



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

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President's preface

TRANSPORTATION BY ROPE has so far endured the adverse consequences of the worldwide economic crisis.

Most rope driven systems of transportation, ropeway installations used by sportsmen and tourists, rope driven urban transportation systems, material handling ropeway installations have so far withstood unaffected the adverse consequence of the worldwide economic crisis. As for winter sports, the exchange of information between operators' national member associations of FIANET shows that the results of the winter season 2009 / 2010 will most probably reach almost the same level as the results of the previous winter season.

As for rope driven urban transports, it should be recalled that many new projects are being launched or under way in Latin American countries, in particular in big airports and big cities which regularly attract streams of tourists.

Last but not least the rope has lost nothing of its importance as the driving power of material handling systems of transportation.

No ropeway manufacturer has so far been compelled to go on short time working schemes and we will most probably have an opportunity to measure the high spirits of ropeway manufacturers and operators at the forthcoming exhibitions of our profession i.e. the SAM and ALPITEC in 2010 and INTER-ALPIN in 2011.

Another point to their advantage is that their policy meets the general objectives of environmental protection and sustainable development.

While there are many professions whose future seems to be at risk, I am confident that the future development of transportation by rope will continue to show an upward trend and that our next international conference in RIO DE JANEIRO will be a success.

A word of the Secretary General

In addition to its current statutory activities O.I.T.A.F. has continued to collect data for the publication of the international statistical ropeway survey and the publication of the survey of all important decisions taken and activities undertaken in the 50 year that elapsed since its established in the year

1959. This has not prevented the Secretary General and other involved members from making all necessary arrangements for the celebration of O.I.T.A.F.s 50th anniversary. Readers will recollect that in the second issue of the *O.I.T.A.F. NEWS 2008*, we had already informed our readers that having issued its last statistical ropeway survey in 1999 in time for its submission to the O.I.T.A.F. International Conference in San Francisco, O.I.T.A.F. had in mind to compile a revised and updated statistical ropeway survey and have it published by ISR for the 50th anniversary - a challenging undertaking seen that it has taken almost three years to collect all technical data for all ropeway installations existing in 23 member countries, compile and classify the information submitted by its members and, last but not least. Have the collected data published.

I have also recalled that on October 23, 2009 O.I.T.A.F. has celebrated in Rome the organisation's 50th anniversary. Readers will find the special report on the celebration further down. Readers will also find further down a detailed report on the meeting of the Management Committee which had been convened in the afternoon of the same day in Rome.

In order to stress the significance of the event the Secretary General has also drawn up a survey of all important events that have taken place and all important decisions that have been taken in the 50 years since the organisation's foundation in 1959 and have it published by ISR. And indeed ISR has published the German version of the survey in its issue n° 6/2009 and has decided to publish the English version in its issue n° 1/2010 and the French version in its issue n° 2/2010. Readers will also find a copy of the survey enclosed to this issue of *O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS* in the language version of their copy of *O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS*.

The Italian version of the survey may be found enclosed to the Italian version of *O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS*.

A brief summary permits to trace back the general trend of the organisation and its history.

Another important goal O.I.T.A.F. have set themselves is the organisation of the next international conference to be held in 2011 in Rio de Janeiro. The general organisation

committee responsible for the organisation of the conference has met for its second meeting in the second half of the year in Paris and has taken several fundamental decisions regarding the general organisation and the necessary arrangements.

Readers will find a short report on decisions that have been taken further down.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION

Meetings of the Management Committee and of the Executive Committee

Executive Committee

No meeting of the Executive committee has been convened in the second half of the year.

Management Committee

On October 23, 2009 the Management Committee have met for their 119th meeting in Rome. Seen that the meeting has been combined with the celebration of O.I.T.A.F.s 50th anniversary, an invitation to attend the meeting has been of course sent to all full and extraordinary members of the Management Committee and members of the Board of Auditors, as well as to all honorary members of O.I.T.A.F., chairmen of O.I.T.A.F. study committees and convenors of working groups. The meeting has also been attended by Mag. Schramm who had be asked to attend the meeting as representative of ISR and illustrate the past activities and visions for the future of O.I.T.A.F. statistical surveys of ropeway installations. Even though several members of the Management Committee had been prevented from attending the meeting by a strike of the airborne public transportation systems the meeting has been attended by 36 members and invited guests.

Unfortunately Prof. Gilberto Greco, the last living founder member of O.I.T.A.F. has been prevented from attending the meeting and the gala dinner by ill health.³

It is worth while to recollect the most important issues the Management Committee have addressed in Rome. They are the following ones :

- Report on the last meeting of the General Organisation Committee responsible for the organisation and arrangements to be

made for the international conference in Rio de Janeiro

- Report submitted by Mag. Schramm, ISR, on O.I.T.A.F. statistical ropeway surveys
- Approval of the budget estimate 2010.
- Approval of Recommendations for the definition of fundamental safety aspects of bicable reversible aerial ropeways, of safety factors and safety scenarios which need to be given due consideration in the safety analysis of these systems
- Approval of amendments to the Recommendation for the construction and operation of material handling reversible and unidirectional ropeway installations, cable cranes and material handling funicular railways which O.I.T.A.F. had published in 2006.
- Reports submitted by study committee chairmen and working group convenors on the activity of the committees and working groups.

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

On October 9, 2009 the General Organisation Committee met for their third meeting in Paris. The meeting has also been attended by a delegation of the Local Organisation Committee. The General Organisation Committee having made a final choice of the main theme of the conference and the specific subjects to be addressed by the four working sessions at their previous meeting, (Cf. report in the last issue of ***O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS***) at their joint meeting in Paris attending members examined the following issues:

Constitution of an official non profit association which is to take over from the local organisation committee the responsibility for the organisation of the conference and related financial questions. Dispatch of the first official information on the pending international conference. Dispatch of e-mail to more than 7000 interested associations, persons and institutions, Registration fees. Rooms for meetings and social events, equipment, rooms for the conference, working sessions and exhibitions. Social events for participants and accompanying persons. Call for papers offering to knowledgeable persons and experts a chance to submit their proposals for lectures to be presented in working sessions in which lectures ought to be delivered by lec-

turers that have been selected on the basis of their response to the call of papers. The Reading Committee and its composition. Expenses to be reimbursed to lecturers whose lectures will be presented in working sessions 2, 3 and 4. Selection of lecturers for the working session 1 and some lecturers for the working session 4 etc.

