



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

1st Half-year 2009

The same issue has been published:

in German
French and
Italian

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President's preface

O.I.T.A.F. is 50 years old

The idea to give birth to an international organisation of transportation by rope has been launched during the first International Conference on Transportation by Rope held in Italy in 1957. No longer the idea has been launched the first steps have been taken to implement the idea by asking Prof. D'Armini and Prof. Greco, the representatives of the Italian Ministry for Transports to draft the statute of the future international organisation.

The draft statute met the approval of 27 representatives of professions and categories directly associated with transportation by rope of the most important Alpine countries plus Spain and Poland in a meeting held in Milano on January 20, 1959.

To-day, 50 years later, O.I.T.A.F. pursues the same scope and strives to fulfil the same mission the organisation had been assigned 50 years ago. In order to achieve this goal O.I.T.A.F. have tried and are trying to bring together all interested social and professional categories, engineers, technicians, legal experts, economists and make them sit around one and the same table along with representatives of the three directly involved categories, i.e. the supervisory authorities, the ropeway manufacturers and the ropeway operators and assign them the task to draft recommendations deemed to be applicable in Europe, as well as all over the world.

We may say to-day that O.I.T.A.F. is the only meeting place where experts of rope driven transport systems can meet in order to exchange their views and speak openly of their experience and the problems of their profession without being subjected to external constraints and restrictions,.

Is there nowadays a place, body or institution in a better position than O.I.T.A.F. or better informed or better suited to carry on an exchange of views on

- The evolution of the EU directive relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons
- The evolution of CEN standards

- The evolution of rope driven transport systems

as well as on other subjects of interest.

Is there nowadays a place, body or institution other than O.I.T.A.F. which, by organizing seminars and international conferences can provide better information on the real progress as well as on the social and economic evolution which may be achieved with the help of rope driven transportation or achieved in other areas the existence of which might be still unknown to this day.

The next international conference scheduled to take place from October 23 to 26, 2011 in Rio de Janeiro, the place of venue of a future edition of the Olympic Games, focuses the greater part of its programme on rope driven urban transportation systems in big Latin American metropolises. At the same time O.I.T.A.F. have decided to avail themselves of the opportunity offered by SAM 2010, the exhibition which is due to take place in Grenoble from April 21 to 23, 2010 inform the public that protection of the environment and sustainable development are two major problems which are being looked after by our profession.

As for the future of O.I.T.A.F. and of our profession, may I say, that they are no doubt very promising. I am indeed confident that in the ten years we will assist to many a new development of rope driven transport systems in areas which are as yet unknown and unpredictable.

A word of the Secretary General

This Year O.I.T.A.F. celebrates its 50th anniversary. The organisation has been founded on January 20, 1959 in Milan (I). Fifty years have indeed elapsed since and hence time has come to recall all past activities and outline the organisation's intentions for the future during a celebration which has been arranged in the evening of October 23, 2009 in Rome after the 119th meeting of the Management Committee. All honorary members of O.I.T.A.F. and all chairmen and conveners of O.I.T.A.F. study committees and working groups have been invited to attend this special event in O.I.T.A.F.'s life. A full report of

the celebration will be published in the next issue of O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS.

In the first half-year of 2009 the Management Committee convened for their 118th meeting and the Executive Committee for their 87th meeting. The summarized report of both these meetings may be found further down.

As for O.I.T.A.F.'s international activities readers will find also in this issue reports on the second meeting of the General Organisation Committee for the International Conference 2011 in Rio de Janeiro which has convened in Innsbruck during the InterAlpin exhibition and the 31st meeting of CEN, the European Standards Committee.

ACTIVITIES of O.I.T.A.F.

Meeting of the Management Committee and meeting of the Executive Committee

Executive Committee

The 87th meeting of the Executive Committee has taken place at the Zürich airport on January 28, 2009. The chairmen of O.I.T.A.F. study committees 1, 4, 6 and 7 have attended the meeting. They have submitted progress reports on their committee's activities. Their reports have already been published in the last issue of O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS.

As for the O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2010, members have suggested to submit to the Management Committee the proposal to ask study committee 7 to organize the seminar 2010 in Grenoble.

