



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 1998

The same issue has been published:
in German
French and
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O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS 1/1998

During the meeting of the board of directors in Bolzano on October 17, 1997 it has been decided to publish semi-annually a brochure to better inform the members about the activities of the O.I.T.A.F.

Each edition will be focused on subjects such as presentation of the committees and specific subjects which were handled by the board of directors, etc.

This is the first edition.

The information sheet will be issued in the following 4 languages: German, English, French and Italian.

Comments of the President of the O.I.T.A.F.

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS. We are proud of this publication not only to provide you with valuable information but also to involve you in our activities.

Further, we want to introduce to you with O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS the diverse activities and duties of the various committees and we want to encourage people to become actively involved. The O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS was established to improve the exchange of views and to ask your opinions and being able to serve the business better.

In this sense, I kindly ask for your active co-operation.

Karl Trütsch, President

News of the board of directors and the executive committee

The board of directors and the executive committee held two meetings each last year.

Further, two meetings were held this year, on January 31, by the executive committee and on April 24, by the board of directors.

Besides the usual administrative items such as approval of balances and estimates, admissions of members, etc. the following points have been discussed and will be discussed in the future:

1) Organization of the O.I.T.A.F. seminar on October 16, 1998 in Bolzano

About the

“RELIABILITY OF ROPEWAYS AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS WITH SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS OF PROGRAMMABLE CONTROL SYSTEMS”.

Dr. Michele Di Puppò, vice governor and representative of the department of transportation of the independent province of Bolzano, opened the seminar.

The subjects of the seminar were mainly electro technical problems. Especially the ones which were discussed over and over internationally because of the very different opinions of the various countries. Different views about the use and quality of the programmable electronic controls and safety equipments were presented by the authorities and the manufacturers. An additional speech dealt with the analysis of probabilities for the valuation of risks.

The participation of over 200 interested technicians coming from all the alpine countries and also from Spain, the United States and Japan, demonstrated the importance of the dealt with subjects. It was a complete success for the O.I.T.A.F.

The various papers are available on Internet, O.I.T.A.F. web site <<http://www.oitaf.org>>.

2) O.I.T.A.F. seminar on April 23, 1998 in Grenoble

about:

“ROPEWAYS AND EUROPE” economical, legal and financial aspects of the community law.

Mr. Jean-Claude GAYSSOT, French minister of transportation (Ministre de l'Équipement, des Transports et du Logement) and Mr. Jean P. Richard, representative of the committee of the European Union participated in the seminar. Their presence emphasized the international character and importance of the ropeway industry in the economy and technology today and in the future and

especially under the aspect of the economical union of the European countries. Additional, political representatives of the city of Grenoble and the region of Isère underlined the importance of the seminar in the international fields of economics.

More than 150 participants from all the alpine countries, Spain, United States and Japan attended the seminar and demonstrated their world wide interest in this subject.

The seminar took part under the symbol of a European Union with no internal borders and the future effects of a common currency. The representative of the European Union commission informed about the commission in general and also about the not wholly approved standards for ropeways. Other speeches dealt with subjects like the effects of the EURO for ropeway enterprises, the European Union and questions in connection with slopes, the consequences of the European Union environmental regulations for ropeways, aspects of the European Union regulations, seen out of different angles of view and European regulations concerning national subventions for the ropeway industry.

The various papers are available for downloading on Internet, O.I.T.A.F. web site <<http://www.oitaf.org>>.

3) International Congress for Transportation by Rope in San Francisco, California USA on May 23 - 27, 1999

The main points: elaborating the program of the congress and nominating members to the reading committee.

Mr. Fletcher (USA) is responsible for the organization.

Organizing committee:

President: Jim Fletcher; Vice-president: Doug Clyde; Treasurer: Sid Roslund; Secretary: George Boyden; Members: Jim Ellis, Maynard Russel, Francesc Culleré, Jean Charles Simiand, Horst Kühschelm, Giorgio Paolini, Karl Trütsch and Heinrich Brugger.