All these problems have been discussed and final decisions have been reached for some . It has been agreed to convene the next meeting on January 29 in Zürich.

O.I.T.A.F. Statistical ropeway survey

Even though we had announced in the one but last issue of O.I.T.A.F. NEWS (2nd half year 2008) that the statistical ropeway survey would be published by the end of May 2009, the publication had to be postponed because of the late communication of all technical data. Last but not least O.I.T.A.F. finalized the survey and sent it to ISR just in time for their submission to the meeting of the Management Committee which has been convened for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of O.I.T.A.F and in time to give Josef Schramm a chance to trace back the different steps of its development. Amongst other details J. Schramm mentioned in particular the following facts :

The collaboration of ISR and O.I.T.A.F. dates back to the year 1988, i.e. the year in which ISR had been granted the status of official magazine of O.I.T.A.F. Being published in German its target public are readers in German speaking countries. Yet, he said, it should be recalled that ISR had published its first article on the establishment of O.I.T.A.F, as far back as the year 1959, and saying that he let all present have an extract of the document ISR published in 1959.

As for the statistical surveying of ropeway installations Mag. Schramm recalled that the first statistical survey had been published by ISR in 1986 and that ISR had used to this end statistical data supplied by O.I.T.A.F. It was a volume covering 114 pages. The survey published for the 50th anniversary is actually the fifth edition of the statistical survey which comes after the surveys published in 1986, 1988, 1993 and 1999 and is a volume covering more than the double of pages as compared to the first edition (actually 258 pages). Mag. Schramm availed himself of this

opportunity to express ISR's thanks to all ministries, ropeway operators, ropeway manufacturers and in particular to the Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F. H. Bragger who had untiringly struggled to obtain the necessary statistical data from all involved parties. He further informed the meeting that he and H. Bragger have in mind to publish the next statistical survey in 2011 as a document to be submitted to the international conference in Rio and publish it thereafter every six years and hence coincident with the O.I.T.A.F. International conferences.

H. Bragger, in turn, thanked all members and involved persons who have send him their statistical data and said that he hoped that O.I.T.A.F. and ISR would be able to collaborate in the future with all countries and institutions that have made available their statistical data.

The statistical ropeway survey covers technical data of existing ropeway installations, such as for instance type of ropeway installation, name of the ropeway installation, location, year in which installations had been commissioned and opened for public service, capacity of carriers, altitude above sea level of the mountain station, difference in altitude, slant distance, rated hourly capacity and number of carried persons. The following countries have submitted their statistical data: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Columbia, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong-Kong, Hungary, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA. China and Russia have only disclosed the number of ropeway installations. Orders for the O.I.T.A.F. statistical survey may be placed with Bohrmann Druck und Verlag Gesellschaft m.b.H.& Co.KG. Schopper Eveline, Tel. +43/1/74095-222, Fax. +43/1/74095-429, E-mail e.schopper@bohrmann.at. Cost of the statistical survey : Euro 60.00, US\$ 85,00 (mailing cost not included).

Recommended guidelines for the assessment of fundamental safety aspects of bi-cable aerial ropeways operated in the reversible mode, as well as the assessment of safety scenarios and safety situations which ought to be entered into safety analyses of these systems

Study committee 1 “Ropeway technology and technical recommendations” have in the meantime adopted the same approach as the one adopted in the past when they have been assigned the task to draft recommendations for unidirectional aerial ropeways and have completed their draft recommendations for guidelines for the assessment of fundamental safety aspects of bicable aerial ropeways operated in the reversible mode, as well as the assessment of safety scenarios and safety situations which ought to be entered into safety analyses of these systems.

The introduction to their recommendation reads as follows :

The O.I.T.A.F. study committee 1 have been assigned the task to identify the fundamental safety aspects to be given due consideration in a safety analysis of the above mentioned ropeway system bearing in mind that the experience which has been made so far teaches us in particular that extremely detailed specifications very often hinder the development of the ropeway technique. This document is meant as a general survey of hazardous scenarios of current bicable ropeway systems operated in the reversible mode and is definitely not meant as a recommendation for the execution of a safety analysis

The European Directive 2000/9/EC, dated March 20. 2000 of the European Council and the European Parliament relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons has been adopted as their master document by all members of O.I.T.A.F. study committee 1 who have been appointed by and are representing competent European ropeway supervisory authorities, notified bodies, ropeway manufacturers, ropeway operators, ropeway designers and research institutes. They have the merit of having taken part in discussions and exchanges of views on hazardous situations and scenarios and by so doing to identify arising hazards and compile this general survey.

This general survey is hence the result of the cooperative work of all members of study committee 1 :

The O.I.T.A.F. Management Committee has moved by a unanimous vote the approval of the study committee’s recommendations and has approved the publication of book 25 consisting of two parts, 25-1 and 25-2, one concerned with and one concerned with hazardous situations and hazardous scenarios of

all sub-systems of unidirectional aerial ropeways listed in the EU Directive 2000/9/EC and one concerned with hazardous situations and hazardous scenarios of reversible aerial ropeways and their respective sub-systems.

1. Ropes and Rope connections
 - 1.1 Ropes
 - 1.2 Rope connections
2. Drives and Brakes
3. Mechanical equipment
 - 3.1 Tensioning devices
 - 3.2 Mechanical equipment of stations
 - 3.3 Mechanical equipment of line structures
4. Carrier
 - 4.1 Cabins
 - 4.2 Hangers
 - 4.3 Carrier truck
 - 4.4 Connections to the rope
5. Electrotechnical devices
6. Rescue equipment

As well as hazards due to

Infrastructure

7. Line structures
 8. Stations
- and

Operation

9. Hazardous situations due to operating conditions and procedures
10. Infrastructure
11. External action

These recommendations may be loaded down from the O.I.T.A.F. homepage www.oitaf.org

Amendments to recommendations for the construction and operation of material handling reversible and unidirectional aerial ropeways, cable cranes and material handling funicular railways (edition 2006)

Clause 2.1.6.5 “transverse load ratio” has been revised and values specified for bicable reversible aerial ropeways.