Management Committee

The Management Committee have met in Innsbruck for their 118th meeting on April 23, 2009. At that meeting the Management Committee have examined, amongs other issues the following subjects :

- O.I.T.A.F. International Conference 2011 in Rio de Janeiro. The Management Committee have approved the general theme of the conference, the subjects to be addressed and the general programme of the conference proposed by the General Organisation Committee (Cf. next item : O.I.T.A.F. International Conference)
- O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2010 in Grenoble (Cf. item Seminar 2010)
- Approval of the balance sheet 2008

O.I.T.A.F. International Conference 2011 in Rio de Janeiro

The General Organisation Committee of the O.I.T.A.F. International Conference 2011 have met for their second meeting in the morning of April 23, 2009 in Innsbruck. The meeting has also been attended by representatives of the Rio Local Organisation Committee. The meeting reached consensus on and approved the following proposals for the general theme, the subjects to be addressed in the working sessions and the general programme of the conference :

General theme of the conference :

ROPEWAYS : SAFE, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AND SUCCESSFUL IN THE FUTURE

General theme and subjects to be addressed in working sessions

Working session 1

Development of ropeway driven urban transportation systems

Subtitles :

- New technical visions and feasibility
- Experience so far made with rope driven urban transportation systems
- Operation of rope driven urban transportation systems
- Economic prospects
- Etc

Working session 2

Development of ropeway installations for tourism

Subtitles

- Development of ropeway installations for tourism in Latin America
- Likely future development of ropeway installations for tourism (ski resorts)
- Technical regulations and their application in Latin America
- Economic aspects of ropeway installations for tourism
- Economic indices
- Development projects of ski resorts in Europe and Latin America
- Accounting and clearing systems of European ski resorts
- Etc

The candidates' response to the "Call of Papers" will serve as a guideline for the selection of lecturers.

Working session 3

Sustainability of transportation by rope, environmental, social and economic aspects

The candidates' response to the "Call of Paper" will serve as a guideline for the selection of lecturers.

Working session 4

Technology and safety.

Subtitles

- Latest technological development of the construction of ropeway installations designed to carry persons
- The importance of material handling ropeway installations in the South American continent
- Ropes for material handling ropeway installations and ropeway installations designed to carry persons. Differences between the two different fields of application and differences of relative systems of inspection.
- Etc.

Lecturers are to be selected by manufacturers or with regard to the candidates' response to the "Call of Papers"

General programme of the conference

Monday, October 24, 2011

Afternoon; Registration of participants and delivery of conference documents

Afternoon: for O.I.T.A.F. members only:

- Meeting of the O.I.T.A.F. Management Committee
- O.I.T.A.F. General Assembly
- Meeting of the Management Committee and election of the new president O.I.T.A.F.

Evening: Welcome cocktail at the valley station of the cableway

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Morning: Registration of participants
Opening ceremony of the conference

Working session 1

Afternoon: Working session 2

Evening: Folklore evening

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Whole day : Excursion

Evening : free or events organized and invitations extended by companies

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Morning : Working session 3

Afternoon : Working session 4

Evening : Gala dinner

Conference website

The Rio Local Organisation Committee has produced and published in INTERNET its own Website which readers can accede to via the O.I.T.A.F. homepage www.oitaf.org or directly via the address www.oitaf2011.com.br. Information on arrangements for the conference and other important details will be regularly updated.

Approval of the balance sheet 2008

True to the standard procedure of Management Committee meetings the Treasurer of O.I.T.A.F., Dr. Claudio Canessa Parodi has submitted , as he had always done in the past, an accurate report on the financial situation of O.I.T.A.F. After having discussed the report and pointed out that the financial year 2008 closed with an operating profit amounting to 5.135,31 Euros the members of the Management Committee approved the submitted balance sheet.

It should however be pointed out that the interpretation of debates during meetings of O.I.T.A.F. leading bodies and study committees, the translation of working documents and recommendations and interpretation provided for the seminar in Oslo amounts to 60% of the organisation's expenses, while the printing cost of O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS, postage and remuneration of the Secretariat (10%) make up to 40% of expenses shown in the balance sheet.

O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2009

Dipl.Ing. Fredy Lang, experienced member and chairman of O.I.T.A.F. study committee 3 "Electrical equipment and components of ropeway installations" having accepted the responsibility for the organisation of the O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2009, the seminar was held in Innsbruck on April 24, 2009 during the INTERALPIN exhibition.

120 participants or so have attended the seminar and have shown their interest for the addressed subjects. It would hence seem that O.I.T.A.F seminars have gained in popularity and are appreciated by the public.



The audience

The president of O.I.T.A.F. having been prevented from attending the seminar the Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F., Dr. Ing. Heinrich Brugger, stressed in particular the following aspects in his introductory address :

The electrical equipment is practically the central core of the ropeway installation. It controls and regulates the travel of ropes and carriers, transmits signals, instructions and information. In many instances there is no mechanic structure or solution capable of performing a specific safety function. These functions are therefore entrusted to electrical the electrical function of electrical safety components.

Ever since its foundation in 1972 study committee 3 meets regularly twice a year to discuss and exchange views on electrical components of ropeway installation, their functional performance, development trends and problems. At present the study committee is composed of 18 members from the 5 most important countries in the field of transportation by rope.

