

Road Safety Course for Abu Dhabi, 9 – 13 November 2014

Some background

“Road crashes are the second leading cause of death in Abu Dhabi (behind cardio-vascular disease) and are the number one crash cause for young drivers. It is also known that road crashes are complex multiple factor events that typically result from deficiencies in human behaviour, road design or vehicle defects singularly or in combination.” These two sentences can be found on the website of the Department of Transport of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and clearly indicate the relevance of road safety for the country. In the Global Status report (2013) of the World Health Organization, the Ministry of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates reports about the mortality rates in the country. These rates came down from about 20 in the beginning of this century to 10 in 2010. The best performing countries in the world reach mortality rate levels of below 3.

To improve road safety is not an easy task by any means. Countries can learn from each other’s experiences. However, as the nature of road safety problems differs between countries as do the possibilities for improvements, the strategies and action plans should be tailor-made for each country in the world. In other words: every country needs to analyse its own road safety problems and its own potential for solutions. International communication and cooperation is nothing more and nothing less than the exchange of ‘evidences’ assuming that a recipient country has sufficient capacity to transfer that information to local conditions. Only well-trained staff is able to carry out this transfer. The aims of the Road Safety Course for Abu Dhabi is to train local professionals in such a way that they will be able to carry out this transfer.

Setup of the Abu Dhabi Road Safety Course

The proposal finds its origin in the Delft Road Safety Course for Low and Middle Income Countries organised successfully. The Delft course is an intensive two-week course that requires active participation from all participants. The course is intended for participants with a (professional) position in road safety who can work at a postgraduate level. The Delft Course includes a train-the-trainer philosophy.

In 2014, we started to organize courses in LMICs based on the Delft Course and the train-the-trainer philosophy. These courses are tailor-made. One of the first countries interested in this approach was Abu Dhabi. The first six months of 2014 were used to develop a draft course for Abu Dhabi. For this, the course leader, Prof Fred Wegman, kept in close touch with Dr Arif Mehmood of the Department of Transport about the course programme. The result is the Delft course in a condensed setting a few other priorities and including local experts. But the philosophy is identical to that of the Delft course.

The course has been attended by 23 participants coming from 6 different governmental organizations in Abu Dhabi.

Testimonial

“Indeed, candidates are very happy from the course, our management appreciated this course, everything went very well.” Dr. Arif Mehmood, Department of Transport.