

To the APRAA Executive Committee

Automotive Recyclers 2007 International Round Table (IRT) Meeting Report

Introduction

- The IRT Meeting was held 16-18 June 2007, in Tokyo Japan, at the Miraikan Centre, Odaiba (an ultra modern bay area of reclaimed land, south east of the main city area (see the attached Meeting Program Summary)
- APRAA supported the Meeting as agreed by the Committee, and as approved the Executive Officer attended the Meeting, leading the APRAA representation along with other APRAA Committeemen Kevin McAuliffe (Chairman), Peter Barrows (Vice Chairman) and Michael Beasley (WA state delegate).
- The three day event involved a two-day meeting of presentations, panels, forums, a trade show plus a one-day bus tour to various recycler businesses. Two official dinners were hosted by JARA. JARA paid for the meeting costs, the dinners and the bus tour for the internationals.
- The APRAA tour group involved 27 people, including two from NZ (see the list attached). The APRAA National Secretariat devoted many hours to producing marketing and program material in addition to the JARA issued material, to co-ordinate and support the group with ongoing communications and assistance as required. Attendees made their own travel and accommodation arrangements.
- The major country associations represented included JARA (Japan) the host, ARA (USA), ARC (Canada), EGARA (Europe), APRAA (Australia), MAARA (Malaysia), and APIA (New Zealand).
- The purpose was stated by JARA as: to discuss issues of mutual concern; to promote business relationships; to improve the public image and social status
- JARA have advised that nearly 600 people (including recyclers, media, manufacturers and others) visited the event over the three days. Based on my observations, I think there were around 100 plus core internationals who attended from various parts of the world.
- IRT Meeting papers and selected photos have been put on the APRAA website (under events). A full set of photos and papers on CD is available on request. More material & photos have been promised by JARA.

Highlights and Benefits

The highlights and benefits of the IRT spread across several levels including Association dialogue, raising industry issues/discussions and member level business and social networking.

- APRAA officials had the opportunity to meet key leadership officials from the major overseas associations for the first time. In view of the ongoing and increasing association international communications and co-operation, this alone may be a significant plus. As a small market place, Australia has a lot to gain from international discussions.
- The IRT meetings generally took place with the assistance of a translation service (via English or Japanese audio channels); although on day two, one session took place with industry volunteer translators.
- There was a small supplier/sponsor trade show held with the IRT, while nearby there was a major Auto Service Trade Show at Tokyo Big Site.
- Each association was given an opportunity at the opening ceremony to make a formal presentation to the meeting to promote its key initiatives and its country industry issues/challenges (see the APRAA summary attached). This gave the APRAA Executive Officer a good opportunity to refresh his public speaking skills. APRAA was also required to make short acknowledgements at the two formal dinners and the closing ceremony.
- Major industry/international issues which were raised during the meeting included:
 - Dumping of ELVs and their environmental impact
 - Japanese current ELV laws, which concentrate on three key environmental requirements: the processing of fluorocarbons; airbags and shredder residue.
 - JARC ELV co-ordination system and funds
 - Japanese proposed licensing system
 - South Pacific ELV problem
 - UNHCR fleet and ELV challenges
 - Set up of the new Malaysian association (MAARA)
 - the challenge to increase the acceptance and usage of recycled parts reducing auto theft
- International initiatives which are worth noting and following up include:
 - ARA's Green Certificate program
 - ARA's Gold Seal accreditation program
 - ARA's parts damage codes, parts grading chart and parts descriptions
 - ARA's Recycled Parts Guide and CIECA (IT) standards
 - ARA's on-line university
 - ARA's air bag protocols
 - ARA's Capitol Hill Days
 - ARA's Vehicle Recycling Partnership (VRP) with the manufacturers
 - USA's & Canada's universal parts interchange system
 - ARC's new industry annual magazine

- ARC's Car Heaven program
- ARC's close working relationship with insurers and collision repairers
- EGARA's activities addressing the EU ELV laws
- Japan's ELV laws and their lessons to other countries

- The bus tour to various recyclers' factory sites was a genuine highlight as delegates got the opportunity to get out of the Tokyo inner city area to see some of the country side, outer city homes, towns and lots of rice paddies! And of course the recycler sites (mainly 3R's and Showa Metal sites) were a real eye-opener. One of the sites processed 100 ELVs per day and the activity was hectic, with forklifts moving cars and parts every-which-way! Seeing the 'hibbers' in action skilfully dismantling the ELVs was fascinating. Watching how ELV petrol tanks were de-polluted was amazing as the forklift simply forced the ELV with tank intact onto a large steel point to make several tank punctures, to release the fluid for collection in a surrounding container. Seeing the car compactor and metal baler in action was impressive, although metal baling is not currently suited to Australia's market. Japan's ELV focus has been largely on materials recycling, but there is a growing domestic recycled parts market, in addition to the whole vehicle and parts export market. There was also a SEDA fluid drainage equipment demonstration.

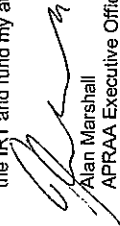
- During the event, representatives from the Hungarian Recyclers Association (GOE - part of EGARA) distributed an Invitation Brochure for their Global Conference and Meeting of the ELV national recycling associations, to be held 23-25 May 2008, in Hungary, Szeged (see attached). This event will include the EGARA Conference with non-European guests also invited.
- The international associations signed a certificate of thanks (organised by ARA) which was given to JARA. As agreed in advance with the APRAA Chairman, in recognition of JARA's efforts in hosting and organising the event, APRAA handed over an APRAA member plaque to the JARA President, along with gifts to the two key JARA officers.
- People had the great experience of visiting Tokyo and Japan, and many members took the opportunity to have extended time in Japan for personal and business reasons. Tokyo is a most attractive world city; very modern, extremely clean; with impressive architecture; and the Japanese culture is very polite and respectful. Our motel had a magnificent view of the city across Tokyo Bay with major attractions prominent such as the Rainbow Bridge and Tokyo Tower. (See the various selected photos attached).

Conclusion

In summary, I think the collective benefits of APRAA promoting and supporting the 2007 IRT are clearly substantiated and acknowledged. See the Report issued by Michael Beasley (MTA WA) attached.

Prior to the IRT, the APRAA National Secretariat had confidentially canvassed the benefits of proposing Australia for the location for the 2008 IRT Meeting, should it be agreed to hold such an event. Contact was made with several of the Executive Committee, via the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the 2008 APRAA Conference Chairman. The idea was to hold the IRT "linked" to the 2008 APRAA Conference. It was agreed that the enormous benefits of having international speakers readily available (at no or low cost) for the APRAA Conference would be invaluable if we could achieve this. Fortunately, the IRT associations have agreed to APRAA holding the 2008 IRT, subject to the endorsement of the APRAA Executive Committee and the MTA. (See the attached proposed motion).

In closing this report, the opportunity for the Executive Officer to travel to the IRT was undoubtedly great. On a personal note I take this opportunity to thank the APRAA Executive Committee for their wisdom and support in agreeing to promote the IRT and fund my attendance.



Alan Marshall
APRAA Executive Officer
11 July 2007