The EU Directive 2000/9/EC and the harmonized CEN standards have and are having a momentous effect on the production of electrical components for ropeway installations in that they supported efforts which have been and are being made to harmonize the profession and products by reducing the former great variety of products and devices, and

hence and by doing so have helped to reduce the barriers to trade.

The lectures to be presented describe the experience which has so far been made with the European Directive and in particular problems of application which have been encountered, as well as problems of production, assembly and certification. Besides that they also describe the profession's views on the likely development trends of products and standards.

H. Brugger also thanked the Innsbruck Congress Center and Fair, in the person of its manager Georg Lamp, for hosting the seminar in the center's premises, making available the necessary technical equipment, as well as providing the interpretation of debates and the team of interpreters.



H. Brugger opens the seminar.

The moderator of the seminar, Dipl Ing. F. Lang, delivered the following introductory address : In 2007 O.I.T.A.F. study committee 1 "Ropeway technology and recommendations" has organized a seminar on the following main theme : Safety of ropeway installations : what can we do to preserve our position as a safe means of transportation ?.

Lecturers have tried to demonstrate that compliance with new prescriptions for the design of ropeway installations, inspection and evaluation by notified bodies and compliance with the requirements of the European Directive for ropeway installations have brought about a significant improvement of the safety level of ropeway installations.

Higher level of safety is also the main theme of this seminar, yet this year lecturers are focusing their attention on electrical equipment.

The EU Directive 2000/9/EC relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons has been published on March 21, 2000, which is almost ten years ago. In the meantime the directive has been enforced in almost all European countries. The authors of the six lectures to be delivered have tried to explain, speaking each of his own experience and representing each own viewpoints, on conditions which have to be met and how work has to be done so as to achieve the necessary compliance with the directive and by doing so, to improve the public's understanding for the workings and procedures of the European Directive.



Fredy Lang

Chairman of O.I.T.A.F. study committee 3 and moderator of the O.I.T.A.F. seminar.

The Directive 2000/9/EC as seen by a Swiss manufacturer. Practical experience of application and maintenance of standards”



Erich Megert – SISAG / Altdorf (CH)

Certifying examiner's opinion of the EU Directive



Ernst Rahnefeld -

EU Directive 2000/9/EC – Suggestions for a possible approach to problems of retrofitting and the exchange of spare parts of existing ropeway installations



Elmar Fuchs – Doppelmayr Seilbahnen GmbH, Wolfurt (A)

Components for the safety of the latest generation of ropeway installations



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

Electrical safety functions for ropeway installations – Latest experience



Fabrice Jacquier – Société SEMER, Le Fayet (F)

Partial retrofitting of the electrical equipment of a ropeway – Case study of an Italian project



Günter Tschinkel – LEITNER AG, Vipiteno (I)

Readers can load down all lectures from the O.I.T.A.F. homepage www.oitaf.org.

O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2010

The Management Committee has decided to organize the O.I.T.A.F. seminar 2010 in conjunction with the SAM Exhibition in Grenoble. The seminar has been scheduled to take place on April 21, 2010.

The Management Committee also approved the following general theme suggested by the O.I.T.A.F. study committee 7 "Environment" :

Environmental management responsibilities in the context of transportation by rope

The suggested programme includes a general presentation of fundamental principles and five additional lectures with sufficient time left for the discussion of each lecture.

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

CEN standards specifying safety requirements for ropeway installations designed to carry persons.

The Technical Committee CEN TC 242 have met in Paris on July 2 and 3, 2009 for their 31st meeting.

Amongst other issues the Technical Committee have examined the following subjects which may be regarded as the most important items of the committee's work load..

- **Election of the President of the Technical Committee CEN TC 242**
J. Laravoire has been re-elected and confirmed in his office as President of the Technical Committee CEN TC 242. O.I.T.A.F. herewith wishes to express the organisations congratulations and best wishes for a successful collaboration in the future
- **Approval for release to the formal enquiry of prEN 15700 – Safety of travellers for tourist or sporting use, used to transport passengers mainly in ski areas** (Sécurité des tapis roulants pour les activités de sports d'hiver ou de loisirs – Sicherheit von Bandfördererern für Wintersport oder Freizeitsaktivitäten)

We should recall that CEN TC 242 have decided at their 28th meeting held in Lisbon in 2005 to set up a working group and assign it the task to draft a standard consistent with the essential principles of the EU Directive 2000/9/EC and to entrust the chair of the working group to Jean-Claude Bonneton, officer of the French Ministry for Transports (STRMTG). Members serving on this working group are experts appointed by the supervisory authorities, operators and manufacturers of travelers of the following countries Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

In submitting his progress report, Jean-Claude Bonneton, convener of the work-

ing group, explained the fundamental approach which has been adopted and the guidelines which have been followed by his working group and stressed in particular the following aspects : The working group have finalized and submitted a first draft of the standard deemed to be consistent with the spirit and guidelines of the Directive relating to ropeway installations for approval and release for the enquiry in 2007, which means the year in which the European Commission have decided that travelators are not a product falling within the scope of the Ropeway Directive, but one covered by the scope of the Machine Directive 2006/42/EC.

