



IRU World Congress 2018

Muscat, Oman, 6-8 November 2018

Call for Contributions

First round: deadline 31 January 2018

1. Introduction

The IRU World Congress 2018, in Muscat, Oman from 6 to 8 November 2018, is a unique meeting place for leading figures in road transport and trade. Senior business people, government ministers and experts will come together with IRU members to network, discuss and debate innovative solutions to our most pressing issues on road transport and trade.

With rapidly evolving road transport markets facing disruption and with challenging times for trade, it is more important than ever for the private and public sector to come together around the heart of the industry, the commercial operators who run road transport services on a daily basis.

IRU, through its network of members, represents these commercial road transport operators, the women and men who are responsible for millions of transports every day across the globe.

IRU is transforming and evolving. With members and partners asking for an open industry platform, centred on commercial road transport services, to help deal with the challenges faced by the sector, IRU is revamping and relaunching its World Congress.

As an IRU member, this is your congress, and we need your help to make the Congress a success, particularly in terms of the programme, highlighting the issues you and your members are dealing with, and showcasing your success stories.

The congress will begin after the General Assembly on 6 November 2018.

Sun 4 Nov	Mon 5 Nov	Tues 6 Nov	Wed 7 Nov	Thur 8 Nov	Fri 9 Nov	Sat 10 Nov
Presidential Executive Taxi Group	Transport Councils - Goods - Passenger	General Assembly	Congress	Congress	Tours	Tours
		Congress				
Group dinners	Members reception	Welcome reception	Gala dinner	Group dinners		

2. Why get involved?

The IRU World Congress is your platform to show our industry and highlight your challenges with governments and regulators, industry suppliers and major industry users.

Benefits from contributing:

- Gain credibility with your members, clients and partners
- Reinforce your international standing with authorities in your region/country and elsewhere
- Gain international experience and visibility
- Be acknowledged as an active contributor in your community and from your peers
- Strengthen your personal professional network
- Special discounts on delegate fees
- Motivate your staff and colleagues

3. How to contribute

We value your experience, contacts, ideas and opinions! You can contribute to the congress programme in **four ways**:

1. Lead a session
 - organise, promote and lead a session with the support of the IRU Congress team
 - sessions include plenary sessions (300+ participants), panel sessions (100+), smaller roundtables open café-style presentations (20+)
2. Provide an abstract or technical contribution to a session
 - provide a technical paper, case study or research as prior input into a session
3. Run a side event or special event
 - organise a separate event in the same venue on the sidelines of the congress
4. Give us any other ideas for relevant topics or interesting speakers or sessions that you have

All contributions in the first round will be evaluated by the Congress Programme Committee, involving IRU and Congress host ASYAD, and validated by the Congress Steering Committee.

4. What to submit and when?

The deadline for this first round (only open to IRU members) is **31st January 2018**.

Submit your input by e-mail to masha.tarle@iru.org and in copy iruworldcongress@iru.org

You should include the following type of information:

- What type of contribution you would like to make
- Which topic or sub-topic your contribution refers to
- Which audience(s) are you targeting with your contribution

- What industry challenges, or solutions, does your contribution address, in particular how your members or the industry in your country have been impacted by, or are impacting, an issue
- How it relates to industry regulators (governments and authorities), industry suppliers and/or major users/clients of our industry?
- Any suggestions on title, length of presentation(s) or types of additional speakers
- Description of any related project, study or activity that would form the basis for your contribution
- Why your contribution is useful and unique for other Congress attendees, other IRU members and other key IRU audiences.
- Your name, association name and contact details.

You can use whichever format you choose, however as a general rule, your contribution should be between approximately half a page and 3 pages.

The language of the Congress will be English (although some sessions will have interpretation). We would therefore prefer your contribution to be in English.

There will be a second round (open to IRU members, partners and others) from January to end March. However if you really want to be involved, you should submit your ideas in this first round!

Commercial opportunities: Note that a range of opportunities for sponsorship packages and exhibition space will be available. Details will be available in early 2018.

5. Programme context

Innovation has always been a driving force in road transport. By pushing the limits of mobility further, innovation has allowed people and goods to move faster, safer and cheaper. Over the past fifty years, global mobility has dramatically changed but the most important shift is yet to come. The 21st century will see road transport becoming increasingly digital, connected and automated: the revolution has already begun.

Road transport is a key contributor to economic and social development. In Europe, 75% of cargo is transported by road, and this number is growing. Worldwide transport infrastructure investment is projected to increase at an average annual rate of about 5% in the coming years.