O.I.T.A.F. Seminar 2010

The management Committee has decided to organize the next O.I.T.A.F. seminar on April 21, 2010 in Grenoble in conjunction with the SAM Exhibition.

The following main theme has been suggested by study committee 7 "Environment" and approved by the Management Committee.

SUSTAINABLE ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF ROPEWAY INSTALLATIONS

The programme includes the following lectures to be presented by members of study committee 7.

ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT, FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS AND DATA

"What sustainable management stands for?"

UnivProf. Dipl. Ing. Dr. Ulrike Pröbst – Agriculture and Forestry University, Vienna, Institute for Landscape Development and Planning of Nature Conservation and Recreational Areas

"European Legislation and its Transposition in Member Countries"

Marc Jérôme Hassid, environmental expert, France

"Data Management : Planning future Development with the help of available data" – Fundamental elements and challenges"

Dr. Günther Suetter, Styria Local Government, Austria

"An Austrian Certified Company's Environmental Management : How and Why ?"

TechnRat DI Michael Manhart, Skilifte Lech, Ing. Bildstein Gesellschaft m.b.H. LECH, Austria

„New ways of Environmental and Energy Management"

Martin Hug, Head of the Building Activities Department and member of the board of the White Arena Group, Laax

Railway Connection Link to the Plan de Corones Ski Area"

Dr. Ing. Andreas Dormann, Manager of Funivie di Plan de Corones, S.p.A., Italy (South Tyrol)

The seminar has been scheduled to take

place in conjunction with the SAM Exhibition in Grenoble on April 21, 2010 at the congress center ALPEXPO with Julien Noel, the new chairman of O.I.T.A.F. study committee 7, moderating the meeting.

SAM have kindly offered to pay the cost of interpreters and provision of interpretation into four languages, i.e. English, French, German and Italian.

We would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank J.C. Simiand and the board of SAM for their generous support. Without their logistic and financial help and provision of the necessary meeting hall and team of interpreters, as well as the necessary equipment, O.I.T.A.F. would not have a chance to offer participants the high quality and value O.I.T.A.F. has provided this year.

Additional information may be found and loaded down from the O.I.T.A.F. homepage www.oitaf.org.

O.I.T.A.F.'s 50th anniversary

On October 23, 2009 O.I.T.A.F. celebrated the 50th anniversary of its foundation and has organized to this end a befitting celebration meeting and dinner which has been attended by members of the Management Committee, chairmen of O.I.T.A.F. study committees and invited honorary members of O.I.T.A.F. as well as invited representatives of the Italian Ministry for Transports and of the municipal authorities of Rome, making up all together a total of 60 persons.

A special brass alloy medallion meant as a token to recollect this event has been sponsored by the Italian Ministry for Transports and presented to participants.

A special address of homage has been addressed to Prof. Gilberto Greco, the only living founder member of O.I.T.A.F. and its president for many years who unfortunately has been prevented from attending the celebration by ill-health..



The president of O.I.T.A.F. presenting to Prof. Greco the celebration medallion at Prof. Greco's home.

During the dinner congratulations for O.I.T.A.F. 50th anniversary have been offered by the two representatives of the Ministry for Transports, Ing. Virginio di Gianbattista and Ing. Pierpaolo Siazzu and the representative of the Roman municipality, Ing. Alessandro D'Armini, son of the founder member of O.I.T.A.F. and its first president, prof. Pietro D'Armini, who died a few years ago.



Ing. Pierpaolo Siazzu addressing participants.

Ing. P. Siazzu delivered the following address : May I bid you my personal and my ministries, the Italian Ministry for Transports, heartiest welcome in Rome, the eternal city, and special welcome to the celebration of O.I.T.A.F.'s 50th anniversary. O.I.T.A.F. has indeed been founded in the year 1959 in Milano by representatives of nine European countries. In these 50 years it has continued to grow 30 countries from five continents having in the meantime joined the organisation.

It is this organisation's great merit to have admitted and established contacts with the various actors of transportation by rope, the ropeway supervisory authorities, the ropeway manufacturers, the ropeway operators, directly involved institutions and universities, research centers, as well as ropeway engineers, and having offered them a chance to make an active contribution to the implementation of O.I.T.A.F.'s future statutory mission long before its formal foundation.

Under the regulations of its statute O.I.T.A.F. is required to undertake different actions, yet the following two activities ought to be regarded as the organisations primary mission, i.e.

- To propose uniform international guidelines and directives and publish recommendations for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of ropeway installations
- To promote the harmonisation of national standards relating to ropeway installations

Currently O.I.T.A.F. members apply the harmonized recommendations and guidelines that have been drafted by O.I.T.A.F.'s study committees.

And indeed by now EU member countries apply the European Directive 2000/9/EC and standards published by the European Standards Committee, CEN.

This is why we ought to recall to-day those men, who 50 years ago, led by a most lucky intuition have had the necessary courage and foresight and have decided to set up our organisation.

This is also why in this special occasion my thoughts go back to two of our presidents, Professor Pietro D'Armini and Professor Gilberto Greco, to whose unremitting action we owe the birth and the growth of our organisation.

All of us who are present here to celebrate the anniversary are no doubt grateful to them and do hope that their inheritance will be kept alive in the future and O.I.T.A.F. will continue to grow and expand itself.

During this gala evening a souvenir gift will be presented to our friends : it is a medallion which has been specially created for this fiftieth anniversary and has been produced by

the Italian Ministry for Transport with the help of O.I.T.A.F.'s contributions.

May I in the end, thank all participants for their kind attention and wish all of you a pleasant stay in Rome.