Hence, with the agreement of CEN TC 242, the draft standard has been amended and made to meet both the requirements of the Directive relating to ropeway installations (Directive 2000/9/EC) and the requirements of the Machine Directive 2006/42/EC.

The draft standard has thereupon been submitted for approval and release for the enquiry.

Having examined and discussed all comments (a total of 504 comments) which have been raised, as well as all requirements of other related standards (for instance EN 414) and comments made by mechanical engineers (for instance the fact that requirements for railings or the automatic start of the travelator after some specific stoppage procedures were missing, i.e. two requirements specified by the directive for escalators, members of the working group reached nevertheless a general agreement and approved the submitted draft. Yet, no agreement has been reached on another issue, i.e. the convenience of bringing in a notified body having the responsibility to validate prototypes of new travelator designs before the actual start of the production in series. It was felt that the decision on this issue should be left to the Technical Committee CEN TC 242.

The presentation of the progress report was followed by a lengthy discussion on the convenience of having a notified body responsible for the certification of travelators, considering in particular the fact that the Machine Directive does specify no such requirement..

In the end the Technical Committee that decided that assigning to a notified body the responsibility for the certification of an entire travelator is contrary to the spirit of the Directive, but agreed that it is necessary to entrust to a notified body the responsibility for the certification of safety components of travelators.

The submitted draft has hence been accordingly amended and the amended draft approved and released for enquiry.

There is still an open question i.e. the identification of safety components and the experts deemed to be competent to identify safety components of travelators.

- **Warning and Instruction signs – Progress report on the work done by the working group responsible for the elaboration of a Technical Report**

At their 28th meeting the Technical Committee assigned the working group on Warning and Instruction Signs the task to produce a draft technical report on this subject matter in view of its submission to ISO 142 SC2 for this committee to have a chance to take a position on this technical report.

At their last meeting held on February 2 and 3, 2009, the working group reached a final agreement and thus completed their mission. The report includes specifications for 50 signs which are at present being examined by ISO 142 SC 2. The CEN working group are confident they would be able to examine ISO SC 2 committee's comments and thus finalize the discussion thereof within one session.

The working group have already let the technical committee know they would accept also to look after signs listed in the draft standard prEN 15700 should the Technical Committee decide to assign them the mandate to discuss signs listed in that standard.

Technical Committee CEN TC 242 has hence decided to change the title and the scope of the Technical Report so as to have a chance to include warning and instruction signs for travelators designed for winter sports and leisure activities.

- **Revision of standards published in 2004**

The convener of the working group on Maintenance of Standard, J.C. Bonneton,

informed the meeting that so far the technical committee has received 158 requests for amendments of standards. So far the technical committee has received no comments on standard EN 1090 (Recovery and Evacuation) and EN 12396 (Operation). Withdrawal has so far been proposed only for standard EN 12408 (Quality Assurance)

- Standard EN 12408 Quality Assurance
Withdrawal of this standard seems to be justified because it overlaps with other EN and ISO standards relating to quality assurance (for instance EN ISO 9000, EN 45000).

Having discussed at length this comment the technical committee has decided to refrain from taking a decision on the withdrawal of the standard, yet to issue no mandate for its revision.

- Revision procedures for standards

The president has suggested a time schedule for the revision of standards which gives the technical committee 36 months for the different steps to be carried out till the due date for the publication of revised standards, i.e. July 2012, which means that the revision of all standards, except the above mentioned standard EN 12408 and the publication of the revised standards have to be completed by that date.

This decision concerns all standards which have been published in the years 2004 and 2005. The technical committee has hence decided, considering the present situation, to release for revision the following standards :

EN 12397:2004; EN 12929-1:2004;
EN 12930:2004; EN 12929-2:2004;
EN 12927-1:2004; EN 12927-2: 2004 ;
EN 12927-3:2004 ; EN 12927-4: 2004 ;
EN 12927-5 :2004 ; EN 12927-5: 2004 ;
EN 12927-6 :2004 ; EN 12927-7: 2004 ;
EN 12927-8: 2004; EN 1908: 2004 ;
EN 13223: 2004 ; EN 13243: 2004 ;
EN 13107: 2004 ; EN 1709: 2004 ;
EN 1909: 2004 ; EN 13796-1: 2004 ;
EN 13796-2: 2004 ; EN 13796-3: 2004

CEN TC 242 have also decided that responsible working groups will be given 12 months to discuss comments and will have to submit a first revised document of the draft of the revised standard within 12 months.

