
Preface

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WHO congratulates the Editor-in-Chief, Jesse Ruan, the Regional Editors, Editorial Board and Inderscience for publishing this inaugural edition of *The International Journal of Vehicle Safety*.

In 2004, the problem of road-traffic collisions and their ensuing deaths, injuries and disabilities were placed higher on the international agenda as a result of World Health Day, the release of the WHO/World Bank *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention* (Peden et al., 2004) and the passing of the UN General Assembly resolution (Res A/58/289) and the World Health Assembly resolution (WHA 57/10) on road safety.

All these events highlighted the magnitude of the problem as well as the need for a multisectoral approach to addressing the issue. The *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention* in particular called for a 'systems approach' to road safety which looks at the system as a whole and also at the interaction between the road, the vehicle and the road user in order to identify where there is potential for intervention. In particular, the 'systems approach' recognises that human beings make mistakes and as such a safe road-traffic system is one that accommodates their weaknesses.

Significant progress has been made over the decades in terms of vehicle safety. Since the late 1960s, the development and mandatory use of seat belts has been one of global road safety's greatest success stories and has saved many occupants' lives. Many other such success stories exist. The challenge now is to ensure that all motor vehicles meet the safety standards set for high-income countries regardless of where they are made, sold or used. In addition, more vehicles need to be manufactured with safer vehicle fronts, so as to reduce injury to vulnerable road users. This can be achieved by ongoing research and development. *The International Journal of Vehicle Safety* will make a valuable contribution to this debate. This first edition of the journal, which focuses on the problems and possible solutions for pedestrian collisions, particularly those in low- and middle-income countries, is thus very timely.

WHO wishes *The International Journal of Vehicle Safety* great success in its mission to enhance and disseminate evidence on vehicle safety and thus minimise road-traffic collisions and injuries through innovative technology.

Reference

Peden, M., Scurfield, R., Sleet, D. et al. (Eds) (2004) *The World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*, Geneva: World Health Organization.