



insidetrack

the newsletter of the International Federation of Automotive Engineering Societies



STA

teams up with the Barcelona Motor Show



FIAT 500

rebirth of a past FISITA president's brainchild



SAE Int.

shines spotlight on the commercial vehicle sector



Carlos Ghosn guest of honour at SIA annual reception

Welcome to the first edition of FISITA's new quarterly newsletter, for and about our 39 member societies worldwide. Its aim is to aid the exchange of information and ideas, so that each society can benefit from the experience of others.

Thanks to everyone who supplied information for this first issue. Please keep it coming! We want to hear about any interesting developments at your society, whether recent, current or planned. Not just conferences and seminars, but competitions, awards, publications, educational initiatives, links with industry or government, anniversaries, personnel changes – whatever you want to share with your colleagues around the world.

Please send your contributions to:
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Carlos Ghosn, CEO and President of Renault and Nissan, was guest of honour at SIA's annual reception in June. The event, which was held at the prestigious Automobile Club de France in Paris, brought together top executives from numerous car manufacturers and suppliers, including Thierry Peugeot and Roland Vardanega of PSA Peugeot Citroën, Michel Vimont of Renault, Jean-Luc Maté of Siemens VDO Automotive and Thierry Morin from Valeo.



Jean-Pierre Couronne, President, SIA (left) and Carlos Ghosn at the SIA annual reception in Paris.

Mr Ghosn spoke about trends and issues affecting the vehicle manufacturing industry, including globalisation, the relationship between manufacturers and suppliers, and the continuing rise in the cost of raw materials.

He also applauded SIA's contribution to the French automotive engineering community and said that the Society has an important role to play in addressing major concerns such as the environmental impact of the automobile.

EAEC European Automotive Congress – from Budapest to Bratislava



Top: FISITA President Dr. Akihiko Saito meets delegates during a reception at EAEC 2007 in June.

Above: Dr. Saito speaking during the opening of the congress.

Following another successful event in Budapest, Hungary, the EAEC Congress continues its journey along the Danube with the 12th EAEC European Automotive Congress set to take place in June/July 2009 in Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

The Slovak society, SAITS, led by Prof. Jan Lesinsky, will host EAEC 12. It will be the second time this major European gathering has been held in Bratislava – the first being in 2001 when more than 500 delegates took part.

Meanwhile, technical papers and proceedings from EAEC 11, organised by GTE, are available from FISITA's online store:

www.fisita.com/bookstore

Schaeffler Group joins FISITA Honorary Committee



Dr Peter Gutzmer, Schaeffler Group

Germany's Schaeffler Group is the latest company to become a member of the FISITA Honorary Committee. The company is represented by Dr Peter Gutzmer, President Technical Product Development, Schaeffler KG and Executive Vice President, Schaeffler Group Automotive.

With an annual turnover of EUR 8.3 billion and three strong brands – LuK, INA and FAG – the Schaeffler Group is a major supplier to the automotive, industrial and aerospace sectors. The company's automotive products include clutch systems, transmission components and dampers.

News in brief

Australia

SAE Australasia met with an overwhelming response when the society decided to gauge member interest in hybrid engine technology by holding its first Hybrid Seminar.

More than 160 members wanted to attend, with just 100 places available. SAE-A will hold a second seminar later in the year.

Brazil

AEA is working with the nation's National Traffic Council, CONTRAN, to review all GPS equipment in the market and recommend equipment for use throughout the country.

Germany

The 13th 'Electronic Systems for Vehicles' conference and exhibition will take place in Baden-Baden, Germany, from 10–11 October 2007. Organised by VDI with patronage from FISITA, this annual conference is now established as one of the top networking events for automotive electronics anywhere in the world. Among the speakers will be FISITA President Dr. Akihiko Saito.

Indonesia

IATO has completed a Memorandum of Understanding with SAE International to pursue joint activities and programmes. The agreement, signed during the APAC 14 conference in Hollywood, could see the two societies working together on reciprocal member benefits and events.

Korea

KSAE held its first 'Mini Baja' student competition from 6–8 September 2007 at Chuncheon Motor Park, Chuncheon, South Korea.

More than 70 teams took part in the event, which features off-road vehicles designed to withstand severe punishment.

Romania

SIAR will hold its Annual International Congress from 11–13 October 2007. With patronage from FISITA and EAEC, 'Automotive Environment and Farm Machinery – AMMA 2007' will take place at Cluj-Napoca in the heart of Transylvania.