Once this period of 12 months has elapsed the Technical Committee may decide whether additional requests for amendment may be accepted.

Despite this decision the Technical Committee explicitly pointed out that in the meantime there will be no limit of time for the submission of requests for amendment, which means that all member countries are free to submit their requests.

- **Election of working group conveners**

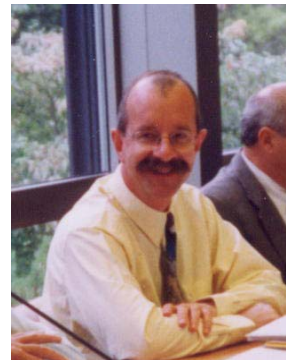
J.C. Bonneton having decided to take his retirement, the present meeting of the Technical Committee has been also the last meeting of CEN TC 242 he has attended. So far he has been responsible convener of the following working groups :

TC Working Group on Maintenance of Standards

Working Group M (Travelators)

Working Group L (Fire Control) : no standard but two technical reports

Jean-Claude Bonneton has retired



Jean-Claude Bonneton

Jean-Claude has taken his retirement last Summer. He has joined the French supervisory authority STRMTG in and as officer of that authority has accumulated most valuable experience in all areas of the transportation by rope. He has served on many national and international committees and commissions. He has given a fundamental contribution to the development of safety analysis procedures, and in particular to the analysis of fire safety in tunnels of funicular railways. Indeed France did an exemplary work by making an analysis of the fire safety in the tunnel of the Kaprun funicular after the

tremendous accident in 2002. His active contribution to the discussions of the new French regulations for the construction and operation of ropeway installations has been fundamental for the definition of the general guideline of the regulation and in particular guideline for the transposition of the Directive relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons.

Yet this has not been his only field of activity in which he has played a most decisive role. He regularly attended and actively contributed to the international meeting of Ropeway Supervisory Authorities. The work he has done as member of CEN TC 242 has been highly appreciated by all members of the committee in particular for his infatigable efforts to reconcile the views and interests of all concerned parties. One of his last assignments has been the convenership of the working group on "Travelators" and once more his commitment and vast knowledge have secured him the full support and appreciation of all members of the working group and with their help he completed his mission successfully.

All we wish to say now is that J.C. Bonnetton has had no doubt great merits for the development and strengthening of the position of transportation by rope in Europe.

I guess, nobody of those who have known him will forget his commitment, his friendly laughing and wit.

Ad multos annos, dear Jean Claude Bonnetton.

ACTIVITIES OF THE O.I.T.A.F. STUDY COMMITTEES

O.I.T.A.F. STUDY COMMITTEE 1

Technique of ropeways and technical recommendations

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

P. Sedivy has send us the following report : Having accepted an invitation extended by SUVA, the study committee 1 has met last in Engelberg from February 24 to 25, 2009. The meeting has been organized by Dipl. Ing. Fritz Meyer even though he had informed the committee that having in the meantime taken his retirement, he could no longer serve on this committee. The committee was to be F. Meyer's farewell meeting and an opportunity to express to our old friend Fritz our gratitude

for the most valuable work he has done for so many years as member of this study committee. As a token of the committee's gratitude and appreciation of F. Meyer's merits the committee had decided to present him a T-shirt with printed on it the name of the committee F. Meyer could wear when dedicating himself to his preferred pursuit, the gardening and thus make him remember his time with study committee 1.



Even though the meeting and the dinner were meant as a farewell meeting, participants have been given a reason to rejoice, because F. Meyer announced, that after all he has been given a chance to continue to serve on committee 1 in future.

Besides celebrating study committee 1 focused also their attention to constructive work during their meeting in Engelberg. The committee indeed finalized the German version of the draft recommendation on fundamental safety aspects of reversible aerial ropeways. The draft has been circulated in the meantime to all members of the committee for them to give it final check. Seen that no request for amendment has been submitted since, the German version of the draft recommendation finalized in Engelberg has been e-mailed to the Secretary General, H. Brugger on July 16, 2009.

The next meeting has been scheduled to take place on October 8 and 9, 2009 on Capri, Dr. Ing. Pierpaolo Siazzu having offered to organize the next meeting at Anacapri. The main subject to be addressed at Anacapri being the discussion of and decision on the future activity of study committee 1.

