

Message from the Chairman, IRF



WITH GREAT PLEASURE, I cordially invite you to the International Road Federation's 18th World Road Meeting (WRM), to be held in Delhi, India, 14 - 17 November, 2017.

India is a befitting venue for this mega event, in view of the growing demand for road infrastructure and mobility and emerging importance of India as a market for road infrastructure and services.

Pursuing the theme of **"Safe Roads and Smart Mobility : The Engines of Economic Growth"**, the WRM 2017 will be instrumental in bringing road and transport experts, leaders of automobile industry, professionals, academics, consultants, contractors and manufacturers from across the world in a mission mode. The WRM will deal with both Safe Roads and Smart Mobility, which are the cherished aspirations of all road users. Rapid urbanisation brings with it demand for capacity augmentation, besides increased vehicular traffic, congestion, pollution and safety related issues, which bear heavily on the quality of life and can place a huge burden on the economy of the country. With growth in population, the challenge would become manifold. The WRM will endeavor to discuss sustainable solutions for maintaining a clean, healthy and efficient environment together with safe road mobility for people to live, interact and work.

Spanning four days, the WRM will offer plenary sessions with high level keynote addresses, expert parallel sessions on ten thematic topics, sessions on latest future trends and many more. An exhibition platform, which will run concurrently with the conference will showcase the latest products and services for construction, maintenance and operation of sustainable and safe roads as well as automobiles demonstrating their safety features for safe mobility.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India has extended its support to WRM 2017 and has proposed to invite the Transport Ministers from across the world to participate in an exclusive Ministerial Meet being organised on 13 November 2017. The Ministerial Meet is being held in the context of the UN Decade of Action 2020, and will be an important event. I am confident that WRM 2017, with the high technical quality of its conference and exhibition, will be a memorable event for all stakeholders, be it the government or industry leaders and professionals from the road transport as well as the automobile sector.

I welcome all the stakeholders to attend 'WRM 2017' and make it a successful event. I also appeal to each one of you to participate in the Exhibition and share your knowledge and expertise to further the cause safe roads and smart mobility.

KIRAN K. KAPILA

Chairman