After P. Siazzu's address, participants were welcomed by Virgilio Di Gianbattista, representative of the Italian Ministry for Transports and Alessandro D'Armini, son of Prof. Pietro D'Armini, first president of O.I.T.A.F.



President Farauo addressing the party

Thereafter President J.C.Farauo delivered the following address :_

Dear Presidents, Ladies, Colleagues and may I say, dear Friends who have assembled here in Rome, the eternal city and seat of O.I.T.A.F. ever since its foundation, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our organisation,

May I first of all thank most heartily all our Italian colleagues who have done a perfect work in organizing our stay in Rome, this afternoon's meeting of our Management Committee, this memorable dinner and tomorrow's excursion.

And thank in particular ANEF and its president Sandro Lazzari, the company LEITNER, Mr. Seeber and Mr. Leitner, for the organisation and their financial contribution towards the organisation of this gala dinner and our excursion to the Castelli Romani, the Italian Ministry for Transports, Ing. Amadeo Fumero and Ing. Pierpaolo Siazzu for providing a financial contribution towards the cost of the celebration medaillon, Ing. Alessandro

D'Armini, officer of the Municipality of Rome, in charge of the Roman public transports for providing the coach that will take us tomorrow to the Castelli Romani.

My hearty welcome goes to the other distinguished members of our organisation : Dr. Herbert Frank and Prof. Artur Doppelmayr, my friend Jean Charles Simiand and Prof. Giorgio Paolini, professor of the Technical University in Milano.

May I also pay my compliments to the accompanying ladies whose presence is very much appreciated because they add beauty and pleasingness to our dinner.

Dear friends, let me add a few words on the history of our organisation because I wish to recall that the idea to set up our organisation had been launched in 1957 during the first international conference on transportation by rope which had taken place in Italy. During the conference Prof. D'Armini and Prof. Greco, representing the Italian Ministry for Transports, have been asked to draft the statute of an international organisation. The constitutive assembly took place on January 20, 1959 in Milano and had been attended by 27 founder members, i.e.

- 8 members representing Italy
- 10 members representing France
- 3 members representing Germany
- 2 members representing Switzerland
- 1 member representing Spain,
- 1 member representing Poland
- 2 members representing Austria.

Prof. Greco is the only still living founder member.

Prof. D'Armini has been elected first president of O.I.T.A.F. in 1959 and remained in office till 1971. Prof. Greco has been nominated Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F. In 1971 Prof. Greco stepped in as his successor and remained in office till 1984, which means that, between the two, for 25 years, a period of time corresponding to half the life of O.I.T.A.F., the responsibility to preside over the organisation had been assigned to and left in the hands of the Italian supervisory authority. This of course is why we are very much indebted to our Italian friends.

In 1984 Georges Derron, president of FIANET stood in for the presidency of O.I.T.A.F. and submitted his candidacy to the General Assembly which had been convened in Vienna. His candidacy has been supported

by the national associations of ropeway operators and the representatives of ropeway manufacturers. After a long debate in a meeting of the Management Committee which ended aboard a ship during a trip on the Danube Mr. Derron has been elected president of O.I.T.A.F. by a majority vote. As for the presidency of O.I.T.A.F. it has been decided to have the main three involved categories, i.e. the supervisory authorities, ropeway operators and ropeway manufacturers stand in by turns for the presidency at the end of the term of the president in office. This system of alternate presidency has never been rejected since.

At the time Dr. Heinrich Brugger was the head of the general secretariat of O.I.T.A.F., an office he has been holding for 25 years now, again a period corresponding to half the life of O.I.T.A.F. He did it with extreme consciousness and effective dynamism. Thank you very much Heinrich, and thank you very much Mrs. Brugger for letting him carry on his heavy task and help and support us in a period of time in which he could have, after his retirement as head of the supervisory authority in Bolzano, reserve all his free time to his family.

Pursuant to the decision establishing the rule of alternating presidencies president G. Derron remained in office from 1984 to 1993 to be succeeded by a representative of ropeway manufacturers, i.e. Dr. Karl Trütsch, who remained in office from 1993 to 1999. His successor, Dr. Horst Kühschelm was the head of the Austrian supervisory authority and has been elected and re-elected for the term of office 1999 to 2005, the year I have been elected as representative of ropeway manufacturers.

In the course of these 50 years more than 150 persons have attended the meetings of the O.I.T.A.F. Management Committee. May I convey to them our gratitude for accepting to serve on the committee.

And in all these years many experts, actually several hundreds, have served on O.I.T.A.F. study committees and thus contributed to the fulfilment of these committees' important role. May I express our sincere gratitude to all chairmen of O.I.T.A.F. study committees for the precious commitment..

Our organisation has also organized with great success 8 international conferences

every six years. After the conference in Rome in 1957, the conference in Paris in 1963, in Lucerne in 1969, in Vienna in 1975, Munich in 1981, Grenoble in 1987, Barcelona in 1993, S. Francisco in 1999 and Innsbruck in 2005. And we will meet again from October 23 to 26, 2011 to celebrate our 10th international conference in Rio de Janeiro, the city which has won the selection and been assigned the responsibility to organize the Olympic Games 2016. Rio is hence the town to be added to the list of cities in which O.I.T.A.F. has organized its international congresses.

O.I.T.A.F. organises also, year after year, seminars, the organisation of which is usually entrusted to one of O.I.T.A.F.'s study committees. The next conference is to address problems of our environment and will take place in Grenoble in conjunction with the SAM exhibition.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, next to its past activities I have mentioned, O.I.T.A.F. is also active in the present and will continue its activities in the future, because it has a universal mission, i.e. the mission to promote the progress and development of transportation by rope.

In order to make an active contribution to the fulfilment of this mission O.I.T.A.F. is regularly making great efforts to bring together the triptych of the main concerned categories, the ropeway supervisory authorities, the ropeway manufacturers and the ropeway operators and have them sit around the same table to discuss and draft international recommendations that meet all requirements they have to meet to be deemed applicable all over Europe and all over the world.

