



THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學



DEPARTMENT OF
CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
土木及環境工程學系

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Hong Kong Society for Transportation Studies



Regulating Drink Driving To Protect All Road Users

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Board Member, European Transport Safety Council

Abstract

Excerpts from the presenter's European Transport Safety Lecture in Brussels in October 2016 will be presented as starting points for discussion. The Lecture was intended to provide an overview of how the challenge of drink driving is being addressed in the European context, in which availability and use of alcohol is widespread and socially accepted, but a majority of people regards driving after drinking as socially unacceptable. In Europe, the proportion of driving at high alcohol levels is small, but about 25% of road deaths are estimated to be alcohol-related.

Evidence of how drink driving contributes to risk on the road is discussed in terms of the effect of alcohol on a driver's risk of collision and how much driving takes place at different alcohol levels. Quantifying the challenge requires definition of which road deaths are drink-related and this can make comparison between areas difficult. But some European countries can be compared in terms of progress in reducing drink driving. Regulation by setting a limit on alcohol in the blood above which it is illegal to drive implies deciding what the limit should be and enabling people to understand what the limit means for them. Enforcement of the limit should both deter people from breaking it and detect those who do so. Those detected breaking the limit and convicted of doing so are still around afterwards, so we need to think how best to deal with them by punishment and rehabilitation. Technology in the form of the alcohol interlock device can help but how it can help needs to be understood. Progress in addressing the challenge can be summarised in terms of how far we have come and where to go from here.

It emerged clearly in discussion after the lecture in Brussels that in trying to regulate drink driving in Europe we are impinging on an important element of many people's day-to-day social lives – so we have to gain people's acceptance of measures we take.

Date: 7 December 2017 (Thursday)

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Venue: Room Y302, 3/F, Block Y,
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University,
Hungghom, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Speaker's Biography

Prof. Richard Allsop is Emeritus Professor of Transport Studies at UCL, having been Professor since 1976 and Director between then and 1997 of what is now the Centre for Transport Studies. After graduating with a first in Mathematics from Cambridge, he joined the Road Research Laboratory. He became a Research Fellow at UCL in 1967 and Lecturer in 1970. Supervised by Prof. Reuben Smeed, he completed an influential PhD on mathematical optimisation in traffic signal control. From 1973 to 1976, he was the first Director of the Transport Operations Research Group at Newcastle University, where he is Visiting Professor. He has contributed widely to transport research, training and advisory work. From 1981 to 1996, he was Convenor of the International Advisory Committee of the ISTTT. Since the early 1980s, he is active in what is now the CIHT. Since the early 1990s, he has been in active contact with colleagues in Hong Kong. Since becoming Emeritus in 2005, he remains active in road safety research and policy, being a Director of the UK Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety until 2015 and a special advisor since then. He is on the board of the European Transport Safety Council and advises its Europe-wide road safety benchmarking programme PIN, which he led for its first nine years from 2006. For a decade until 2015, he contributed to developing the Transport Planning Professional qualification. He holds the DSc degree, was honoured by the queen in 1997 for services to traffic management and road safety, and is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and an Honorary Professor in Krakow and in Moscow. He holds the Highways and Transportation Award, a Prince Michael Road Safety Award, and a Lifetime Award from the TRL Academy.

***** All Interested Are Welcome *****

For further information, please contact Prof. William H.K. Lam at Tel. 2766-6045.

Free Admission. Please reserve your seat with Ms. Connie F.Y. Lam by email: fyc.lam@polyu.edu.hk.

Certificates of attendance will be provided to participants who attend the whole seminar.