Reading committee:

18 ropeway specialists from various countries have been nominated to the reading

committee. It is their responsibility to win speakers from all over the world to participate in the congress. Should you be interested in participating in the congress as a speaker you are asked to get in touch with one of the people mentioned below to find out more about it:

Coordinator of the reading committee is Mr. Fletcher Jim (USA).

Members:

Sato Hisao (Japan), Liam Khoo Ee (China), Haenni Arthur (Canada), Beck Werner (Germany), Puell Karsten (Germany), Sedivy Peter (Austria), Bonini Achille (Italy), Tarassoff Serge (France), Crouzet Francis (France), Culleré Francesc (Spain), Oplatka Gabor (Switzerland), Hinteregger Christoph (Austria), Szalai Istvan (Switzerland), Paolini Giorgio (Italy), Muhnier Jean (USA), Theus Riet (Switzerland), Thöni Walter (Austria), Hirt Peter (Germany).

4) Reorganization of the committees

Last year, the board of directors decided to check the scope of duties and the structure of each committee. Details about changes are available under the respective committees.

Concerning the structure of the committees, all members were asked to look for people interested in working in the various committees. We want to involve the members in the activities of O.I.T.A.F. to improve the flow of information between the committees and the members of O.I.T.A.F.

It is planned to present one by one of the various committees in each O.I.T.A.F.-NEWS.

PRESENTATION OF A COMMITTEE

Committee No. IV:

Legal, administrative, economic and statistical matters

Chairman: Dr. Horst Kühschelm

Born 1943 in Vienna and graduated in his studies of law and state economy in 1967. 1970 he joined the Federal Ministry of trans-

ports as consultant for legal and procedural matters of ropeways and T-bar lifts. Since 1982 he acts as consultant general and since 1992 manages the department of principle for ropeways and local traffic at the Federal Ministry of science and traffic.



Long-standing member of the board of directors and executive committee of the O.I.T.A.F. Since 1970 an active member of the committee no. IV and since 1988 its president.

Scope and duties of the committee

The target and main duty of committee no. IV of O.I.T.A.F. was and still is the registration, comparison and evaluation of administrative, legal, economical and statistical parameters of the ropeway business to develop, support and if possible to harmonize the international increasingly important items of ropeway business.

The committee was set-up in 1970 by Dr. Herbert Frank, at that time chairman of the Austrian ropeway supervising authority and honorary president of O.I.T.A.F. He directed the committee until 1987.

The first meeting took place in Seefeld, Austria on May 18, 1971. On April 22, 1998, on the eve of the seminar "Ropeways and the EU" in Grenoble, France the 42nd meeting took place. The seminar was organized by the committee no. IV.

Dr. Horst Kühschelm, since 1988 the chairman of the Austrian ropeway supervising authority at the Federal ministry of science and traffic. He directs the committee to which belong 26 leading people of ropeway authorities, operators, ropeway associations and industry from different alpine countries.

Until now, approximately 30 subjects have been treated. Some of these are:

- Questions of approval procedures and legal bases for the erection and operation of ropeways.
- Competition of ropeways by other ropeways or roads.
- Economical questions of the ropeway business like: profitability, extra costs, scale of charges, government aid, rationalization and taxation matters.
- Transportation conditions with special care to transport of children.
- Questions of the mutual endangering of ropeways with airplanes, hang gliders, etc.
- Nature and environment
- Statistics
- Safety measures and legal liability with reference to the erection and operation of ropeways.
- Questions about avalanche protection
- Icons for ropeways, T-bar lifts and ski runs.
- Transportation of handicapped people.

The activity of the committee is visibly present with its expert contributions during the O.I.T.A.F. ropeway congresses. Members of the committee gave seven lectures on legal, economical and administrative subjects at the congress in Vienna in 1975, eleven in Munich in 1981, six in Grenoble in 1987 and five in Barcelona in 1993. Several lectures based on the activities of the committee will also be given by members of the committee at the International Congress for Transportation by Rope in San Francisco in 1999.