The first O.I.T.A.F. Recommendations have been published as early as in 1965. They have been submitted to the European institutions which have valued them highly. Even though these recommendations are not binding documents, most of them have been applied by countries which do not have their own regulations.

28 Recommendations have been published so far, on an average at least one a year since 2000. They encompass quite a wide range of different subjects, such as for instance some recommendations which have been published in the last few years, recommendations for material handling ropeway installations or recommendations relating to the

environment, recommendations on the relocation of existing ropeway installations. I guess you have got the idea: we are conscious of our responsibility and have become aware of the fact that our credibility in all countries of the world depends on the quality of the work done by our study committees.

O.I.T.A.F. is nowadays the only forum where experts of transportation by rope can meet to discuss openly problems of their profession without being influenced by external constraints or restrictions. There is no such freedom or openness in other international organisations, such as CEN TC 242, ITTAB or the EU Commission's Standing Committee for the application of the EU Directive relating to ropeway installations designed to carry persons. Let me mention a few examples.

1. The idea to harmonize technical regulations of European countries by promoting the publication of a European directive has been launched in a meeting of the Management Committee in 1987. May I recall that Prof. Greco representing Italy and Ing. V. Cambau, representing France, have launched the idea and have been its promoters. They have indeed also been given the mandate by the European Commission in Brussels to put down a first draft of essential technical requirements. O.I.T.A.F. presidents and in particular Heinrich Brugger have played a determinant role in discussions on the approach to be adopted, the drafting and enforcement of the EU Directive. Who could have done better than an organisation, which thanks to its specific tripartite composition and its services and professional advice and contribute better to the making of a European directive.
2. As early as 1989 O.I.T.A.F. has given its full support to the proposal to set up and mandate a CEN Technical Committee composed of national standardisation institutes to draft European standards. To support this committee's task O.I.T.A.F. has very often adopted the approach own experts have adopted to draft O.I.T.A.F. recommendations that had been published so far and authorizing own experts to serve on working groups of the CEN Technical Committee.
Who could have done better and be more knowledgeable than O.I.T.A.F.'s study committees when they have taken the ini-

tiative to amend CEN standards. Indeed our study committees are the only international bodies that have a mixed composition and meet at regular interval to exchange information on the application of harmonized standards.

3. The idea to use rope driven systems to facilitate urban transportation is being worked at intensely and is having a steep development. Projects are being developed in all big cities. Who could have done better than O.I.T.A.F. which, availing itself of the opportunity offered by the next international conference in Rio de Janeiro, has set itself the aim to draw the public's attention to the beneficial social and economic effects of rope driven systems by showing examples of systems existing in big Latin American cities.

You may see O.I.T.A.F. is looking forward to an extremely interesting future. I trust we will assist to an important development of rope driven transportation in the ten years to come and the development of new applications the existence of which we still ignore.

In concluding I would like to thank all of you for having come to Rome and to this celebration, thank you for your attention. I wish to thank also most heartily two ladies, the two indispensable tools of our meetings and work – they are working even to-night – Mrs. Rassini, who started working for O.I.T.A.F. in the early seventies and Mrs. Brink, who has joined us in 1977 May I ask to applaud them, because they merit it indeed.



French and Italian participants attending the dinner party

On Saturday, October 24, a party of 40 persons were taken by coach to the Castelli Romani at Frascati, near Rome and were shown two important villas of Frascati, the villa Aldobrandi and the villa Falconieri. Thereafter, as

the closing act of this celebration they were offered a lunch in a restaurant in Frascati.



The visit of the Villa Falconieri.

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

ITTAB

Accepting an invitation extended by TDT, Transportwy Dozór Techniczny, and its offer to organize the meeting the 59th meeting of ITTAB has been convened in Cracow (PL) from September 13 to 17, 2009. The head of TDT, Jan Urbanowicz, welcomed participants and delivered the opening address, while Prof. Marian Wójcik and Ing. Wacław Oleksy of the Technical University in Cracow, had been asked to monitor the working sessions of the meeting.

Besides the Polish delegation the meeting has been attended by the delegations of the following countries : Andorra, Austria, China, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

Abiding by their traditional agenda delegates have discussed statistical surveys of accidents and incidents they had submitted in writing and exchanged additional information, comments and explanations of their statistical surveys.

As to the technical questions, delegates have discussed in particular the following questions :

- Monitoring of the correct position of carrying hauling ropes on their respective rollers

- Supervisory activities of Swiss ropeway supervisory authorities and Swiss control bodies
- Inspection of track ropes (in the light of the results of investigations carried out after the accident of the Schilthornbahn in Switzerland)
- Spare parts and retrofitting (Switzerland)
- Improvement of the rescue equipment and rescue structures after the earthquake in the Sichuan region (China) on May 12, 2008
- Final reports on the outcome of investigations carried out after the accident of the Ngong Ping Ropeway in Hong-Kong on June 11, 2009
- Report on and presentation of a film taken during tests in extreme conditions (breaking tests, falling trees, fire, etc) carried out on a fixed grip chairlift in the USA (Eschmolift, Winter Park – CO / USA-

Delegates have also been taken on a trip to Kuźnice near Zakopane and to the summit of Kasprowy and given the opportunity to visit both sections of the bicable reversible aerial ropeway. At the mountain terminal a rescue team of TOPR has made a demonstration of an exercise to rescue passengers of a chair lift which takes passengers to the aerial ropeway.

Delegates have also been offered a chance to visit the Technical University in Cracow which offers training and tuition possibilities to young generations of engineers.

The gala dinner which marked the end of the meeting has been organized on September 17, in a huge rock-salt mine. After having visited the mine delegates were offered the dinner in a huge hall which has been dug down to a depth of 140 m below the surface of the earth and were given a chance to pass a pleasant evening in the company of their friends.

We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our hosts and in particular to express our gratitude and appreciation to Maciej Dulawa who will no longer attend ITTAB meetings.

As for the next meeting the Federal Office for Transports and the Intercantonal Aerial Ropeways and Surface Lifts Concordate

have offered to organize the next meeting in Lucerne, Switzerland, from September 26 to October 1st, 2010.

