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Title:
Challenges for Emerging Countries to join iGLAD - International Harmonized In-Depth Accident Data

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Abstract

In emerging countries the national statistics of road safety are based on the accident records of the police responsible for traffic affairs; however this information is often poor in terms of road accident variables which might enable in-depth investigation to feed high-level databases. Frequently there is a lack of a professional team trained and experienced in collecting in-depth road accident evidence; neither is reconstruction to develop the kinetic data available.

Despite the above, frequently the authorities in emerging countries are deeply interested in prioritizing efforts in in-depth accident investigation in order to reduce road accident injuries and fatalities as both a social and economic necessity. Additionally, once they are aware and informed about the initiative on international harmonization of in-depth accident data, they predict the benefits in terms of synergy and reference for further safety programs or traffic policies. This often leads to the setting up of a professional team for this purpose.

Under this frame, the challenge for emerging countries is to develop a training program (practical and theoretical) for a research team. As an option, such a program can include the management of a local consortium with strategic stakeholders in order to ensure the proper access to all types of necessary data, accident evidence and information. The scope for this training needs to include not only all international harmonized techniques on what and how to collect the accident evidence, but also how to treat it for a high-level database. This includes codification techniques and the development of a proper codebook. A special section will consider how to develop the kinetic data not as something collected as evidence, but as an analytical calculation process of energy balances following the dynamic theories or under the development of validated simulation models as a tool to get the reconstruction and the kinetic data.

Experience in different regions of the world allows the prediction of the most common strengths and weaknesses in the procedure on how to investigate in-depth road accidents, in order to take benefit from this synergy. The data split in a timeline provides high level statistics and will allow the proper tracking and feedback of road safety programs or traffic policies.

The quality and full consistency of the information is a strict requirement to join iGLAD, i.e. the use of a proper database tool not only to store information, but also to check the plausibility of whatever is uploaded. Plausibility and cross-checking are database software tools under continuous development and improvement that need to be considered to join initiatives as required by iGLAD.

In this context, a new initiative for a road safety program in an emerging nation would need to consider a pilot project in a specific geographical area. The new trained research team will collect and process a first set of accident data to be analysed and delivered to iGLAD. This will provide the option to share accident information across the world with a common set of variables in such a way that any analysis, comparison and synergy begin to make sense because the natural bias can be properly considered or filtered.

Finally this document will not only provide guidelines on how to join iGLAD, but also on how to participate with common procedures and techniques in road safety programs or in consistent traffic policies.