

HORIZONS OF RAILWAY TRANSPORT 2013 – “FAIR COMPETITION AS THE KEY TO A SINGLE EUROPEAN RAILWAY AREA”

The 5th International Scientific Conference Horizons of Railway Transport 2013 entitled: “Fair competition as the key to a single European Railway Area” was held in Strečno, Slovak Republic, on 26 and 27 September 2013. The Conference was held at the Central Training and Psychology Institute of Railways of Slovak Republic (ŽSR). It was organized by the University of Žilina, in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, Railways of Slovak Republic (ŽSR), Železničná spoločnosť Slovensko, a.s. (ZSSK), Železničná spoločnosť Cargo Slovakia, a.s. (ZSSK CARGO) and Slovak Scientific and Technical Society - Transport (SVTS – D), under the auspices of the Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional development of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Ján Počiatek, B.Eng.

The Conference gathered eminent scientists and practitioners from the sector of railway traffic. The scientists came from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Russia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia and Croatia.

In the welcoming part the Conference attendees were addressed by Prof. Tatiana Čorejová, Ph.D., Rector of the University of Žilina, and at the beginning of her speech she emphasised the 60th anniversary of the University of Žilina and then spoke about the importance of scientific conferences in the area of research in railway traffic, and especially the conferences which gather not only the scientists but also experts from practice. The audience was then addressed by Prof. Jozef Majerčák, Ph.D., the Head of the Department for Railway Traffic University of Žilina. Prof. Majerčák

talked about the events in the area of research in railway traffic in the Slovak Republic and in the context of the European Union with special emphasis on the future program period 2014 - 2020. The audience was then addressed by Mr. Ivan Caban, B.Eng., CEO of the Slovak Passenger Railways who emphasised the importance of training and education of railway experts followed by good cooperation between science and profession. The head of the Agency for Railway Traffic Regulation, Mr. Ján Bendžala, B.Eng. emphasised that liberalized market needs to have efficient and effective regulation, particularly from the aspect of un-discriminating service provision in railway transport. Then followed the presentation about the Department of Railway Transport of the University of Žilina given by the Assist. Professor Jozef Gašparik, Ph.D.

The introductory presentations were followed by the lectures on the novelties in the area of railway traffic in the Slovak Republic. The presentations were given by Mr. Jan Schmidt, B.Eng., CEO of the Slovak Passenger Railways, then Mr. Ivan Galik, B.Eng., CEO of the Wagon Service Travel – Special Train, and after that by Mr. Milan Gajdoš, B.Eng., from the Agency for Regulation of Railway Traffic, and then Mr. Petar Špalek, B.Eng. from the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional development of the Slovak Republic.

Then followed the invited presentations, the first lecturer being Mr. Banfi Miklos Gaboš, B.Eng., from the Department of Transport Technology and Economics at Budapest University of Technology and Economics speaking on the topic: Computer Based Rail Traffic Simulation, presenting the methodology of developing one’s own simulation software for train movement. The next invited lecturer was Assist. Prof. Borna Abramović, Ph.D. from the Faculty of Traffic and Transport Sciences University of Zagreb on the topic: Railways as a core



Asst. Prof. Jozef Gašparik, Ph.D. addressing the Conference participants

of an integrated passenger public transport system explaining the methods of changing the traffic planning by taking into consideration integrated passenger transport and the actual role of railways in this transport process.

This was followed by the sessions on the following topics: simulations in railway traffic, logistics in railway

traffic, railway infrastructure planning and railway system management.

After the presentations, a visit to the logistic centre KIA Slovakia and Hyundai Slovakia was organized.

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