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

O.I.T.A.F. Study committee 1

Ropeway technology and technical recommendations

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

P. Sedivy has sent us the following report:

Accepting an invitation extended by Dr. Ing. Pierpaolo Siazzu on behalf of the Italian Ministry for Transports study committee 1 met last on October 8 and 9, 2009 at Capri.

The main purpose of the meeting was to offer an opportunity to discuss and take decisions on the future work programme of the committee and having taken a decision to organize own activities accordingly. Members have availed themselves of this opportunity to submit several interesting proposals. Dr. Brugger, Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F. who had the intention to attend the meeting, has unfortunately been prevented from attending because he had to attend another meeting which had taken place on the same date. The committee unanimously approved his proposal to revise and by so doing update technical recommendations which had been published in the past. Hence the committee decided to address the revision of book 2/part 1 – Technical Recommendations for the construction and operation of fixed grip monicable unidirectional aerial ropeways and the revision of book 2/ part 2 – Technical recommendations for the construction and operation of detachable grip monicable unidirectional aerial ropeways at their next meeting which was to be held in February 2010 in Bregenz.

The place of venue of this committee's meetings has been the mountain terminal of the monoseat chairlift of Anacapri from which participants had the chance to enjoy an overwhelming view of the whole beautiful island.



The meeting room had been organized by the manager of the chairlift Mr. Saverio LALLINI in the building of the station. S. Lallini, who was celebrating his 80th anniversary invited the committee a rich lunch.



There has also been a change in the composition of the committee. Indeed, a new member, i.e. Dipl.Ing. Rolv BLAKKAR, Det Norske Veritas, is to step in as successor to Dipl. Ing. Roar MOE, who has served on the committee for more than ten years. This is why we would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank R. Moe for his commitment.



Dipl.Ing. Roar Moe and
Dipl.Ing. Rolv BLAKKAR

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

Properties and Inspection of Ropes

Chairman : Eric Premat, STRMTG – Supervisory Authority (F)

Study committee 2 have met on March 24 and 25, 2009 at Voreppe (POMA). Laurent Bonifat has accepted to organize the meeting with the help of Jaques Dubuisson and Eric Premat. 13 members of the committee have attended the meeting.

Discussion of and possibly decision on problems of rope inspection have been the main objective of the meeting. Indeed members felt they ought to be given a chance to continue their exchange of views on the inspection of ropes which they had started at their previous meeting. This time they have also been given the chance to visit the ropeway of the Bastille on Grenoble

Committee members wishes to avail itself of this opportunity to thank POMA for having invited all committee members to all meals that have been served during this two day session in Voreppe and thank also STRMTG for offered the wine that has been served during the dinner in a restaurant on Thursday night.

Committee members were glad to be given the opportunity to welcome three new members i.e. George Boyden, operator of the "Sandia Peak Tramway" (New Mexico, USA). Cristoph Martinet, operator of St. Hilaire du Touvet funicular railway (Grenoble) as representative of SNTF (French association of ropeway operators) and Martin Hofmann, representing Fatzer AG.

The following issues may be regarded as the most important items of the agenda which have been addressed during that meeting :

1) Inspection of ropes

The first part of the working programme, i.e. the visual inspection of ropes, has almost been completed. Two points have to be stressed in particular : There is on one hand a standard for the maintenance of crane ropes *ISO 4309 – Lifting devices for suspended loads – Ropes – Code of practice for the servicing and maintenance, inspection and discarding of ropes*) which might be a useful reference for the work to be done by committee 2, yet on the other hand time has come to look for ways and means to establish a hierarchy of identified problems

based on an accurate evaluation of their occurrence and their relative gravity. The results of such a classification might reveal the elements which the committee needs to have a clear vision of the relative importance of these problems in terms of safety.

As for the financial aspects involved by such an extensive and comprehensive project Switzerland has already succeeded in mobilizing funds which will be made available for the year 2010. France and the other member countries of study committee 2 will look out and see whether they can find the necessary financial sources to support this project.

2) Round Robin MRT-Test

The main objective we have set ourselves when starting this campaign of comparative rope tests was the identification of the real limits of magnetoscopic testing methods and at the same time obtain information about all elements we need to make a correct comparison of the testing reports issued by each participating testing institute for each system of inspection which they had carried out during this campaign and in particular to make a correct comparison of the information reported and data covered by their test reports.

STRMTG and POMA suggest to use for this round robin test a 68 mm thick track rope. Details of the method to be followed, such as the tension to be applied and the period of time during which it has to be maintained at a constant level, approximately one month, and the operative method are yet to be discussed and decided.

3) Qualification of splicers

Wishing to give a start to the discussion on the qualification of splicers and the state of the art in concerned countries, Switzerland and France have submitted reports on the situations in their country. The committee 2 has in mind to continue this exchange of information at their next meeting and hopes that by that time Italy, Austria and Germany will have submitted reports on the situation in their countries.

4) Accepting the invitation extended by Doppelmayr the committee 2 will meet next on March 11 and 12, 2010 in Wolfurt (Austria)

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

Electrical Equipment and Components of Ropeway Installations

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

The Study Committee met last in Bolzano (I) from October 5 to 7, 2009.

The meeting addressed the following items of the agenda

CEN standards – Progress report

The meeting has been informed that CEN TC 242 has decided to activate its working groups and invite them to discuss amendments to enforced standards which are deemed to be necessary

Signaling of disorders and storage of state and disorder data (Data Recording Devices)

Progress report on the activity of the Ad Hoc Working Group. The meeting has been informed that the Ad Hoc Working Group chaired by Ing. Fornasa has in the meantime fulfilled its mission and was to submit its document to TC 242. The document specifies only the technical requirements to be met by data recording devices. The document will be given the status of a technical report and hence will not be regarded as a binding document.

