



PRESS RELEASE n° 5/2017

4th UIC World Congress on Rail Training 2017, held under the slogan: “Unite, Inspire, Connect” opened today in Potsdam, Germany

(Potsdam, 5 April 2017) The 4th edition of the World Congress on Rail Training jointly organised by UIC, the International Union of Railways, Deutsche Bahn Training, Learning & Consulting, SNCF and FS opened on 5 April at the DB Akademie im Kaiserbahnhof in Potsdam, Germany. The Congress, bringing together 180 participants from 34 different countries, will take place until 7 April 2017.

Organised at the initiative of the UIC Expertise Development Platform, which draws its expertise from the regional Rail Training Centres Networks, the Congress' main purpose is to enhance workforce development through sharing best practice in rail training across the entire industry.

The key congress aims are promoting excellence in railway training through best practice models, highlighting research findings in this area which bring innovation and have practical application to the industry, identifying new challenges for training and training technologies and providing a unique opportunity to share knowledge and experience amongst training professionals and managers. It is especially targeted at Human Resources and Training Directors, Training executives and Training and workforce development experts.

During the next few days, the participants will namely focus on:

- Transfer of knowledge in an international environment
- International Cooperation
- Innovation and Technologies: railway traffic
- National Cooperation
- Safety Culture
- Learning innovation
- Managers Training
- Drivers Training and Simulation
- Miscellaneous
- Talent

Mr. Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director-General, Mrs. Ursula Schütze-Keilkamp, DB Mobility Logistics AG's Head of Personnel Development, and Mrs. Esther Marconi, Chairwoman of UIC Expertise Development Platform, all opened the Congress.

First, Jean-Pierre Loubinoux welcomed all participants and said *"The WCRT congresses are important events for decision-makers in rail training and Human Resources, as well as for the railway community in general. [...] We need innovation, thus intelligence, and this comes from the workforce, the younger generation, the universities and from the start-up ecosystem that will bring the creativity and reactivity the railway sector needs. [...] Therefore, one of UIC's main activities is to support its members with this issue, namely via the Railway Talent project, and the development of the portfolio of online training courses"*.

Ursula Schütze-Keilkamp insisted on the need for all railway-related stakeholders to unite their efforts *"[...], to bring together as many people as possible, make them excited about training and rail, we have to find what's best for all. At the end of the day, the most important thing is to move forward together."*

Finally, Esther Marconi highlighted that *"we are living at the peak of globalisation, and [...] we are going through a hazy time, with incredibly fast evolution. [...] Fortunately, due to technology progress, the mobility industries, specifically the railway ones, expect employment growth. In this framework, training, as a facilitator of Human Resources Development, has a vital importance"*.

After the opening of the Congress followed a presentation by the partners DB, SNCF, FS and Scheidt & Bachmann to share how they deal with training and talent management issues in their companies and why it was important for them to be partners of the event.

Nathalie Amirault, Head of UIC Expertise Development Unit, explained how the Expertise Development Platform is organised and presented the latest developments of its activities (training sessions at the various training network facilities, technical visits to training centres, bi-yearly meetings, etc.).

The programme then started with the first row of presentations on the topic "Transfer of knowledge in an international environment". Later today, the participants will get the chance to learn more about best practices from international cooperation experiences, and to attend six technical visits including the training and maintenance facilities of DB, Berliner Metro (Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe – BVG) and Siemens before enjoying a city tour of Berlin.

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