O.I.T.A.F. STUDY COMMITTEE 2

Characteristics and inspection of ropes

Convener : Eric Premat, STRMTG, French Supervisory Authority

E. Premat has submitted the following report :

Study committee 2 has met for a meeting in Vienna on May 14 and 15, 2009 in the premises of the Austrian Ministry for Transports, Innovation and Technology. The meeting which has been organized by Hans Machalik together with Urs Amiet and Georges Kopanakis, has been attended by 16 participants.

Pursuant to the announcement made at the last meeting of the committee, the meeting was to focus their attention on essential aspects of rope inspections. Next to their exchange of views on fundamental aspects of rope inspections, attending members have been given a chance to pay a visit to the research laboratory TVFA and have been offered by DOPPELMAYR, TEUFELBERGER and TVFA a most pleasant convivial dinner.

Amongst other items, the following subjects have been the most significant subjects attending members have addressed :

1. Inspection of ropes

A preliminary project, initiated and carried out by U. Amiet and U. Kopanakis permitted to lay down the general lines of a table summarizing the most important current methods of inspection. The table has been circulated to all members of study committee 2 for them to comment and e-mail back their response. The table and comments have then been referred to and used as the working document for the meeting in Vienna. Visual inspection of the rope running length, of rope splices and of sockets have been the three fundamental issues the committee members have discussed during their meeting in Vienna. The remaining subjects listed in the above mentioned table ought to be examined during the next meeting of committee 2 which is scheduled to take place in September 2009, the committee having set themselves the goal to identify problems which are being met and the lines of conduct to be followed to achieve satisfactory results by establishing a hierarchy based on an accurate evaluation of

the information which is needed in everyday practice.

2. Cast resin sockets

A report on the feed-back of the experience which has been made with cast resin sockets used on some Swiss ropeway installations in operation has been submitted to the meeting for discussion. These sockets are subject to a continuous monitoring and observation having the purpose to reveal any possible rope slippage in the sockets. It has appeared from this report that in the covered period of observation of the behaviour of the first resin socket put in place on a Swiss ropeway installation designed to carry persons, i.e. starting from 1992, neither the Federal Office for Transports nor the Intercantonal Concordat for Ropeways and Skilifts, ICRS, have received any report on arising problems.

3. Cast sockets : permanent monitoring

Having received information on the accident which has befallen a Swiss reversible aerial ropeway (a 40 to 70 mm long slippage of three tapers out of four from their respective sockets) the authorities have imposed the obligation to submit all cast sockets (both cast metal and cast resin sockets) to an uninterrupted monitoring after socketing. Attending members of the study committee have been given a description of the follow-up inspection procedures and have also been handed out a supporting documentation in French and in German having the purpose to facilitate the work of inspectors in charge of this type of follow-up.

4. Pending problems which have to be addressed by the next meeting of committee 2

- Qualification / certification of inspectors carrying out magnetoscopic inspection tests : all members representing the Alpine member countries of study committee 2 have been asked to prepare a report describing the situation and the methods used in their respective country.
- Qualification of splicers : all members representing Alpine member countries of study committee 2 have also been asked to prepare a report listing the

main qualification requirements to be met in their respective countries by rope splicers

- Round robin tests : members of study committee 2 have agreed to carry out an inter-laboratory testing campaign with one or several ropes in service. It is felt that in this context the selection of ropes to be tested and the method used to test them are two determinant factors and hence it has been agreed to discuss the problem the next time the committee meets.

5. Next meeting

Member have decided to accept the kind offer to help extended by POMA and to meet in Grenoble on September 24 and 25, 2009.

O.I.T.A.F. STUDY COMMITTEE 3

Electrical equipment and components of ropeway installations

Chairman : Dipl. Ing. Fredy Lang, IWM Glattbrugg, Switzerland

No meeting of Study Committee 3 has been convened in the first half of 2009. It should however be recalled that the chairman and the members of study committee 3 have organized a highly successful seminar in April 2009.

Considering that members have committed themselves to contribute to the organization of the seminar they have also decided to postpone their next meeting till Autumn 2009.

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

Legal, administrative, economic and statistical matters.

Chairman : Dr. Peter Vollmer, Director of the Swiss Ropeway Association, SBS

Dr. Peter Vollmer has submitted the following report.

In the first half of 2009 Study committee 4 have met in Bolzano on May 12 and 13 and have decided to meet again on November 16 and 17, 2009 in Lucerne.

