. Jaquier provided information on the new regulations for the annual inspection of ropeway installations which have been enforced in 2007. Under the provisions of this new regulation all safety components of a ropeway installation have to be submitted to a specified testing procedure based on a list of precisely specified tests. The list of tests includes also specified braking tests to be carried out in different representative operating and load conditions. The enforced new regulation offers the possibility to use either a conventional method of testing, i.e. the application of loads or another appropriate method of testing. The passage offering the possibility to use another appropriate method of testing has been added on purpose with a view to offering a chance for the research to use and develop other methods of testing. Having said that F. Jaquier made a global presentation of a method of testing which meets the requirements of French regulations. In short, it is a testing method in which a load corresponding to the line load is applied by the driving motor to the driving sheave, which means that the load moment is produced by the driving motor.

Attending members have discussed at length this interesting innovation and anticipating the future they believe that it will rouse the interest of and will be discussed also in other countries.

- Hazardous scenarios of the electrical equipment and components of ropeway installations

F. Lang presented his list of hazardous scenarios which have to be given due consideration in a safety analysis of components of reversible aerial ropeways. To draw up this list, he explained, he has adopted the same approach which had been adopted by O.I.T.A.F. committee 1. Seen that in the tables drawn up by study committee 1 only components, and not safety components are being referred to, F. Lang suggested to make an addition for the component "electrical conductor" in the column "Requirements" and to add to the only requirement which is mentioned in the draft, i.e. requirement for the method of installation, a second one, i.e. the requirement for "method of connection". He suggested the following wording: Selection of adequate methods of installation and methods of connection".

- Exchange of information on incidents and disorders. This item is a permanent item of all agendas of committee 2 meetings and offers members a chance to exchange information and discuss incidents and disorders brought about by the electrical equipment and components of ropeway installations.

Seen that committee 2 are organizing the next O.I.T.A.F. seminar it has been agreed to convene the next meeting in autumn 2009.

#### **O.I.T.A.F. STUDY COMMITTEE 4**

Legal, administrative, economic and statistical matters.

Chairman of the committee: Dr. Peter Vollmer, Manager of the Verband der Seilbahnen Schweiz SBS, (Swiss Ropeway Association)

P. Vollmer has sent us the following report:

Committee 2 have met twice in 2008, the first meeting convened on May 27 and 28, 2008 in Salzburg / Austria, the second meeting convened in Rogla / Slovenia. Committee 2 have made a fundamental contribution to the organisation of the O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2008.

The two meetings mentioned above have been the first two meetings chaired by P. Vollmer.

Seen the wide range of topics which are being dealt with by this committee the members of the committee have decided to put particular emphasis on the following issues:

- Legal frame of reference (EU and national regulations)
- Transposition and application of EU Directives and CEN standards in member countries and arising application problems
- Application of the EU Directive on concessions
- Transportation of children
- Operating licence renewal
- Professional training and mutual recognition of certificates
- Economic development / Position of the ropeway industry in the national economy / Marketing
- Crisis of financial markets. Arising consequences for the tourism and the ropeway industry
- Position of ropeway installations in the national and regional economy
- Economic indices and collective data (to coordinate with FIANET)
- Young passengers / Attracting the interest of younger generations for winter sports
- Pricing of transportation by rope
- Operational problems, new trends and new sports equipment
- Legal problems brought about by new trends and new sports equipment
- Internal problems, exchange of information, incidents and disorders
- International exchange of information (new legal provisions, incidents etc.)

At their last meeting held in Vienna in December 2008 members had to take leave from Riet Theus (SBS Swiss Association of Ropeway Operators) who has served on committee 4 for many years. Christoff Egger (Jungfraubahnen Schweiz) is going to step in as his successor.

