



# Gaining A Global Perspective

A discussion about infrastructure real estate around the world

BY LEE HAMRE, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC

**For more than 80 years, the International Right of Way Association (IRWA) has served professionals who acquire, manage and transfer the land rights needed for building and maintaining energy and transportation infrastructure.**

Today, IRWA's members hail from over 15 countries around the world and are recognized for their high ethical standards and commitment to professional excellence. Thanks to the efforts of many dedicated professionals and global partners, IRWA has truly become a worldwide community that fosters ethics, learning and a standard of excellence within the industry.

With members now residing all over the globe, and with infrastructure real estate laws and regulations becoming far more complicated than in the past, the striking similarities we all share in so many of our day-to-day responsibilities give us a common language with which we can communicate. We share our successes and our struggles alike, learning and growing to better ourselves, as well as our communities.

It was back in the 1990s when professionals from Japan and South Africa began attending IRWA's Annual International Education Conferences to see what we were all about. Fast forward 25 years to a global membership that spans the countries of Australia, China, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Uganda. The

world as we know it at IRWA is expanding and contracting simultaneously. What a remarkable time to be a part of something so much larger than ourselves.

The wonderful articles in this special international edition of Right of Way Magazine serve to remind us how much there is that we can learn from each other. I invite you to dig in and explore this issue with me, as we literally expand our right of way horizons. I think we'll find that our IRWA motto—Building a Better World Together—has never rung more true. ✪



In 2015, Lee attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony when Mexico Chapter 85 opened their new office.

*Lee is President of H.C. Peck & Associates, a national acquisition and relocation company. She was IRWA's 2014-2015 International President and is now Chair of IRWA's International Relations Group.*