Study committee 4 are facing and have to address the following subjects :

1. **Titles (EU and national regulations
EU Directives / CEN Standards : transposition and application problems, market surveillance included
Transposition of the EU Directive relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons into the legislation of member countries / new national legislation relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons
Application of EU Directives on Concessions
Transportation of Children
Renewal of operating licenses
Application of regulations on Environmental Compatibility Assessment Tests**

Transportation of disabled passengers with restricted mobility

LED decree

Minimum number of operative staff

Relocation of existing ropeway installations

Technical state of the art. Reference date and responsible person for the assessment

CE conformity mark. Period of validity

Ski-tows. Is it desirable to reduce the stringency of requirements ?

Licensing authorities: responsibility for conformity assessment procedures for sub-systems

Common vigilance obligation

2. **Economic development / Economic importance of ropeway installations / Marketing
Financial crisis and its consequences for tourism and the ropeway industry
Position of the ropeway industry in the national economy
Economic indices
Young passengers / Making snow sports attractive for young generations
Pricing of ropeway transportation**

Future prospects of transportation by rope
SaMon and Webmark

3. **Operation problems in everyday practice. Trends, new types of snow sports equipment
New trends. (Special snow sports equipment)**

Fire control
Insurance conditions
Avalanche protection regulations

4. **Internal matters. Exchange of information on incidents, accidents and other issues**

International exchange of information (new legal provisions, incidents and accidents, etc.

Internet (Exchange of information, publishing of internet sites, data protection etc.

(Items printed in bold letters have the first priority)

Publication of a volume containing important data relating to transportation by rope

Study committee 4 have published a volume on Administrative, legal, economic and statistical matters containing important data relating to transportation by rope. With the help and guidance of Dr. Heinrich Brugger the committee produced a compilation of technical data submitted by 23 countries. The information is based on the O.I.T.A.F. statistical survey published by ISR. FIANET have contributed the economic data of ropeway installations. It should be pointed out that O.I.T.A.F have in mind to continue to publish regularly these statistical surveys in future. Study committee 4 have decided to set up a working group and assign it the task to coordinate the collection of technical and economic data and regularly update the volume.

International exchange of information. New legal provisions

Austria : A new directive on "Relocation of existing ropeway installations" has been published recently. This directive specifies a very high safety level. Austria has also produced a new directive on ropeway inspection.

Switzerland : In December 2008 Switzerland has enforced a new directive on Environmental Compatibility Tests. All new ropeway projects have to undergo an environmental compatibility test. The direc-

tive includes a new regulation offering to applicants the possibility to carry out the environmental compatibility assessment in one single step in that their assessment is recognized as a valid report on the environmental compatibility test. This directive may be regarded as a significant improvement of the legal position..

There are two Swiss directives which may be regarded as the basis of reference of the above regulation. One element of reference is the Swiss directive issued by the Swiss Commission for the Prevention of Accidents, SKUS, which specifies the rules for the construction, operation and maintenance of snow sports trails. The directive may be found in internet under the address www.skus.ch. The other element of reference is the self-responsibility as defined in the FIS rules.

Bavaria : There is a new law relating to railways and ropeway installations. It has been submitted to the responsible Minister of State for signature.

France has developed a media project on the importance of artificial snow. The same problem has also been dealt with by O.I.T.A.F. Study Committee 6. The project appears to be an important project seen that in accordance with the authors' intentions it shows that wherever artificial snow has been used it had no ecologically harmful consequences.

Slovenia has issued a law on the safety of snow sports trails. The law has been first amended in 2002 and then amended several times in the following years. A directive on technical requirements for ski runs has also been enforced.

It is ever more important to consider the economy of rope driven transportation as an integral part of the regional and local economy and policy. It is hoped that the exchange of information and views which takes place in the meetings of the study committee will be beneficial by providing the representatives and actors of member countries with new stimuli and where needed the necessary assistance. Investigations on the net added value produced by our industry gives our profession the

right to claim to be considered as an integral part of the economy and local and regional policy and be accounted for in the framework of general rules and conditions.

O.I.T.A.F. STUDY COMMITTEE 6

Optimization of ropeway and ski-tow operation

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

Dr. Ing. Mauro Joyeusaz has submitted the following report.

Study committee 6 met twice in the first half of 2009. the first meeting has taken place at Sierra Nevada (E) on January 22 and 23. Senor Salsass and the company Centursa have done their best to provide an excellent organisation of the meeting and have thus given participants the best chance to develop a most successful activity. The second meeting has taken place in Berchtesgaden (D) on June 15 and 16. Wilfried Däuber, officer of the Berchtesgadener Bergbahnen AG has made an excellent work in providing a perfect organisation and pleasant atmosphere. W. Däubner is to join committee 6 as representative of the German ropeway association, VdS.

