

WELCOME SPEECH

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On behalf of FISITA I would like to congratulate the opening of the International Congress of Heavy Vehicles, Road Trains and Urban Transport. The themes of this congress are an important element of sustainable mobility. It is my hope that this congress will make a large contribution to the development of technology related to the themes. FISITA also expects itself to help achieve our goal of sustainable mobility by making stronger links between societies of automotive engineers around the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly describe an outline of FISITA and its activities. As you probably already know, the word “FISITA” comes from its original French name and in English stands for the International Federation of Automotive Engineering Societies. It was founded in Paris in 1948 as the parent organization to unite automotive engineering societies in various nations around the world. In 2008 we celebrated 60 years of FISITA. Today, FISITA has member societies in 38 countries worldwide, and a membership of more than 175,000 automotive engineers. In addition to its official engineering society members, 51 leading companies from around the world are now Honorary Committee members that give us valuable support.

The role of FISITA is to function as a global forum in which automotive engineers from industry, academia, and governments can exchange information. FISITA also has a role to provide an international network through which the world’s engineering societies can resolve their common issues. In particular, in order to help achieve sustainable mobility, I feel that FISITA should expand its roles to include the following. First, FISITA should indicate the direction of future automotive technology. Second, FISITA should support the establishment of a platform for the development of automotive technology worldwide. Expanding its roles, FISITA has now an annual meeting, FISITA World Automotive Summit. Following the success of our First Summit on CO2 reduction strategies in 2009, we have decided that “How can we make road transportation safer for people everywhere?” should be the theme of our Summit 2010, which will be held in Mainz, Germany on 4-5 November.

FISITA has been supporting the education and training of young automotive engineers and students in various countries through its Travel Bursary Program and FISITA Traveling Fellowships. Our recent activities have also included strengthening cooperation with our member societies, improving the contents of the World Automotive Congress that FISITA holds as its biggest event once every two years. This year’s World Automotive Congress was opened under the banner “Automobiles and Sustainability” on 31 May in Budapest, Hungary and was a great success. More than 400 technical papers were

presented and I was very delighted by the heated discussions that these papers generated. The next Congress will be held in Beijing, China, on 15-19 October 2012. SAE-China, the Society of Automotive Engineers of China, has already started preparations to make this Congress a more attractive event. The first announcement of the 2012 Congress has been made, and I hope that everyone will be able to participate.

We are continuing our efforts to make FISITA more attractive and accessible, and it is my hope that all of you will be able to take part in the activities we have planned for the future.

I would like to conclude my address by citing the words of Maurice Norroy, Founding President of FISITA. About sixty years ago, he said "The history of the automobile, more than anything else, is the history of a revolution." I hope this International Congress of Heavy Vehicles, Road Trains and Urban Transport will also contribute to the history of a revolution in technology.