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UIC and China's Ministry of Railways organise UIC HIGH SPEED 2010, the 7th world congress on High Speed Rail, on 7 – 9 December in Beijing

(Paris/Beijing, 4 June 2010). The International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Ministry of Railways (MoR) of the People's Republic of China are organising *UIC HIGH SPEED 2010*, the 7th world congress on High Speed Rail, to be held on 7 – 9 December in Beijing under the theme "*High Speed Rail Spearheading Greener Transport*".

The chairmen of the congress will be Mr. *LIU Zhijun*, Minister of Railways of China, and Mr. *Yoshio ISHIDA*, UIC Chairman. The Steering Committee is chaired by Mr. *WANG Zhiguo*, Vice Minister of MoR, and Mr. *Jean-Pierre LOUBINOUX*, UIC Director General. The chairmen of the Scientific Committee are Mr. *Michel LEBOEUF*, Director at SNCF and Chairman of the UIC High Speed Committee, and Mr. *HE Huawu*, Chief Engineer at China's MoR.

UIC HIGH SPEED 2010 will be structured around three main areas: the world congress with its plenary and parallel sessions, the exhibition and the technical visits.

At the opening ceremony and during the main sessions there will be keynote speeches delivered by high-level representatives from different countries, among them Mr. *Mauro Moretti*, CEO of Italian Railways group FS and UIC Vice Chairman. Two round tables dealing with "*High Speed rail towards the Future*" and "*High Speed Rail Innovations*" respectively will provide a unique opportunity for interacting and exchanging knowledge between participants. Several parallel sessions will be dedicated to a number of topics directly connected with high speed rail development.

As was the case with the previous edition in Amsterdam, a specific Students' Programme has been scheduled during the congress. At the closing session, a prominent international figure will deliver a concluding speech on the highlights of the congress.

The HIGH SPEED 2010 congress will put a strong focus on the three main achievements of the UIC High Speed department over the last year: "*High Speed and the City*", "*High Speed and Sustainable Development*", and "*High Speed and Territory Management*".

For this 2010 edition, the professional exhibition will be organised in collaboration with *Modern Railways*, a huge event showing the development of railway systems in China and around the world.

A large number of media representatives from economic, financial, and transport media will cover the event.

The logistics for this congress will be taken care of by the Chinese Academy of Railway Science (CARS).

High speed is currently experiencing an impressive development around the world. 13,500 km of high speed lines are already in operation. Within 5 years, this network is expected to double and within 15 years, it should reach four times the current length. This means a significant challenge from an industrial, technological, financial and operational point of view.

China started high speed development in 2008 and now leads countries operating high speed rail systems, with more than 3,000 km of new "*People Dedicated Lines (PDL)*", able to operate at speeds of more than 250 km/hour.

Following a series of successful editions, UIC HIGHSPEED has definitively become the world event to meet the main players and decision-makers in charge of preparing today's and tomorrow's railways. Attendants will include high-level representatives from railway companies, rail supply industry, research institutes, international organisations and financial institutions, etc.

For further information, please visit the congress website:

<http://www.uic-highspeed2010.com.cn>

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