



## **UIC General Assembly held in Paris chaired by Yoshio Ishida**

*The General Assembly approves the membership of the UIC Executive Board for 2009-2010 and welcomes 5 new members.*

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(Paris, 18.06.09). The UIC General Assembly was held in Paris on 16 June 2009. The meeting was chaired by Mr *Yoshio Ishida*, Vice-Chairman of JR East and UIC Chairman, assisted by the UIC Director-General of Services *Jean-Pierre Loubinoux*. Ms *Béatrice Dunogué-Gaffié*, who had acted as UIC Provisional Administrator until the expiry of her mandate on 23 April 2009, also participated in the meeting in her capacity as chair of the working party set up to draft the new UIC statutes which recently entered into force.

This was the first General Assembly held since the unanimous adoption of the new UIC statutes by the association's members on 31 March last. Chairman Ishida took the opportunity to congratulate Ms *Dunogué-Gaffié* on the successful completion of her task and all the work undertaken to finalise the association's new statutes, which are now accessible to members on the UIC website.

The General Assembly then approved the membership of the UIC Executive Board for 2009-2010. The Executive Board comprises 21 active members appointed by the Regional Assemblies, and is the high-level body whose competences have been modified under the new statutes.

The members of the Executive Board are as follows:

- for UIC Africa: Messrs *Gama* (Transnet Rail, South Africa), *Abeke* (Setrag), *Yobo Gosse* (SIPF) and *Fitouri* (SNCFT, Tunisia);
- for UIC Asia: Messrs *Huh* (Korail), *Chen Juemin* (Chinese railways), *Ishida* (EJRC) *Khurana* (Indian Railways), *Mamin* (Kazakhstan railways);
- for UIC Oceania: Mr *Hockridge* (Queensland Rail);
- for UIC Europe: Messrs *Pepy* (SNCF), *Grube* (DB), *Klerk* (ProRail) and *Wach* (PKP);
- for Russia : Mr *Yakunin* (RZD);
- for UIC Middle-East: Messrs *Karaman* (TCDD, Turkey), *Ziari* (RAI, Iran), and *Mokabari* (CFS, Syria);
- for UIC North America: Messrs *VanderClute* (AAR, USA) and *Côté* (Via Rail, Canada).
- For UIC Latin America: representation remains to be determined.

UIC Director General *Jean-Pierre Loubinoux* subsequently reported on the host of management reforms implemented since his arrival in April, which aim to increase UIC's value and utility for its members, optimise its operations and improve its image and standing at global level by best serving its values of unity, universality and solidarity.

In this context, he presented the new UIC organisational chart, the implementation of which was validated. This organisational structure combines three echelons of management: the strategic level (coordination with the six UIC Regions), the support services level (finance, human resources, legal services, communications, institutional relations) and the technical cooperation level structured around four departments – Passenger, Freight, Rail System /

Infrastructure and Fundamental Values (a department covering cross-sector activities such as sustainable development, research, safety, security, and the development of expertise). The work of the technical departments is guided by the strategic direction formulated by the Forums and Platforms, professional bodies made up of members' representatives, and at the request of the UIC Regional Assemblies, whose role and capacity as project initiators have been boosted.

UIC members also unanimously welcomed five new members to the association: McML Group (India), affiliate member, AFER, a railway authority (Romania), affiliate member, HARSCO RAIL (UK), affiliate member, TFG (Romania), associate member, HIZTAS (Turkey), affiliate member. UIC now has 200 members across the world.

The General Assembly also saw the heads of various UIC departments and technical work areas present to members their programmes of work and some of their priority projects, underscoring the wealth and diversity of the technical competences UIC brings together on its' members' behalf (a total of some 200 projects and activities). The presentations given focused on work in Infrastructure, Freight, Passenger, Safety, Security, Sustainable Development, as well as a presentation of the *Train to Copenhagen project*, which represents the railways' contribution to the 'COP 15' conference on climate change to be held by the UN this coming December.

In concluding the General Assembly, UIC Chairman *Yoshio Ishida* thanked members, the UIC Director General and UIC staff as a whole for their work and the progress already made in the extremely short space of time since the adoption of the new statutes, and stated that he had great faith in the future of UIC.

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#### **Note to the editor:**

The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the international professional association representing the rail sector. UIC currently counts 200 members across five continents. Its mandate is to promote the growth of rail transport across the world and to encourage and organise international cooperation between its members. UIC's technical departments draw their lead from the strategies defined by the members of its specialist forums and platforms, and steer or coordinate a total of circa 200 projects in the field of international cooperation, covering all aspects of rail activities: rail system technology, passenger and freight transport, research, safety and security, sustainable development and the development of skills and expertise.

A significant share of UIC's work consists of strengthening the coherence of the rail system as a whole and its international interoperability, as well as boosting the competitiveness of both passenger and freight transport services. The aim is to enable rail transport to meet current challenges of mobility and sustainable development as effectively as possible.

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