Exchange of information on disorders and incidents brought about by the electrical equipment of ropeway installations

Members exchanged information and discussed the following subjects :

- 1) Court sentence on the case submitted by Zermatter Bergbahnen. The court declared in its verdict that a renewal of the operating license can be granted if the company can provide satisfactory evidence that it has regularly fulfilled its common vigilance obligation and provided the safety of the installation is not likely to be affected by any risk, the use of the installation has not been modified and governing standards have not been amended after the construction of the ropeway installation. Renewal is not subject to any additional requirements or regulations.
- 2) Accident of a reversible aerial ropeway due to a change of the installation's parameters. The staff has changed the parameter and thus caused the accident.

Luckily enough nobody has been injured. Members discussed their respective countries views on the problem, i.e. the question whether and when a modification of parameters is permissible.

- 3) Measures that ought to be taken to prevent children from slipping out and falling down from their chair (magnetic hold-back systems, locking of safety bars, light signs placed in front of the mountain terminal etc.
- 4) Braking tests without application of loads. Having exchanged information on this braking test members learned that this type of braking test is the standard test which has been applied in the USA and in Canada for 25 years now and is currently been used to assess the braking force of new ropeway installations and sometimes even of existing ropeway installations.

Application of the EU Directive 2000/9/EC

Gained experience.

The application of the EU Directive to new ropeway installations has given positive results. Some problems were observed in the case of its application to existing ropeway installations.

As for the classification according to the required AK class, i.e. the requirement class, usually reference is made to the EN standard 13243 – Electrical equipment other than for drive systems. Wherever reference is made in this standard to standard EN 954-1 “Safety of machinery” the new standard which has been enforced to replace EN 954-1 is applicable.

During their meeting in Bolzano member of committee 3 have been given the chance to visit the 3S aerial ropeway Bolzano – Renon.



Study committee 3 taking the 3S aerial ropeway Bolzano – Renon



After the work an agreeable and gay evening

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

Legal, administrative, economic and statistical matters

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

Dr. Vollmer has sent us the following report :

Study committee 4 convened for a meeting in Lucerne on November 16 and 17, 2009. The next meeting has been scheduled to take place on April 26 and 27, 2010 in Berlin.

Subjects which have been addressed :

- General exchange of information; new legal provisions, transposition of regulations, disorders and accidents
- Compulsory regulations relating to helmets ; no O.I.T.A.F. recommendation

Membership

The professional commitments of the appointed Swiss delegate, Christoph Egger, prevent him from serving on this committee.

Exchange of information, new legal provisions , transposition of regulations, etc.

Germany: Germany has introduced a new quality label for ski runs. Germany has a strong partner, i.e. the German Skisport Association and its safety regulations for skisports. The association has been investigating for 30 years now the causes of ski accidents on snow runs. The reference document of the German quality specifications for the quality label are the regulations which have been enforced in the Vorarlberg. The label is not only concerned with marking of snow runs, FIS rules for skiers, safety, information panels, ski

run rescuing service, but includes also specifications for the structure of companies, their organisational chart and the training of their staff. The quality label provides some extent of legal protection because it proves that operators consider safety as an issue that requires their attention. So far 15 ski run operators have submitted their application. The German snow run quality label has a validity of three years.

Switzerland : The responsibility of ropeway operators includes their responsibility for the maintenance of snow runs. There are no specific legal provisions governing this part of their responsibilities. Their rights and duties are governed by the binding provisions on the document which specifies the General obligation to guarantee the safety of runs for snow sports". Swiss operators are in principle contrary to Governmental regulations relating to the preparation and grooming of snow runs. Besides that they work in close cooperation with SUVA, the Swiss organisation for the prevention of accidents.

At their General Assembly held in 2009 the Swiss association has approved the document on the "Homologation of runs for snow sports". The document implies that all member operators of the Swiss association who operate their ropeway installations in winter, as well as operators who operate their ropeway installations in winter and have decided to join the Swiss association commit themselves to have their runs regularly inspected by the Swiss Ropeway Association. The Swiss Ropeway Association has in the meantime organised an advisory service. The project is financed by two organisations for the prevention of accidents (SUVA and the Bureau for the prevention of accidents). Legally operators / the operators' association are responsible for the quality of the inspection of snow runs. The amendment to the Association's statute shows the importance Switzerland assigns to the snow run quality label. Of course the winter season is not long enough to permit the inspection of all existing snow runs.

France : In France there are some operators who are only responsible for the safe operation of the company, but not responsible for the safety of snow runs. This means that some operators are not at all responsible for snow runs. This is also why the introduction

of a snow run quality label might encounter some difficulties.

Spain : the situation is very similar to the situation in Switzerland. There are no Governmental regulations and no compulsory inspections of snow runs.

Austria : Austria has done pioneer work in this field. The snow run quality label is a good thing. The bodies which have been assigned the responsibility for the concession of snow run quality labels are the Chamber of Commerce and the regional Government. The responsible commission is composed of representatives of the ski association, ropeway operators and of the Association of Ski Schools and Ski Coaches. Renewal of the concession of the label must be requested from time to time at regular intervals.

Free State of Bavaria : In the Free State of Bavaria 4 new ropeway installations are to take up public service in the next season. Committee members have been given a detailed description of each installation.

Lecture delivered by the public prosecutor Heinz Walter Mathys

Former public prosecutor Heinz Walter Mathys delivered a most knowledgeable lecture on the legal situation resulting from the use of new special snow gliders on snow runs for winter sports. H. W. Mathys is the chairman of the Swiss commission for the prevention of accidents on snow runs for winter sports (SKUS) and is regarded as the most knowledgeable expert on legal questions related to accidents on snow runs for winter sports. Copies of the lecture may be ordered with the Swiss Ropeway Association Seilbahn Schweiz.