O.I.T.A.F. study committee 4 is pleased to note that all members are fully committed to the committee's mission, attend regularly committee meetings and take an active part in discussions. There is may be one flaw to it, i.e. the unbalanced representation of inter-

ested parties, ropeway operators being by far more heavily represented than manufacturers and authorities. This is why manufacturers and authorities are invited to support their most active delegates by appointing additional delegates to back them. Having decided to hold their December meeting in Rogla / Slovenia, O.I.T.A.F. committee 4 members have signalled that they would appreciate to have on this committee delegates from Central and East European countries.

As chairman of O.I.T.A.F. study committee 4 I would like to express my gratitude to all members of the committee for their wholehearted commitment. I also wish to express thanks to the Austrian and Slovenian members of O.I.T.A.F. for the trouble they have been taking to prepare the best possible setting for our meetings in Austria and Slovenia. I also wish to thank Dr. Heinrich Brugger, the Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F. for his untiring support. And last but not least let me thank Karin Hergert, officer of the Swiss Ropeway Association, who has always supported our activities by looking after and settling all administrative problems and problems of organisation.

The next meeting has been scheduled to take place in Bolzano on May 12 and 13.

#### **O.I.T.A.F. STUDY COMMITTEE N° 6**

Optimization of ropeway and ski-tow operation

Chairman of the committee: Dr. Ing. Mauro Joyeusaz, Technical Manager of Cervino AG (Aosta)

M. Joyeusaz has sent us the following report : In the second half of 2008 study committee 6 met only once. The committee convened in Vienna on October 2 and 3 and has been attended by 14 members.

At their last meeting the study committee has been joined by two new members: Monsieur Michael Perretta who represented SNTF (F) and Frau Marianne Fritz, representative of the Austrian Ministry for Transports. May we express to the newcomers best wishes for a successful cooperation!

The study committee have continued their work on their draft recommendation "**Guidelines for the evacuation of ropeways**". They have finalized the draft of the first chap-

ters of the recommendation (Definitions – Generalities – Evacuation) with some amendments of the draft they had adopted at past meetings.

They have also finalized six documents that will be annexed to the body of the recommendation.

The study committee further approved a proposal submitted by Philippe Balzer, a member of the committee and the committee's information specialist, and decided to draft and publish a survey of all data and information of interest on the planning and execution of rescue operations in an own homepage having the following content :

- Integral text of the guidelines
- All annexes to the guidelines
- Examples of rescue plans and vertical rescuing procedures
- Photographs and films
- Past rescue operations and resulting practical experience

For better understanding and clarification of the various steps of the evacuation operations the chosen editing system of the website pages will permit to establish links and correlate the corresponding text of the guidelines or section of the assessment questionnaire, corresponding annexes, photographs or film to the various steps of the evacuation operation.

In any case prior to editing the website all legal aspects of the website will have to be cleared up by the Management Committee and discussed with legal experts.

The next meetings of study committee 6 have been scheduled to take place on January 22 and 23, 2009 at Sierra Nevada (E), on June 15 and 16, 2009 in Munich and in autumn 2009 in France (date and place of venue yet to be agreed).

#### **Ad hoc working group on recommendations for the transportation of atypical goods requiring special operating regulations and transportation of handicapped persons**

Convener of the working group: Dr. Ing. Mauro Joyeusaz, Technical Manager of Cervino AG (Aosta)

M. Joyeusaz has sent us the following report:

As we had already the pleasure to report in the last issue of *O.I.T.A.F-NEWS*, the joint working group composed of members of study committee 4 and members of study committee 6 have met for their third and last meeting on May 26, 2008 in Salzburg. 5 experts have attended the meeting and have finalized the drafts of the following chapters :

- Exclusion from admittance  
Cases in which passengers have to be excluded from admittance because of their particular behaviour or state in order to prevent them from harming themselves or other passengers or putting the safety of the installation in jeopardy.
- Animals  
Conditions for the transportation of animals
- Materials  
Specification of transport conditions to be met by bulky, heavy or dangerous materials.

They have also discussed and agreed editorial amendments of two chapters which have already been discussed, i.e. chapter "Generalities" and chapter "Physically disabled passengers".

