



UITP World Congresses and Exhibitions: History and developments

The International Association of Public Transport will hold its 59th World Congress and Exhibition in Dubai, 10-14 April 2011. What is the background to this event that today has become a 'must-attend' for the global public transport community?

A long story of World Congresses and Exhibitions

UITP has been organising a biennial World Congress since 1886 (except for the periods during the World Wars). In parallel with its Congresses, UITP also holds a Mobility and City Transport Exhibition, the world's largest urban and regional transport exhibition.

Major milestones along the road of UITP's advance

UITP held its very first Congress in Berlin one year after the founding of the organisation in 1885. Berlin led the way to 57 other Congresses up to today, bringing together all public transport actors and mobility experts every two years.



The Brussels Congress in 1922 (left) and the Rome Congress in 2005 (right)



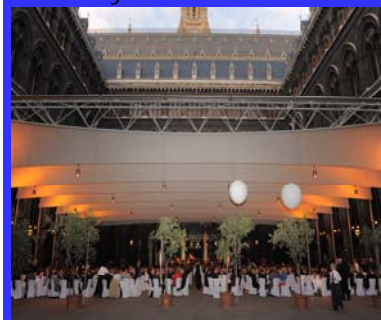
From the very beginning, the organisation and success of UITP Congresses relied fully on the active contributions from all members.

The birth and growth of the exhibition

UITP first started to organise exhibitions in the 1960s, and, starting with the 1971 Congress in Rome, has always held an exhibition in conjunction with the Congress. Since the 1970s the exhibition has rapidly developed to become the leading global business place for urban and regional passenger transport, with participation from all major rail integrators and bus manufacturers, leading component and technology firms, the service industry and other public transport players.



The social programme of the Congress is a tradition that dates back to the earliest years.



The Congress programme through the years

THE HIGH cost of horses' maintenance was one of the first questions discussed at UITP's Congress in 1886. The themes of the Congresses have obviously evolved with the developments of the public transport sector, but they have always tackled the 'hot' issues of the time – technical, commercial or operational – from an international perspective.

At the beginning of the 20th century, today's current issues were already on the agenda, such as town planning in relation to tramway lines and a proposal for uniformity in the compilation of statistics, as discussed in Brussels in 1910.

The 1920s brought reports on the one-man operation of tram-cars, motor bus services, and the link between transport and city planning.

The topic of private transport – motor cars – was introduced for the first time at the Warsaw Congress in 1930.



From the post-war period the themes of the Congresses ranged from electric power transmission and fundamental subjects like economics and rolling stock design to traffic congestion – a hot issue already in 1955. Issues on the programme in the 1970s included marketing, environment, the energy crisis in 1975 and public authorities' participation in transport costs. The transport situation in Latin America, India, Africa and Hong Kong was at the heart of the debates at the Congress held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1983.

In the last decade, debates have expanded from the quality of service for passengers to making public transport attractive by using future technologies and the major role of the sector for an urban and congestion-free 21st century.

The focal theme of the coming World Congress in Dubai next year will be *'Boosting public transport: Action!'*

Efficient and sustainable transport helps stabilize the global energy market, contributes to alleviating climate change, supports economic growth and quality of life in cities by relieving congestion and offering mobility to all. Public Transport means progress for societies.

To allow public transport to deliver its contribution to society in the most effective way, five strategic axes must be put in place: urban governance, business culture, investment, customers as core value and demand management.

The Dubai Congress will review the priorities identified in UITP's ambitious strategy for the sector and will be the first important milestone for UITP to assess what has been achieved and what is still needed to achieve its vision: doubling the public transport market share worldwide by 2025.

Why attending and who attends the UITP World Congresses and Exhibition?

An opportunity to benchmark

Congress sessions present the latest developments in the field of public transport as far as institutional organisation, technology, industrial innovations, financial schemes and integrated mobility are concerned.

A number of best practises are presented to illustrate those topics. Our Congress therefore gives the opportunity to all transport managers and others working in the field of urban mobility to benchmark their activities against what is going on in the rest of the world.



Who are the Congress delegates?



Delegates at UITP's Congress come from all types of organisations: operating companies, authorities, industry, consultancies, universities and research institutes, public transport associations, and other organisations with an interest in our sector. The event held in Vienna from 7 to 11 June 2009 attracted over 2,200 delegates from 80 countries with large delegations from outside Europe.