Road transport services are clearly indispensable in a connected world. However, the industry is at a crossroads and the horizon is unclear. Although trade has boosted the industry, all regions do not seem to share the same converging interests.

While stricter regulatory standard proposals to achieve environmental and social objectives are on the table, the industry worries about the business and operational impact of transitioning to decarbonised and new energy scenarios, and the impact of policy that favours one transport mode over another.

Finally, innovation, as a major driver of growth, requires substantial investments, and laws must be revised to allow operators to benefit from digitalisation, automation and other new technologies that will greatly impact their businesses.

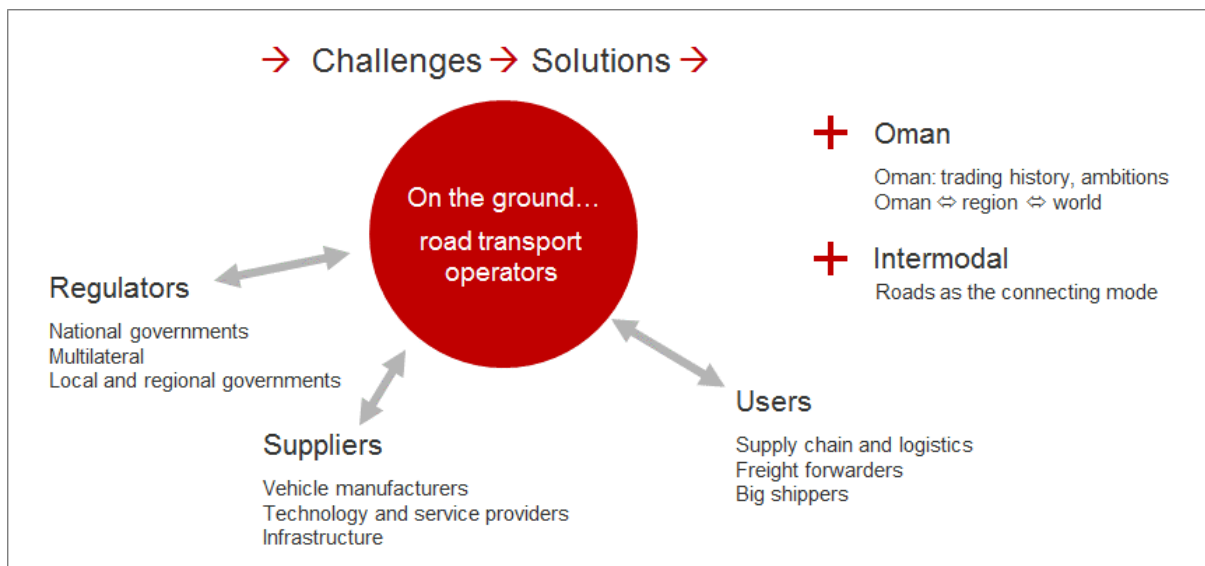
IRU, the world road transport organisation, together with the Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Transport & Communications, believe the time has come for global leaders in road transport to come together to address major challenges.

IRU's World Congress 2018, from 6-8 November in Oman, will be a unique platform for global decision-makers to exchange ideas, debate solutions and take the industry into the future.

Which global solutions are needed to address regional challenges? How can transport businesses help regulators react faster to changing market structures? How can regions and countries better work together? What can we learn from new business models? How can the industry embrace digitalisation? And will full digitalisation, and automation, mean the end of mode discrimination? How can we move goods faster, safer and cheaper? What is the future of our industry?

With 70 years of experience in working directly with global transport and trade decision-makers from governments and the UN, and a network of over 200 national road transport associations and member organisations, IRU aims to keep the road transport industry ahead of global trends. Through interactive and vibrant sessions, networking opportunities, intimate roundtables and start-up competitions, participants will have the opportunity to map out the future of our industry.

As one of the world's up-and-coming logistics hubs for trade and transport, and at the heart of the dynamic Arabian Gulf region, Oman offers a timely stage for the Congress, and an ideal setting to experience first-hand how global trade and transport is shaping the region and the wider world.



