

IMMA Convenes 2007 Spring Congress in New Delhi ~ Pledges to Strengthen Solutions for Road Traffic Safety ~

Gathering Hosted by SIAM

The International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA)¹ held its 2007 Spring Congress on May 8 and 9 in New Delhi, India, with the meetings hosted by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) for the first time since it became a member of IMMA in 2005.

Participating in the Congress were a combined total of 35 delegates selected from members of the United States Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (USMMA) representing the U.S., the European Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (ACEM)² representing Europe, the Federation of Asian Motorcycle Industries (FAMI)³ representing Asia and including the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) of Japan, SIAM representing host country India, the Motorcycle & Moped Industry Council (MMIC) representing Canada, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries representing Australia and the IMMA Secretariat from Switzerland.

Agenda Items

This Spring Congress was also mobilized as an occasion to hold meetings of the Technical Committee (in charge of harmonization, safety and the environment) and the Steering Committee (organizational administration). At the May 9 convening of the General Assembly Meeting, the highest decision-making body within IMMA, President Minoru Harada of IMMA (Vice Chairman of JAMA's motorcycle committee and Senior Managing Director of Honda Motor Co., Ltd.) delivered a keynote address in which he covered the following main topics.

- The motorcycle industry, within the process of establishing standards capable of being accepted around the world, faces the demand to draft standards that are both highly rational and realistic in nature.
- With the addition of FAMI and SIAM as official IMMA members, IMMA has established an industry foundation boasting overwhelming scale.
- IMMA, as the agent of the world motorcycle industry, continues to face the pressing theme of promoting the international harmonization of standards.



[IMMA President M. Harada](#)

This was followed by a report of the fiscal year 2006 statement of accounts, an explanation of the status of the fiscal 2007 budget and an announcement of the budget forecast for fiscal 2008. The Technical Committee then presented its activity report, with the delegates proceeding to engage in discussions that included the following key areas.

¹ A body comprised of JAMA and other national or regional motorcycle associations worldwide.

² ACEM is comprised of 12 motorcycle manufacturers (including Japanese companies) that produce in Europe, 11 motorcycle associations of EU member nations, and three guest members. Access the following website for a profile of IMMA and its activities.
<http://www.acembike.org/>

³ FAMI is comprised of motorcycle associations from seven Asian economies (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Japan). SIAM withdrew from FAMI in April of 2006.

➤ **Technical Committee Reorganization**

Two decades have passed since the inauguration of IMMA, during which time the problems and themes surrounding motorcycles have grown increasingly diversified and expansive in scale. To deal with this shifting industry landscape, the decision has been made to study the possible restructuring of the Technical Committee organization.

➤ **Strengthening Solutions for Road Traffic Safety**

Road traffic safety problems pose an extremely important issue for the motorcycle industry. The number of motorcycle accidents is particularly high in developing countries, with demands emerging for improvements in how these vehicles are used. Even in the European Union, meanwhile, the rate of decrease in fatal motorcycle accidents is lower than that for automobiles, with concerns being expressed over the trend of increase in motorcycles' share of total traffic accident fatalities.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has also pointed out this problem, further prompting the conclusion that studies are required to determine what IMMA can accomplish on this front. Toward that end, the Secretariat will assume the focal role in clarifying the conditions in each county, with a report to be presented at the next meeting of the Steering Committee (scheduled for October 8 at the IMMA Office in Geneva, Switzerland). The details of this report will be used as the basis for evolving expanded discussions and studies.

The next IMMA Spring Congress is scheduled for May 2008 in Toronto, Canada, and will be hosted by MMIC.



Participants in IMMA Spring Congress 2007

~To Our Readers ~

JAMA is currently revising the style and content of this newsletter. To assist us in this effort, we welcome your comments and suggestions, as well as your responses to the following specific questions:

- What do you think of the frequency of member's publication?
- What do you think of the length of the articles?
- How do you make use of the information provided in this newsletter?
- What is your occupation? etc.

Please respond by e-mail to NFJ-Motorcycle@jama.or.jp, and thank you for taking the time to do so. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