Hooray for Hollywood



SAE International rolled out the red carpet for more than 400 delegates from 22 countries when it hosted the 2007 Asia Pacific Automotive Engineering Conference (APAC 14) in the heart of Hollywood this August.

The congress was a big success with more than 200 technical presentations, a panel discussion on global trade management and compliance, and keynote speeches from industry leaders including 2007 SAE President, Richard O. Schaum.

One of many highlights was an evening reception at the world-famous Petersen Automotive Museum where visitors to the congress had the opportunity to get close to more than 150 rare and classic cars, trucks and motorcycles, plus an exhibit of celebrity vehicles.

The congress closed with the handover of the APAC banner to SAE Vietnam, host society of APAC 15, which will take place in Hanoi from October 22–26, 2009. SAE Int. hosted the first ever Asia Pacific Automotive Conference (then called IPC) in Honolulu in 1981.



Clockwise from above:

SAE staff pose with celebrity lookalikes during the welcome reception;

SAE President Rich Schaum and wife Mary are greeted by 'Joan Rivers' on the red carpet at APAC 14 in Hollywood;

'Joan Rivers' interviews SAE's Ray Morris and wife Ginger.



SAE Int. shines spotlight on commercial vehicle sector

"The media plays a huge role in helping us educate the general public."

Herb Kaufman
Director of Commercial Vehicle Business and Chief Technology Officer, SAE International

SAE International's inaugural 'Commercial Vehicle Excellence in Media Awards' will grant five cash prizes to journalists, broadcasters and photographers covering the industry.

In this unique venture, the society will award a first prize of USD 500 and four runner-up prizes of USD 100 for the best entries in the categories of print articles, broadcasts, books and photographs about the commercial vehicle industry. Nominated work

must have appeared for the first time between 1 August 2006 and 31 July 2007.

Herb Kaufman, SAE International's Director of Commercial Vehicle Business and Chief Technology Officer, said: 'Serving the commercial vehicle industry is a very important aspect of SAE International's global mission. We appreciate the significant role that media professionals play in covering this industry. It's important that the public

understands the vital role that commercial vehicles play in all our lives, and we rely on the media to help us deliver that message. The media plays a huge role in helping us educate the general public.'

The awards will be presented at the 2007 SAE Commercial Vehicle Engineering Congress and Exhibition, to be held from 30 October to 1 November in Rosemont, Illinois.

Go online to submit your paper for FISITA 2008

With preparations for FISITA 2008 well underway, the Call for Papers has been issued to all member societies as well as to hundreds of companies, universities, research institutions and agencies worldwide.

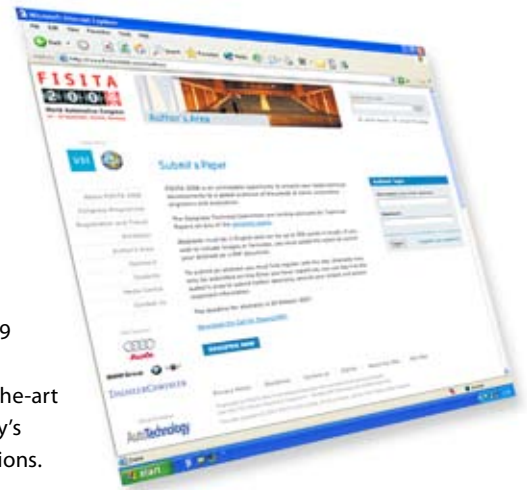
Congress hosts, VDI, are inviting papers on the key themes including:

- Mobility concepts
- Man-machine interaction
- Chassis development for passenger cars, trucks & buses
- Body design for passenger cars, trucks & buses
- Electronics
- Future powertrain solutions
- Resources and ecology

- Vehicle concepts
- Vehicle safety
- Process challenges in changing economies
- Virtual reality
- Simulation & testing

FISITA 2008 will take place from 14–19 September 2008 at the International Congress Centre Munich, a state-of-the-art venue in the heart of one of Germany's leading automotive engineering regions.

Abstracts must be submitted via the congress website. The deadline is 26 October 2007.



Full details can be found at www.fisita2008.com

5 minutes with Maite Garcia



Name: Maite Garcia

Age: 29

Role: Managing Director, STA

Location: Barcelona, Spain

What's your background?