The committee have discussed in particular the enclosures to be added to the recommendation, i.e. enclosures on the following subjects :

- Information of third parties
- Internal communication
- Decision on the minimum number of rescue teams and the minimum number of team members
- Assessment of areas of responsibility
- Master plan of an evacuation plan
- Questionnaire for the assessment of evacuation plans

Next meetings : Annecy (F), September 28 and 29, and Engelberg (CH) January 18 and 19, 2010

O.I.T.A.F. STUDY COMMITTEE 7

Environment

Chairman : Tech, Rat, Dipl. Ing. Michael Manhart, Lech am Arlberg.

Michael Manhart has sent us the following report :

Accepting an invitation extended by Julien Noel and Serge Riveill, SNTF, the study committee on Environment have convened for a meeting on June 9 and 10, 2009 in Aix les Bains situated in an idyllic Savoyard landscape.

With the committee's new members Mrs. Univ. Prof. Dipl. Ing. Dr. Ulrike Pröbstl (Austria), Alexander Stüssi (Switzerland), Dr. Günther Suetter (Austria), Dipl. Ing. Dr. Kurt Ramkogler (Austria) and Gerhard Lohrentz the committee seems to have a perfectly balanced composition and to be fit for its future activities.

Julien Noel has been unanimously elected chairman of the committee for the coming three years. Serge Riveill and the SNTF Office are to look after the necessary coordination of activities. Best wishes and congratulations.

Mrs. Viktoria Bucher, now since her marriage, Mrs. Viktoria Haberl, officer of the Austrian Fachverband für Seilbahnen, who has done a marvellous job as secretary of the study committee and the committee's past president M. Manhart, have accepted to assist the study committee as regular members of the committee.

Mrs. Brink and Mag. Haberl have accepted to check the correspondence of the latest German version of the documents with papers France has produced in the past and thus facilitate, where and if necessary, the translation into French.

The Management Committee has assigned study committee 7 the task to organize the next O.I.T.A.F. seminar to be held in conjunction with the next SAM Exhibition in April 2010 in Grenoble.

"Environmental Management and Transportation by Rope" is the agreed general subject of the next seminar. The programme is to include a general presentation of fundamental principles and 5 additional lectures with sufficient time to discuss each lecture.

As to the future, committee 7 have in mind to address problems of water / artificial snow, energy / consumption and ways and means

to reduce energy consumption, P.R. activities for the O.I.T.A.F. Recommendations on Environment and related issues, focusing on passengers and ropeway operators.

And having said that the retiring chairman of the study committee wishes the best and best success to the new "boss" Julien Noel and his young team.

The next meeting of study committee 7 has been scheduled to take place on September 21 and 22, 2009 in Schladming.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



November 11 to 13, 2009 (Russia)



ISPO CHINA/ALPITEC CHINA IN PEKING

March 4 to 6, 2010



ALPITEC – PRO- WINTER

Exhibition Bolzano,
April 13 to 23, 2010



SAM Grenoble

April 21 to
23, 2010



INTERALPIN IN- NSBRUCK

May 4 to 6, 2011

FUTURE EVENTS IN O.I.T.A.F.

Meetings of O.I.T.A.F. bodies

8to the extent the dates have already been fixed)

Management Committee: October 23, 2009 in Rome
April 20, 2010 in Grenoble

Executive Committee yet to be decided

O.I.T.A.F. seminar April 21, 2010 in Grenoble

Study committee 1 October 8 and 9, 2009 on Capri (I)

Study committee 2 September 24 and 25, 2009 in Grenoble (F)

Study committee 3 October 5 to 7, 2009 in Bolzano (I)

Study committee 4 November 16 and 17, 2009 in Lucerne (CH)

Study committee 6 September 28 and 29, 2009 in Annecy

Study committee 7 September 21 and 22, 2009 in Schladming

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 <http://www.oitaf.org>. The website provides the following information :

- What is O.I.T.A.F. all about
- Structure of O.I.T.A.F.
- O.I.T.A.F. statute
- Activities of O.I.T.A.F.
- NEWS and other information about O.I.T.A.F.
- *O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS*
- O.I.T.A.F. bodies and their members
- O.I.T.A.F. study committees
- Technical recommendations, papers and statistical surveys produced by O.I.T.A.F.
- Lectures delivered to O.I.T.A.F. seminars
- O.I.T.A.F. seminars

For additional information send an e-mail to info@oitaf.org

It is now possible to load down all lectures that have been delivered to O.I.T.A.F. seminars and all issues of *O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS*, as well as all papers so far produced by O.I.T.A.F. study committees.

O.I.T.A.F. members can now load down all published Technical Recommendations of O.I.T.A.F. by entering the password which has been posted to them.

Impressum

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layout by the Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F.