Who are the exhibitors?

The participation of all major rail integrators and bus manufactures, leading component and technology firms, the service industry and other public transport players make this the leading global business place for urban and regional passenger transport. Alstom, Bombardier, Evobus, Irisbus, Siemens, Scania, Thales, Voith and Volvo are just a few of the well-known names in the industry that take part. The Mobility & City Transport Exhibition in Vienna counted 315 exhibitors from 40 countries on a net surface area of 26,000 m².



Expo forums (right) take place on the exhibition site and provide exhibitors with an additional platform to engage and share product developments: an innovative channel of dialogue.



Who are the Exhibition visitors?

Entrance to the Exhibition is free-of-charge for registered Congress delegates and other trade visitors. Professional visitors to the Exhibition include manufacturers, operators, the service industry, agents, authorities, public administrations, and a range of other players with an interest in mobility. The Vienna edition attracted 6,400 visitors with large delegations from outside Europe, especially from the Asia-Pacific and the Middle-East and North Africa regions.

Valuable encounters

As it brings together all mobility actors involved in urban and regional transport, our Congress and Exhibition provide an excellent venue for networking. Importantly, the Congress and Exhibition stimulate valuable encounters between purchasers and suppliers.

Discover the latest innovations

The Exhibition provides a unique opportunity to discover the latest innovations, advanced solutions and recent market developments, with many exhibitors unveiling their latest products on this occasion.



Mobility and City Transport Exhibition is a most chosen venue for World Premieres in public transport sector.



The UITP Congress and Exhibitions: an international forum

A selection of UITP World Congress logos over the years



Milan
1889



London
1902



Munich
1908



Oslo
1912



Brussels
1922



Barcelona
1926



Warsaw
1930



Berlin
1934



Paris
1959



Copenhagen
1961



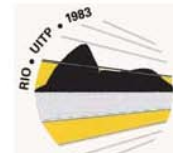
Tel Aviv
1965



Rome
1971



Dublin
1981



Rio de Janeiro
1983



Brussels
1985



Sydney
1993



Paris
1995



Stuttgart
1997



Toronto
1999



London
2001



Madrid
2003



Rome
2005



Helsinki
2007



Vienna
2009



Dubai
2011



Full list of Congresses/Exhibitions

1st. 1886 BERLIN	30th. 1953 MADRID
2nd. 1887 VIENNA	31st. 1955 NAPLES
3rd. 1888 BRUSSELS	32nd. 1957 HAMBURG/BERLIN
4th. 1889 MILAN	33rd. 1959 PARIS
5th. 1890 AMSTERDAM	34th. 1960 COPENHAGEN
6th. 1892 HAMBURG	35th. 1963 VIENNA
7th. 1893 BUDAPEST	36th. 1965 TEL AVIV
8th. 1894 KÖLN	37th. 1967 BARCELONA
9th. 1896 STOCKHOLM	38th. 1969 LONDON
10th. 1898 GENEVA	39th. 1971 ROME
11th. 1900 PARIS	40th. 1973 THE HAGUE
12th. 1902 LONDON	41st. 1975 NICE
13th. 1904 VIENNA	42nd. 1977 MONTREAL
14th. 1906 MILAN	43rd. 1979 HELSINKI
15th. 1908 MUNICH	44th. 1981 DUBLIN
16th. 1910 BRUSSELS	45th. 1983 RIO DE JANEIRO
17th. 1912 OSLO	46th. 1985 BRUSSELS
18th. 1922 BRUSSELS	47th. 1987 LAUSANNE
19th. 1924 PARIS	48th. 1989 BUDAPEST
20th. 1926 BARCELONA	49th. 1991 STOCKHOLM
21st. 1928 ROME	50th. 1993 SYDNEY
22nd. 1930 WARSAW	51st. 1995 PARIS
23rd. 1932 THE HAGUE	52nd. 1997 STUTTGART
24th. 1934 BERLIN	53rd. 1999 TORONTO
25th. 1937 VIENNA	54th. 2001 LONDON
26th. 1939 ZÜRICH/BERNE	55th. 2003 MADRID
27th. 1947 MONTREUX	56th. 2005 ROME
28th. 1949 STOCKHOLM	57th. 2007 HELSINKI
29th. 1951 EDINBURGH	58th. 2009 VIENNA

For more information about UITP's 59th World Congress and Exhibition, visit www.uitp.org/dubai2011.

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