Even though, the activity of the committee is mainly dedicated to the exchange and registration of national facts and their comparison, practically oriented results have also been achieved. Thus the signposting for passengers on ropeways T-bar lifts yet standardized in many countries, which are internationally set by the ISO standards lays in the initial suggestions and work of the committee no. IV. The advisory work of the committee lead also to initiate other activities by the organization in different fields like specialized papers or founding groups of mutual exchange of experiences within the ropeway business. Finally, it is to be mentioned that the committee no. IV

no. IV contributed to the comprehension of an interdisciplinary viewpoint concerning the necessary reciprocal action of technical, legal and economical problems.

Present scope of duties:

- Investigation of economical figures;
- Economical importance of ropeways;
- Ropeways and EU - in particular questions of transportation systems in the EU and legal problems concerning rules of competition;
- Inspection, control and maintenance of ropeways and their legal basis;
- Liability of ropeway operators and responsibility of the passengers;
- Quality assurance of ropeways.

Of significant importance is the collection of international legal documents regarding ropeway transportation and its accidents, ski runs and appliance of runs included, as well as gathered documents of essential subjects of ropeway transportation.

The documents gathered by the committee and the ones gathered by the secretary of O.I.T.A.F. in Bolzano can be transmitted by the chairman of the committee, if necessary. Finally, it can be said that, especially in respect to the European integration, economic and legal questions will in the future become more and more important. The work of the committee can be seen as complementary regarding the pending subjects and as forum of exchange of ideas and experiences as well as competent international institution for the harmonization of all subjects not standardized by the European commission.

Each year, a short version about the work of the committees is also published in the O.I.T.A.F. activity report.

Details are available at the secretary's office of O.I.T.A.F. in Bolzano (phone: ++39/471/994600 fax: ++39/471/ 994616 or by E-mail, <info@oitaf.org>) as well as with the Chairman of the committee, Dr. H. KÜhschelm in Vienna (fax: 01/71162 /2399).

INFORMATION ABOUT THE OTHER COMMITTEES

The committees have partially been given new tasks. The Executive committee consid-

ered it to involve more the members of O.I.T.A.F. to staff the committees with younger people.

The members are asked to inform the secretary about their interest to work within one or more committees.

A good knowledge of the respective subjects is indispensable for a collaboration within a committee.

Committee No. I: Ropeway techniques and recommendations

Chairmen: Dr. Peter Sedivy

The name of the committee "technical recommendations" has been changed; since the elaboration of setting homogenous European standards at CEN is not a primary task of the O.I.T.A.F. anymore - thus the committee should still deal with ropeway techniques in general.

At present, the following topics are treated:

- Analysis of technical failures;
- Range of maintenance work;
- Evaluation of guidelines for renovations;
- Application of European ropeway standards;
- Review of new developments in technology and operation;
- Elaboration of technical recommendations for various fields not covered by the European standards;
- Realization of technical seminars.

Members deal currently with the following special topics and elaborate corresponding proposals:

- Recommendations for the design of detaching elements for a forced detachment of the grip from the rope in the station (rope pullout test) for detachable systems
- Recommendations for the construction and erection of loading systems using conveyor belts for fixed and detachable chairlifts
- Recommendations which consider the technical specifications of the system FUNITEL.

The following work groups are within this committee:

Work group: Non-public ropeways

Chairman of the group: Wolfgang Allgeuer, Engineer

The work group prepared during the last year the "Technical recommendations for the construction and operation of non-public ropeways for the transportation of goods, with a max. payload of 2000 kg".

They have been approved by the board of directors during their meeting of April 24, 1998.

Work group: Material ropeways and cable cranes

This work group was founded at the meeting of the Executive committee on January 31, 1998. It will deal with the "recommendations for the construction and operation of material ropeways and cable cranes (edition 1980), published in the Bulletin no 8 of O.I.T.A.F.

Experts from Italy, Germany, France, Switzerland and Austria are represented in this group.

The first meeting was held in Bolzano, Italy on May 15, 1998. Mr. Bonini (I) has been nominated Chairmen of the work group.