Application of the new law on transportation by rope in Switzerland

The new law on transportation by rope has been enforced on January 1, 2007. Two involved parties, the Swiss Ropeway Association Seilbahn Schweiz on one hand and the Swiss Federal Office for Transports have repeatedly defended their contrasting positions on the foreseen procedure for the renewal of the operating license not only during the preparatory discussion but also after the publication of the law. Indeed according to the licensing authority under the provisions of the new law the renewal of the concession has to be linked to a corresponding renewal of the

operating license, an interpretation which is in contrast with the views of the Ropeway Association. At the end of 2009, the verdict of the Federal Administrative Court has roused a great interest of the ropeway profession, and this the more so, because the tribunal's decision went along with the views expressed by ropeway operators. The regular inspection of all components of a ropeway installation is an explicit element which guarantees the safety of the ropeway installation. Inspections are carried out in accordance with the specified regulations and are reported, year after year, to the Federal Office for Transports, which means that the supervisory authority receives regularly updated data and implies also that these data do not need to be collected anew in the case of a renewal of the concession. The Federal Office for Transports has in the meantime accepted this decision of the tribunal and has accordingly amended own instructions for operators.

Compulsory use of helmets

The committee has discussed at length this subject. Members' views were quite diverging. To conclude the discussion the meeting decided to abandon the idea of an O.I.T.A.F. recommendation on helmets. That notwithstanding the compulsory use of helmets remains a permanent item of the committee's debates.

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

Optimisation of ropeway and ski tow operation

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

The committee met in Annecy on September 28 and 29, 2009.

At this meeting the committee has almost finalized its draft rescue guide-lines for ropeway installations except for some minor formal amendments which have to be made yet. The following title and content of the appendixes have been approved by the committee :

Appendix A : External communication

Appendix B : Internal communication

Appendix C : Competence and skill

Appendix D : Questionnaire for the assessment of a rescue plan

Appendix E : List of services and persons that are taking part in an rescue operation

Appendix F : List of external organisations and authorities that have to be informed whenever a rescue operation is being launched

Appendix G : List of components of the basic equipment of each rescue team

Members of the committee have also been asked to say which of the subjects listed hereafter ought to be dealt with in the future

- A. Operation in exceptional operating conditions (including bad weather conditions), due consideration being given to the existing experience
- B. Qualification of the staff
- C. Behaviour of the staff
- D. Evaluation of the experience so far made in areas such as maintenance and components

There has been general agreement to tackle first the subject A "Operation in exceptional operating conditions.

This decision triggered a discussion on arising exceptional situations. It has very soon been quite clear that the committee ought to tackle first the following subjects : wind, snow and ice, thunderstorm, high levels of air borne humidity, failure of safety components and safety devices, as well as building activities and building sites in the neighbourhood of ropeway installations. Members have been invited to make proposals for the next meeting.

The next meeting has been scheduled to take place in Engelberg (CH) on January 18 and 19, 2010

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

Environment

Chairman of the Committee: Julien Noël, MONTAGNE & MANAGEMENT SAS

J. Noël has submitted the following report :

In 2009 study committee has met twice, the first meeting having been convened on June 9, 2009 in Aix les Bains (France) and the second on September 21, 2009 in Schladming (A). 2009 marked the end of epoch Michael Manhart having expressed the wish to resign his man-

date. Julien Noël accepted to chair the study committee for a term of office of three years. The study committee accepted M. Manhart's desire to retire and expressed their deep gratitude to the person who has given birth to the working group and thereafter suggested and launched all the projects which the study committee had carried out. And even though M. Manhart has given up his chairmanship he will be regarded as a full and active member of the committee.

Last June committee 7 have laid down their working programme for the three years to come and have agreed to address the following three subjects :

1. Water

- Artificial snow making technology / storage basins
- Fundamental legal provisions (European and national); regulations governing authorisation procedures and drawing off of water

Energy

- Consumption of energy (monitoring of CO₂ emissions)
- Operator's ways and means to save energy

Public relations having the purpose to convey information on O.I.T.A.F recommendations and dedicated technical instructions to customers and ropeway operators

In 2009 the study committee addressed in particular the following two subjects :

1. The Recommendation on Environmental Protection provided by the ropeway industry, and finalization of the draft

- Translation into French of the dedicated technical instructions and their validation
- Submission of the dedicated technical instructions to the Management Committee for approval
- Request to be submitted to the Management Committee to adopt a communication policy to rouse the operators' interest for O.I.T.A.F.'s recommendation on environment and dedi-

cated technical instructions which could be regarded as a special service offered to operators. It was felt that it might be convenient to publish these documents on the internet site of national associations, to inform directly all members of national associations and submit these documents to national controlling and supervisory authorities. The members of study committee 7 have in mind to ask the Management Committee whether they would accept to contribute to the divulgation of the work done by this committee and to this end contribute to the drafting of a communication document on the environmental management of ski resorts to be used in all countries as an information tool for customers.

2. Organisation of the seminar to be held on April 21, 2010 in conjunction with SAM 2010.

The next meeting of study committee 7 has been scheduled to take place on April 22, 2010 in Grenoble.

FUTURE EVENTS

Meetings of O.I.T.A.F. bodies (to the extent their date has already been agreed)

Management Committee

April 20, 2010 in Grenoble (F)

and October 26, 2010 in Barcelona (E)

Executive Committee

October 07, 2010 in Zurich

O.I.T.A.F. Seminar

April 21, 2010 in Grenoble

Study Committee 1:

February 12 to 14, 2010 in Bregenz (A)

and September 22 to 24, 2010 in Vienna

Study Committee 2

March 11 and 12, 2010 in Wolfurt (A)

and September 16 and 17, 2010 in Italy

Study Committee 3

April 19 to 21, 2010 Alpe d'Huez (F)

Study Committee 4

April 26 and 27, 2010 in Berlin

Study Committee 6


March 22 and 23, 2010 in Engelberg (CH)

and June 7 and 8, 2010 in Perugia (I)

Study Committee 7

April 22, 2010 in Grenoble (F)

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

	<p>National Convention & Tradeshow May 2-5, 2010 Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate, FL 1500 Masters Boulevard, Florida 33896</p>
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	<p>INTERALPIN INNSBRUCK</p> <p>Mai 04 - 06, 2011</p>
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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
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- O.I.T.A.F. bodies and their members
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If not otherwise specified, text, photographs and layout by the Secretary General of O.I.T.A.F.

**For the 50th
anniversary of O.I.T.A.F.**

**Activities of the O.I.T.A.F. since
its foundation 1959**

**Abstract from ISR
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