I first became involved with the automotive sector while I was studying Physics at the Barcelona Autonomous University (UAB). During that time, I worked for two years on a grant-funded placement in the Laser and Metallurgy Laboratory of LGAI Technological Centre, Barcelona. LGAI is part of 'Applus+', which provides test, calibration, certification, technical training and R&D services. After graduating with an MSc, I joined an automotive-focused electrical engineering company as Head of R&D. I joined the STA two years ago and was involved in organising our Society activities and assisting our previous Managing Director, Robert López, whom I replaced in June.

What are your plans for the STA?

My ambition is for the STA to be the 'hub' for the entire Spanish automotive sector, in terms of sharing knowledge about the automobile, its technologies, production and social impact. I also want the Society to help protect the interests of automotive enterprises and help improve the capabilities and competitiveness of the Spanish industry, within a global context.

What is the biggest challenge you face?

For me, the challenge is to do justice to the reputation of such an important organisation with a proud, 60-year history. STA was one of the founders of FISITA and our society's past is full of important figures such as Wilfredo Ricart. It's a privilege to help carry on that work, but we're coping with a tough financial situation in the industry right now.

What's the best thing about working in Barcelona?

Professionally speaking, Barcelona is the business capital of Catalonia and one of the most important economic centres of Spain. The automotive industry is well represented, with many OEMs, component suppliers and specialist engineering companies in the area, so we are right at the heart of things. Personally, I love Barcelona for its beautiful old buildings and its wonderful climate.

How do you relax?

I still live in the village where I was born, Sallent, about 70km from Barcelona. Although I love the city, it's great to escape to the peace and quiet of the countryside. There, I enjoy taking the dog for a walk with my husband, Ramon. My parents and brother live very near to us, so it's easy for the family to get together, which I like. One of my favourite holiday destinations is Tossa de Mar, only 100km up the coast from Barcelona. I consider myself very lucky to live in Catalonia.

If you could drive any car in the world, what would it be?

That's easy – a Formula One racing car, at full speed!

Past FISITA President was father of the original 500



FIAT's new 500 is one of the most talked about vehicles launched this year. But did you know that a past FISITA President, Dante Giacosa, was the creator of the original FIAT 500 Nuova half a century ago? Giacosa, widely recognised today as one of the world's greatest automotive engineers, was President of FISITA from 1967-1969.

Often called the Bambino, the original 500 Nuova went into production in 1957. It was destined to become an automotive icon and one of the most popular cars ever to come out of Italy.

Topolino

As FIAT's chief designer at the time, Giacosa had already designed the highly influential Fiat 600, known affectionately as the Topolino (little mouse). The Topolino was a front-engine, rear wheel drive car, but Giacosa was determined to find a way to pack more into a smaller space. He convinced FIAT bosses that the best way to do this was by using a rear engine design.

Giacosa's approach to the 500's engine differed from the 600 model, using a two cylinder air-cooled unit which provided for a much lighter design. With the



Nuova's 497cc unit producing only 13.5 bhp, weight savings were essential to get the tiny car up to its top speed of 85 km/h. By contrast, today's 500 is available with a range of engines including a 1.4 16v which develops 100 bhp.

Born in Rome in 1905, Giacosa studied engineering at the Politecnico di Torino before joining FIAT in 1928. By 1937 he had risen to become Engineering Manager, and was named Director of the Engineering Division of FIAT in 1950. He died in Turin in 1996.

The chief designer of the 2007 car is Frank Stephenson, the man behind that other great retro success story, the BMW Mini.



Top: Dante Giacosa.

Above: The original 500 Nuova.

Left: The 21st Century reincarnation.

The original 500 Nuova was destined to become an automotive icon and one of the most popular cars ever to come out of Italy.



World Cup winners!

Australia's RMIT University has won the 2007 FISITA Formula SAE World Cup. After four days of gruelling competition at the world-famous Silverstone motor racing circuit (England) in July, the student engineers from Melbourne beat 68 other Class 1 teams from universities around the world to claim the winner's trophy and prize money of EUR 1,000.

Second and third places went to Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands and the University of Stuttgart, Germany, with Delft collecting EUR 500.

The FISITA Formula SAE World Cup brings together the winning teams from national Formula SAE competitions around the world, to compete against

each other. Currently there are four eligible national competitions: Formula SAE (USA), Formula Student (UK), Formula SAE Australasia and Formula SAE Japan. This year's World Cup competition was staged in conjunction with Formula Student, organised by the UK's Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE).