Committee No. II: Characteristics and inspection of ropes

Chairman: Prof. Dr. Eng. Giorgio Paolini

The area of responsibility contains the research on the influence of fabrication procedures on ropes concerning the resistance. It has been found out, that the fatigue resistance is less dependant on the basic substances used than the microscopic faults occurring during manufacturing.

The Board of directors discussed at its meeting of October 17, 1997 the subject and asked Prof. Paolini to analyze the problem of the track ropes within the committee, especially the upcoming problems by an eventual reduction of the safety factor.

The following scope of duties is planned:

1. Ropes in general
 - 1.1 rope strength: evaluation methods based on fracture mechanics
 - 1.2 quality of wires of ropes: new concepts based on its correlation with surface defects
 - 1.3 statistic and probabilistic models related to wire quality

2. Track ropes
 - 2.1 risk analysis about track ropes
 - 2.2 inherent safety and exogenous harms
 - 2.3 risk parameters: identification and analysis models for operation situations
 - 2.4 optimization of the track ropes project with reference to safety
3. Risks for ropes which occur by certain environmental factors (wind etc.)

Committee No. III: Electrical components respectively modules in ropeway installations

Chairman: Ruedi Schüle, Engineer

Scope of duties:

1. Basic rules in technical security
2. Application of programmable control systems and complex electronic systems
3. Safety evidence, design review, inspection tests
4. Use of standards, specially ropeway standards
5. Automatic operation of funiculars and aerial tramways
6. Discussion about accidents, interruptions and occurrences. (Time limit of about 1.5 hours for each meeting.)
7. Special electric parts (inclination measurements, wind speed measuring systems, tower switches, load measurement, door surveillance, lightning protection, etc.)
8. Maintenance of electric installations
9. Staff instruction

Committee No. VI: Optimization of operation of ropeway systems

Chairmen: Francis Crouzet, Engineer

Scope of duties:

Elaboration of recommendations or regulations in connection with the operation of ropeway systems:

- Analysis of operational problems with respect to the use of new materials and new applications. Studies about planned or already used solutions in the various countries. Set up of corresponding standardized regulations.

- Review of technology in rescue systems and recommendations for using them.
- Analysis of interruptions, occurrences and accidents. Thorough investigation of the cause in connection with the surrounding and work force and methods. Recommendations working against these causes or diminishing the effect of them.
- Analysis of possible difficulties in the application of CEN-standards "evacuation and rescue" and "operation". Suggestions of changes and completion's.

After the committee no. IV, directed by Mr. Crouzet, - Problems of public service, breakdowns and rescue - had to suspend in 1991 its work due to the involvement of its members in the work groups "operation", "evacuation and rescue" of CEN, it can now take up its work since the CEN standards have been set. But, following the recommendation of Mr. Crouzet, a new activity field, including also the old one and a new name for the committee have to be found.

O.I.T.A.F. on the Internet

From now on the O.I.T.A.F. web site is available in the languages English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. These pages give you information about O.I.T.A.F. in general and about the following points in particular:

- What is O.I.T.A.F. all about?
- Structure of O.I.T.A.F.
- Statutory matters of O.I.T.A.F.
- Activities of O.I.T.A.F.
- NEWS and other information about O.I.T.A.F.
- Members' functions.
- Committees of O.I.T.A.F.
- Technical recommendations, studies and statistics of O.I.T.A.F.
- Papers of O.I.T.A.F. seminars.
- Seminars of O.I.T.A.F.
- International Congress for Transportation by Rope 1999 in San Francisco.

Further information are available by E-mail: <info@oitaf.org>.

Further information about the international congress 99 in San Francisco are available by on the home page: <http://www.oitaf.com>.

Important dates 1998

Meetings:

Management Committee:	October 30, 1998 Zurich
Committee no. I:	Juni 25, 1998
Committee no. II:	October, 1998
Committee no. IIIe:	October, 1998
Committee no. IV:	November 09,10,11
Committee no. VI:	October 09