

FAMI Holds 5th Road Safety Seminar in India

The Federation of Asian Motorcycle Industries (FAMI), with the assistance of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), on January 16 held the 5th FAMI Road Safety Seminar in New Delhi, India. The seminar, convened at the India Habitat Centre, was attended by about 100 persons and was a major success.



Seminar venue: India Habitat Centre



From the left, Mr. Yamamoto, Mr. Agarwal, Mr. Bajaj, Mr. Aidid and Mr. Harjeet.

The seminar commenced with a welcome address by Mr. K.N. Krishnamurthy, President of the Society for Automotive Fitness & Environment (SAFE). This was followed by speeches from Mr. Madhur Bajaj, President of seminar sponsor SIAM; Dato' Syed Mohamad Aidid, President of FAMI and guest of honor; and Mr. Naresh Agarwal, chief guest and Honorable Transport Minister of India's Uttar Pradesh State.

Among the talks, FAMI President Aidid touched upon the traffic accident related death of a member of FAMI who held an important post in the motorcycle industry. Mr. Aidid spoke of the pain and sorrow that the surviving family members have suffered from that tragic event, mounting a poignant appeal for the importance of road safety campaigns and activities.

The seminar then moved to individual sessions, which included a total of five presentations on the theme of motorcycle road safety from representatives of government agencies, industry associations, scholars, and experts in the extended field of road safety.

In Session I, serving as chairman was Mr. S.R. Marathe (Director, ARAI), while the co-chairman was Mr. M.N. Muralikrishna (chairman of the SIAM Two- and Three-Wheeler Sub-Committee). Representing the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) was Mr. Shigeharu Ohama of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, who spoke on the theme of "Future Approaches to Traffic Safety in Japan."



From the left, Mr. Muralikrishna, Mr. Ohama and Mr. Marathe.



Mr. Ohama (JAMA) delivers his presentation.

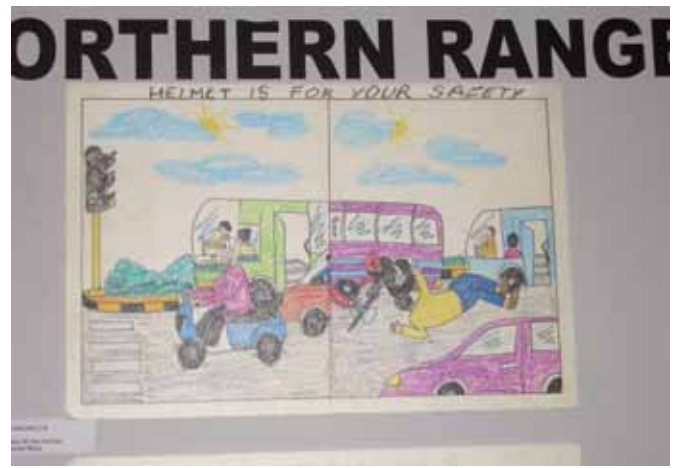
Mr. Ohama's talk covered the following information.

-) Introduction of JAMA road safety activities: Of people, roads and vehicles, some 90 percent of road accidents result from human factors. For this obvious reason, it is vital to educate people on the importance of road traffic safety. Among its efforts to spread effective road traffic education, JAMA member manufacturers have developed an instructor system and hold safe driving contests.
-) Introductions of the importance of accident surveys and methods of accident analysis.
-) Introduction of ITARDA (Institute for Traffic Accident Research and Data Analysis) as an example of independent accident analysis: ITARDA works with Japan's National Policy Agency (which oversees road safety) and the Minister of Land Infrastructure and Transport (road infrastructure and vehicle safety standards) from its position as a representative of the auto industry, which effectively supplies vehicles to road traffic, in contributing on both the personnel and cost fronts in support of safety and accident reduction. The explanations included mention of the injury analysis of motorcycle accidents and the effects of wearing helmets.

In Session II, Mr. Mukund Upadhye, Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic) in Delhi, spoke on the theme of "The Role of Enforcement in Road Safety." Mr. Upadhye described the road accident situation in India, listing as factors necessary to be considered for reducing accidents a high degree of mixed traffic, licensing systems, effective driving skills education, vehicle inspection maintenance, high visibility and protective clothing.

The second Session II speaker was Mr. Andrew Downing, advisor to Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP), who addressed the issue of "Global Road Safety Partnership." Mr. Downing explained that the GRSP mission is to save lives and injuries from road crashes through partnerships (GRSP itself, the government, industry and society in general) adopting a system approach using proven good practice. GRSP activities are focused in developing countries, with the partnership's current programs in Asia covering India (Bangalore), Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Before proceeding to Session III, awards were handed out for the road safety theme “Painting Competition.” SIAM organized this competition to coincide with the seminar, and solicited paintings from elementary and junior high school students. The submissions judged to be truly excellent were displayed in a special area outside of the seminar hall, with Additional Commissioner Upadhye of the New Delhi Police presenting the commendations for the fine works.



Excellent Drawing Displays

In Session III, the final session of the seminar, Ms. Nguyen Lan Huong, Operations Manager of Asia Injury Prevention Foundation, Vietnam, delivered a talk on “Promoting Helmet Use in Vietnam.”



Nguyen Lan Huong
addresses the gathering.

According to Ms. Huong, the first riding helmets used in Vietnam were so-called “full-face” types (large in size, heavy in weight, hot inside and unattractive in appearance). But because these helmets were not suited to the tropical climate of Vietnam, the wearing rate remained

low. Over the years to come, however, the traditional helmet standard was revised, along with a shift to tropical helmets (light in weight and small in size), improved ventilation and more attractive designs and colors (improved appearance) helping to raise the use rate.

The presentation also noted how children's helmets have been supplied in Vietnam at no cost, while incorporation of appeals to wear helmets in school education programs has also helped expand the message of the importance of helmet use at the family, social and legislative levels.

The final presentation in Session III and the seminar overall was "Motorcycle Regulation and Certification System in Vietnam." That was given by Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Toan, an expert from Vietnam Register, Ministry of Transport, who as the theme indicates spoke on the system for motorcycle regulation and certification in that country.

The 6th FAMI Road Safety Seminar will be convened in March in Thailand.