

National Traffic Safety Symposium 'Yes to Limiting Traffic Accidents' Muscat, May 15-19, 2010

This 5-day event organized by the Royal Oman Police brought together local and international road safety experts. It concluded with the adoption of 20 recommendations to improve road safety in Oman immediately approved by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. These are as follows:-

1. The National Committee for Road Safety (NCRS) shall draw up a national traffic safety strategy from 2011-2020, in coordination with all concerned parties to minimise traffic accidents in line with current legislation and international standards.
2. The NCRS shall establish a national centre for road traffic statistics and information providing comprehensive data for relevant parties and road safety researchers.
3. To mark the occasion of His Majesty's address on road safety, October 18 shall be designated Annual Traffic Safety Day and a cup and valuable prizes will be awarded to any governorate, region, wilayat, institution or individual initiative which serves to enhance traffic safety.
4. Modern and effective use of media and technology shall be used to develop and enhance traffic safety awareness in all sectors of the society.
5. Traffic education shall be embedded in the curricula of public and private education, colleges and universities in order to nurture a generation that is aware, compliant with traffic rules and contributes effectively to promoting traffic awareness.
6. Ambulance services, first aid at the scene, injury treatment in emergency departments, medical and psychological rehabilitation shall be expanded to reduce the social impacts of road traffic crashes.
7. The relevant authorities shall study and evaluate existing traffic laws and regulations and review the deterrent force of penalties (court rulings and violations) applicable to those whose actions endanger other road users.
8. Fast-track traffic courts dealing with traffic offences shall be set up to penalize offenders and those who cause accidents.
9. Policing and enforcement of traffic rules shall be stepped up in a manner consistent with the expansion of the road network and heavy traffic to ensure safe traffic circulation and to detain reckless drivers who are likely to cause traffic accidents.
10. Effective policies and engineering solutions to international standards and specifications shall be implemented at black spots where frequent accidents occur.
11. The concerned authorities shall review and evaluate speed limits on main roads, in the regions and in residential and commercial areas in order to reduce road accidents.
12. Roads shall be made more safe for pedestrians by providing more facilities according to the category of road to guarantee safe crossing of pedestrians in order to reduce running-over accidents.
13. The authorities in charge of road evaluation and execution shall continue to construct

roads according to the approved Road Design Manual in a manner that accommodates human error.

14. The authorities concerned with urban planning shall continue to preserve road boundaries and traffic flow requirements while keeping land planning at a distance from the roads as far as possible.

15. Driving education shall be improved using a unified professional driver instruction system throughout the country to raise the standard of training and qualification of those coming out of driving schools.

16. The profession of driving instructor shall be a full-time one regulated by rules, conditions and restrictions and registered with the Ministry of Manpower, Public Authority of Social Insurance and shall be approved after passing a special course at the Traffic Safety Institute.

17. The role of the Road Safety Institute shall be enhanced with branches established throughout governorates and regions to play an effective role in the training of drivers and other road users.

18. The role of civil society associations, community initiatives and other collective and individual initiatives involving the community shall be strengthened to emphasise the important role and responsibility of this sector in spreading traffic awareness.

19. The role of private sector institutions such as the insurance, oil, transport, communications and car dealers etc. shall strive to contribute positively to the training of road users and to support and generate traffic awareness programmes.

20. Scientific, academic and research institutions shall carry out more study and research on traffic safety and encourage and provide appropriate support for those interested or studying traffic issues.