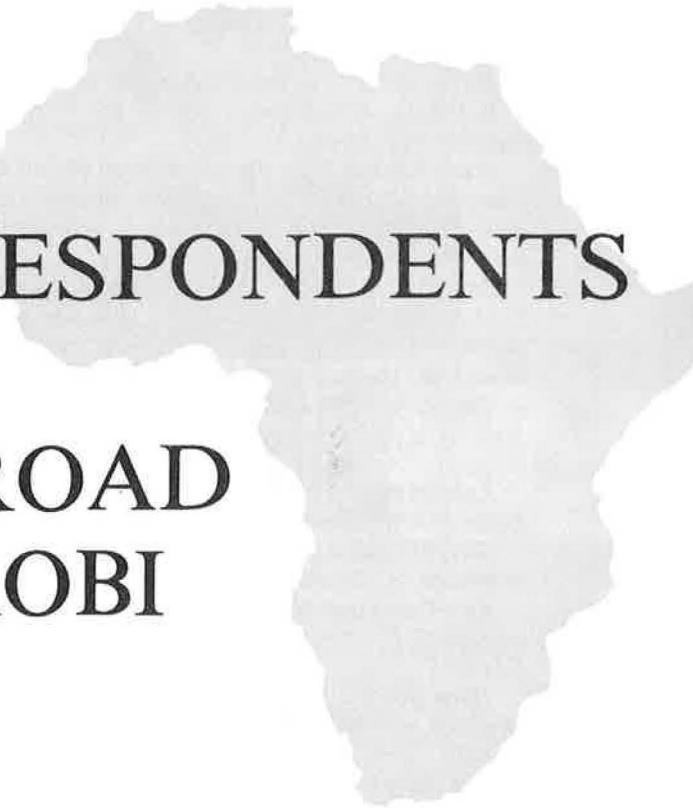


AFRICAN CORRESPONDENTS DISCUSS LOW-VOLUME ROAD TOPICS IN NAIROBI CONFERENCE



Gerard Liautaud, chairman of the TRB Low-Volume Roads session at the Nairobi IRF African Highway Conference.



John Zedalis, U.S. AID, and members of the organizing group for the Sierra Leone Workshop on Low-Volume Roads.

One full day of the Fourth International Road Federation (IRF) African Highway Conference was devoted to papers and discussions on low-volume roads. The conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya, January 20-25, 1980; it attracted more than 1100 delegates from approximately 70 countries in all parts of the world. The delegates included many correspondents who receive the publications produced in the TRB project on Transportation Technology Support for Developing Countries.

On the morning of January 22, the following 12 papers were presented by authors from nine different countries:

The Economic Evaluation of Low-Traffic Roads: The Kenya Experience, S. Asfaw, Ministry of Works, Nairobi, Kenya

Low-Cost Equipment for Low-Traffic Roads: A Case



Study in Malaysia, F. E. Cassidy, J. I. Case Company, Racine, Wisconsin

Surfacing for Low-Volume Roads in Semi-Arid Areas, E. K. Hansen, Kenya, and G. Refsdal and T. Thurmann-Moe, NRRL, Norway

Statistical and Systematic Evaluation of Soil-Mechanical Properties of African Soils, A. Horn, University of the Federal Armed Forces, Munich, and F. Schweitzer, Chief Engineer, Federal Republic of Germany

Study of the Impact of Rural Roads in Upper Volta, K. Ouala, Ministry of Public Works, Ouagadougou, Republic of Upper Volta, and P. Cornwell, Halcrow Fox and Associates, London

The Workings of Labor-Intensive Public Works in Burundi, F. Nahigombeye, Director General, Burundi Road Department

Labor-Intensive Methods in Road Construction, L. Odier, PIARC Low-Cost Roads Committee, Paris

Sixty-thousand Kilometers of Rural Roads Constructed in Mexico, R. Salinas, Mexico City

Low-Cost Road Construction, Stabilization, and Compaction, P. O. Schibli, Bomag Boppard/Rhein, West Germany

Rural Roads in Third-World Countries: Design, Construction, and Maintenance, P. Simmersbach, GITEC Consult GmbH, Republic of Germany

The Design, Construction, and Maintenance of Low-Volume Roads, J. A. Simpson, Ministry of Works, Nairobi, Kenya

Planning the Rehabilitation of Low-Volume Roads by Intensive Mechanization, Z. de Gaster, PRC Engineering, Inc., London

The afternoon session on January 22 was organized by TRB and began with a panel discussion that was chaired by TRB correspondent Gerard Liautaud, chief engineer at the Experimental Research Center, Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Mr. Liautaud complimented TRB for the initiatives that were taken and the progress that has been made in the Technology Support project. He introduced the panelists, all of whom are TRB correspondents, and asked them to emphasize the state of art, major problems, and information needs that exist in their respective discussion areas. Panelists and areas were as follows:

Gerard Liautaud—Chief Engineer, Building and Public Works Laboratory, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, chairman and panelist for Soils

Mohamed Kabbaj—Director of Roads, Ministry of Equipment and National Promotion, Rabat, Morocco, panelist for Road Administration and Planning

Guy E. Otobo—Assistant Director of Federal Highways (Construction), Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Highways Division, Lagos, Nigeria, panelist for Road Construction

Moussa Tambadou—Director of Public Works, Ministry of Equipment, Dakar, Senegal, panelist for Road Design

Francis J. Gichaga—Chairman of the Civil Engineering

Department, University of Nairobi, Kenya, panelist for Road Maintenance

The panelists provided many observations and suggestions that are relevant to the transfer of technology for low-volume roads and thus to the Transportation Technology Support project. In the open discussion, some 10 members of the audience provided further contributions to the subjects that had been presented during the day.

Although a number of the presentations were made in French, the morning papers were made available in both French and English. The afternoon session was recorded in English, including the English interpretation of French presentations. As part of the Technology Support project, TRB staff will prepare and distribute proceedings of the afternoon presentations and discussions, including summaries of the morning papers.

Project Provides Assistance for Sierra Leone Workshop

Plans have been made for an Africa Regional Workshop on Low-Volume Roads that will be conducted in Freetown, Sierra Leone, September 8-12, 1980. The workshop is being organized by the Sierra Leone Ministry of Works and the University of Sierra Leone, with assistance from the Transportation Research Board and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The workshop will follow formats that have been used successfully in recent low-volume road conferences at Ames, Iowa, and Nairobi, Kenya. Publications that have been produced in the TRB Technology Support project will be provided to participants who are not project correspondents. The workshop sessions will cover topics on road administration, planning, design, construction, maintenance, and related activities.

It is expected that approximately 50 highway engineers from English-speaking African countries will participate. The presentations will include those by Lloyd Crowther, TRB project engineer, and John Zedalis, U.S. Agency for International Development, both of whom have also provided assistance in organizing the workshop.