The joint working group's mission may be regarded as having been completed at their meeting in Salzburg and its draft recommendation will hence be submitted to the Management Committee of O.I.T.A.F. for approval.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all participants for their commitment and expert contribution to our discussions on the draft we have been asked to draft. My I express in this way my thanks to Herr Schröttner and Herr Steinlechner, the Austrian members of the joint working group, to Herr Spötzli, the German member, to Herr Wohlwend and Herr Sartori, our Swiss members and Monsieur Rioult, the Franch member of the working group.

May I express my special thank to Mrs. Brink for her commitment and expert interpretation of our debates and translation of our working documents.

Last but not least I wish to thank the Swiss Ropeway Association for hosting our last two meeting in their meeting rooms.

## **O.I.T.A.F. STUDY COMMITTEE N° 7**

Environment

Chairman of the committee: Techn. Rat. Dipl. Ing. Michael Manhart, Lech am Arlberg.

Michael Manhart has sent us the following report :

Accepting an invitation of Dr. Paul Profanter and his co-workers O.I.T.A.F. study committee 7 have met in Bressanone on October 30, 2008.

They were first given a chance to introduce themselves in order to facilitate the exchange of views with the new members and then given a progress report on the "Environment Forum's Recommendation" which has in the meantime been circulated to all O.I.T.A.F. and FIANET members as a helpful instrument in support of actions associated with the Alpine Convention.

All members agreed that chapters on subjects 1. Alpine Convention, 2. Climate, 3. Traffic and Transportation and 4. EA – Environmental Risk Assessment need yet to be completed if they were to serve as a uniform basis of reference for all persons involved in public relations and who have to defend the cause of environmental protection. Members have in mind to add at the end of each chapter a recommendation on the subject dealt with in the chapter.

It is necessary to promote and improve international exchange of information on environment and public relations and fight with proven evidence Improper interpretation of the Alpine Convention, for instance the interpretation of ecologically unstable area used by green organisations in their soil protection certificates, mainly green organisations who declare to be contrary to corrective measures and do not recognize the value of stabilizing measures.

At the end of the meeting South Tyrol presented its project "reinforced soil" and France presented its new public relations project on snow making. SNTF have in mind to draft a proposal for a new environmental management system. German speaking countries have some time ago laid down general guidelines of environmental management systems to ISO 14001 or EMAS and have also envi-

ronmental management systems drawn up by their experts.

As for the composition of the study committee 7 and its chairmanship it is felt that it is first necessary to increase membership in order to safeguard an even representation of all involved parties and hence to nominate new members representing ropeway operators and the responsible authorities, as well as to nominate new member ecologists and then, having achieved this even representation of all parties, proceed to the election of the new chairman of study committee 7. After his election the new chairman will have to see how he can best organize the future coordination of the committee's work.

The next meeting of study committee 7 is due to take place in spring or summer 2009.

#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

Meetings of O.I.T.A.F. committees  
(only dates which have already been agreed)  
Management Committee April 23, 2009 in Innsbruck  
October 23, 2009 in Rome  
Executive Committee yet to be agreed

O.I.T.A.F. Seminar April 24, 2009 in Innsbruck  
Study Committee 1 October 8 to 9 2009 on Capri (I)  
Study Committee 2 May 14 to 15, 2009 in Vienna (A)  
Study Committee 3 October 5 to 7, 2009 in Bolzano (I)  
Study Committee 4 May 12 and 13, 2009 in Bolzano (I)  
Study Committee 6 January 22 to 23, 2009 at Sierra Nevada (E) and  
June 15 to 16, 2009 in Munich (D)  
Study Committee 7 October 9 to 10, 2009 in Annecy (F)

#### **O.I.T.A.F. IN INTERNET**

The access to the Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish website version may be obtained by entering the address

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- O.I.T.A.F. bodies and their members
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#### **Impressum**

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