

IRF Man of the Year 2003

IRF Man of the Year 2003 is Gunter Zietlow, project leader at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH.



IRF Chairman Dana Low presented the award during the Chairman's Banquet at the IRF Annual Meeting in Alexandria (Virginia, USA), on 6 August 2003.

Gunter Zietlow is honored IRF Man of the Year 2003 in merited recognition for his pioneering activities and achievements in the realm of performance-based road management and maintenance contracts and road maintenance funds in Latin America.

The IRF/GTZ joint program

The IRF/GTZ program of Financial and Institutional Reform of Road Maintenance in Latin America and the Caribbean is a joint effort between IRF and the German Development Cooperation (GTZ). The program was created in 1994 and is financed by the German government (up to November 2003). It was implemented in close working partnership with the

UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, The World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The IRF/GTZ program has achieved far more than originally anticipated. It has promoted and assisted in the creation of Road Maintenance Funds in Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua and has helped to implement performance-based road management and maintenance contracts in Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Peru, and Uruguay.

To date, over 60,000 kilometers of roads are being maintained under performance-based contracts in Latin America. These contracts, developed in Latin America, have even inspired industrial countries such as Australia, New Zealand and United States of America to embark on programs based on this new, cost saving concept for road maintenance.

Says IRF/GTZ project leader Gunter Zietlow: “This is not to say that creating road funds and implementing performance-based road management and maintenance contracts has always been an easy task. It took a lot of persuasion to convince parliaments to pass new laws to allow fuel taxes to be dedicated to road maintenance, especially if it meant increasing them. Nevertheless, patience and persistence have helped initiate what are probably the most important reforms in the road sector in Latin America over the last ten years.”

Source: World Highways, September 2003