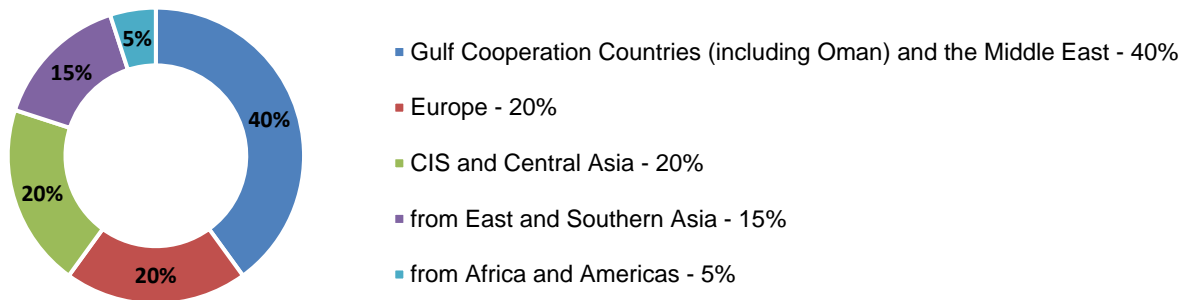
6. Topics

The following are the broad topics being looked at for the congress programme.

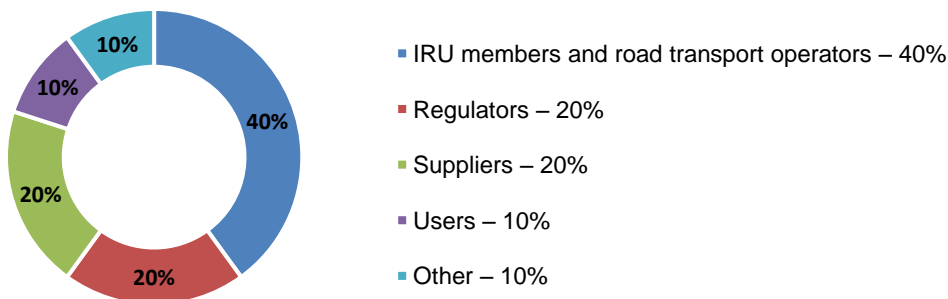
- Topic 1 : Trade
 - Subtopics:
 - One belt, one road initiative
 - New trade corridors (regional and intercontinental)
 - Intermodal transport
 - Integrated supply chain management
 - Harmonisation of standards
 - Industry and trade facilitation
 - Trade conventions
 - Logistics exchange platforms
 - Trade facilitation and TIR convention
- Topic 2: Business
 - Subtopics:
 - Barriers and opportunities for business
 - Road safety and infrastructure needs
 - Professionalisation of drivers, driver shortages
 - Training standards and certification
 - Investment opportunities
 - Public private partnerships
 - New business models
 - Share-economy trends and impacts
 - Regulatory challenges
 - Other
- Topic 3: Innovation
 - Subtopics:
 - Challenges of innovation
 - Big/cloud data, privacy and ownership
 - Connectivity and automation
 - Fuel technology and alternative fuels
 - Vehicle emissions, decarbonisation
 - Business opportunities of innovation
 - Mobility as a Service (Maas)
 - Other
- Topic 4: Free track.
 - Please feel free to submit any other topic of interest

7. Audiences and participant profiles

Target geographical breakdown:



Target sector breakdown:



Sector profiles:

Transport operators

- CEO or senior (from VP level up) in large road freight and passenger transport operators running international services, typically in the top 20 in their country, and/or with a fleet of at least 50 trucks or buses (owned or subcontracted).

Governments and regulators

- Minister, deputy minister, DG, deputy DG level in national government departments and authorities, including: transport, trade, customs, commerce, environment, tourism and communications; same from regional and city governments, UN and multilateral organisations.

Road transport suppliers

- Senior (VP or Director and upwards) in companies supplying road transport operators, including truck, van, car and bus manufacturers, vehicle equipment makers, service and software suppliers, technology, logistics, energy and fuel, insurance and banking providers; also suppliers to governments for infrastructure (tolling, traffic management etc.) and large consulting firms.

Road transport users

- Senior (VP or Director and upwards) in companies that are large users of goods transport services, especially those using just-in-time models that use several modes including road (e.g. consumer goods, retail, industrial, vehicles, manufacturing, commodities etc.), that run their own large shipping networks with subcontracted

services to operators, and dedicated freight forwarders or multimodal shipping companies (who in some cases also subcontract to road freight operators).

8. Questions?

If you have any questions, or need for information, please contact:

Masha Tarle
Congress Programme Coordinator
tel +32 2-743.25.81
masha.tarle@iru.org

Christine Poletti
Congress Manager
tel: +41 22 918 2981
christine.poletti@iru.org

John Kidd
Head of Communications & Events
tel +41 22 918 2707
john.kidd@iru.org

And watch out for Congress updates in the IRU newsletters, and on the Congress website.

www.iruworldcongress.com