A SUSTAINABLE NETWORK OF TRAFFIC SAFETY RESEARCHERS

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ICTCT stands for "International Cooperation of Theories and Concepts in Traffic safety". ICTCT was founded in 1979 because there was a need for cooperation in the area of behavioural studies, particularly conflict studies. Different techniques were developed during the seventies and comparisons and calibrations of these techniques were identified as important steps in the further development. Later on the scope of ICTCT was broadened and today focus is on theories and concepts in general in the traffic safety area.

One of the initiators was Christer Hydén, now professor at the Department of Traffic Planning and Engineering at Lund Institute of Technology in Sweden. He has been the chairman of ICTCT since the start in 1979.

Those persons that originally founded ICTCT are still members and in addition quite a few distinguished researchers have joined. Today no less than 17 countries are represented, covering Canada in the west to Japan in the east. It also includes researchers from a number of east European countries.

ICTCT carries through at least one workshop every year focusing on an interesting problem in the traffic safety area. Quite often special topics on theories, modelling or evaluation techniques are on the agenda. Every third year a large conference is organised, then around a broader theme. This conference in Salzburg is one of these. Eighteen countries participated, which guaranteed a wide variety of experiences and knowledge gathered.

The research front was pushed forward, ideas and experiences were questioned and discussed. The network was really alive!

One of the objectives of KFB - the Swedish Transport and Communications Research Board - is to be informed of where to find distinguished researchers and research teams around the world. In view of this, availability of a network like ICTCT is of greatest importance. KFB therefore joins the group of public organisations, research institutes, individual researchers, etcetera, that already are members of ICTCT.

Thanks to this we can keep us informed in the important area of road user behaviour. At the same time we can meet in a forum where the conditions of research can be discussed, and valuable views and facts can be obtained from those countries represented. That this is not only so in theory is reflected by the fact that the Austrian Road Safety Board was prepared to organize this excellent congress in Salzburg together with ICTCT.