FISITA provided a total of EUR 23,000 in travel grants to enable the top teams from the national competitions to attend the Silverstone event. RMIT University was one of the recipients – and the team now also qualifies for FISITA sponsorship of up to EUR 10,000 to compete in the next World Cup, to be held in May 2008 at Michigan International Speedway, USA, as part of Formula SAE.



Top left: The winning RMIT University team.

Top right: The RMIT car on the circuit.

Above: The RMIT car undergoes tilt testing for compliance with fuel spillage and roll-over stability rules.



STA teams up with Barcelona Motor Show to present awards

More than a million people visited this year's Barcelona International Motor Show (Salón Internacional del Automóvil) between 7-17 June – and Spanish FISITA society, STA, teamed up with the show's organisers to present a technological showcase, focusing on economical motoring and environmental protection.



Manufacturers were invited to submit proposals for cars with hybrid, biocombustible, biodiesel, natural gas, hydrogen and electric engines. The best technological innovations were rewarded with the 'Sixth International Motor Show Awards'. This year's competition received the highest number of entries ever, with 101 finalists.

- There were 11 'Honourable Mentions' and three top prizes:
- First prize** Volkswagen AG, for the TSI engine coupled to DSG gears, installed in the Golf GT.
 - Second prize** Grupo Antolín-PGA and Centre Tecnològic Aimen, for a joint project on continuous profiling and dual phase steel welding processes.
 - Third prize** Applus+ IDIADA in collaboration with Hyundai, for an active suspension system for geometric control applied to a 4WS system.



The University of Stuttgart team celebrate their win.

Formula Student Germany goes from strength to strength

VDI staged its second 'Formula Student Germany' competition in August, with 1,200 students from 13 countries meeting at the Hockenheim race circuit in a truly 'F1' atmosphere.

Of the 54 teams taking part, German and Austrian universities reigned supreme. The overall winner was the University of Stuttgart, Germany. Second place went to the Technical University of Graz (TU Graz), Austria; and third place to the University of Applied Sciences (FH Joanneum), also from Graz.

FISITA Chief Executive Ian Dickie presented the FISITA Award for 'Best Newcomer', which went to the University of Karlsruhe, Germany.

Among the prominent personalities present was BMW Motorsport Director Mario Theissen, who said that he was very impressed with the expertise, enthusiasm and professionalism of the teams.

Dr. Nguyen Xuan Chuan



It is with great sadness that we report the death of Dr. Nguyen Xuan Chuan, President of the Vietnam Society of Automotive Engineers, who passed away in a sudden accident on 14 August, 2007.

Our sympathies are with Dr. Chuan's family, friends and colleagues around the world. VSAE has designated Dr. Do Huu Duc, Vice President, to run the society's affairs until the next General Meeting in 2008.

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Contact Update

Maite Garcia is the new Managing Director of the Spanish STA.

Robert López, former STA Managing Director, has joined FICOSA International.

Kristianna Pontikis has been appointed as Events Coordinator at SAE Australasia.

Terry Spall of MIRA is the 2007/8 Chairman of the IMechE Automobile Division.

Partnership with PIARC

FISITA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PIARC, the World Road Association, which will see the two bodies co-operate more closely in the organisation of their respective world congresses and other activities.

Founded in Paris in 1909 as the Association Internationale Permanente des Congrès de la route (PIARC in English), the association links together road professionals in 142 countries.

FISITA Executive Board member, Martin Rowell, explained the thinking behind the new co-operation: 'PIARC and FISITA share a common goal to optimise road transportation through advances in technology for the benefit of society. Today, advances in areas such as tyre technology as well as ITS and wider mobility issues, make it more important than ever for vehicle engineers to work closely with their counterparts in the road community.'

World Road Congress

In this spirit, FISITA will be sending a representative to PIARC's Technical Committee TC-4-2, and there will be FISITA keynote speakers at the forthcoming World Road Congress in Paris. PIARC meanwhile is already helping to identify experts from the road sector to speak on road/vehicle interaction at the FISITA 2008 congress in Munich.

The 23rd World Road Congress takes place at the Palais de Congrès, Paris from 17–21 September 2007.

Register online at: www.paris2007-route.fr



For more information about PIARC visit:
www.piarc.org

"PIARC and FISITA share a common goal to optimise road transportation for the benefit of society."

Martin Rowell
FISITA Executive Board member

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Executive Board, Committees & Council
FISITA World Automotive Congress
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