
IFRTD Network News

Keeping you up to date with the latest news, events, resources and projects from across the IFRTD network

August 2009

In this issue:

NEWS:

- The Transport Training Initiative
- 112m Footbridge Across the Galana River Aids Farmers, Students and Villagers Alike
- Peru Receives 10,000 Mountain Bikes from China
- Indian Farmers' Supply Chain to be Modernised by British Supermarket Giant Tesco
- Bicycle Stories Wanted
- Sad News

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Major Funding Programme for Asian and Latin American Think-Tanks
- ESRC/DFID Joint Scheme for Research into Poverty Alleviation
- Call for Expression of Interest: AFCAP Ethiopia
- Global Road Achievement Awards Competition Now Open

EVENTS:

- IRF/gTKP/TARA 2009 Convention on Rural Roads
- Viet Transport Conference 2009
- Call for Papers: Preserving Africa's Road Network

RESOURCES:

- Lessons Learnt from a Community Bus Project in Sri Lanka
- New Publication on Road Safety: Traffic Lessons for Children
- gTKP 10 Minute Briefings

NETWORK FOCUS:

- The Lanka Forum for Rural Transport and Development

Dear Member

Welcome to the August edition of the IFRTD newsletter. The rural transport field seems to have stepped up a gear recently as we continue to receive more than double the usual quantity of stories, events and resources. So much so, that for this issue we have introduced a new section – 'Opportunities' – to highlight the Expressions of Interest, Competitions and Awards that may be of interest to our members.

Remember to check the website regularly as we are adding new resources and news items all the time. We also welcome your additions to our websites and this e-newsletter. Please send your contributions to newsletter@ifrtd.org.

You have been subscribed to this newsletter as a member of the IFRTD network. Please follow the instructions at the bottom of the email if you wish to unsubscribe from future editions.

~~~~  
NEWS:  
~~~~

The Transport Training Initiative

We are delighted to share news of this important initiative, recently established to fulfil one objective: to improve human capacities in the transport sector of developing countries. TTI hopes to achieve this through an international network of individuals and institutions. The main focus is to train transport experts in their motherland using national training institutes, teachers and appropriate curricula. Well trained local capacities are needed to plan and implement sustainable transport systems, use resources efficiently and improve planning processes. Currently in the project development phase, interested individuals are encouraged to join and help drive this important new initiative forward.

To find out more please click on the following link:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=443

112m Footbridge Across the Galana River Aids Farmers, Students and Villagers Alike

Villagers can now cross the wide expanse of the Galana river safely thanks to a footbridge recently constructed by local NGOs. The 112m bridge, near Malinda on the Kenyan coast, was designed to facilitate a nearby agricultural irrigation project and help farmers reach the market faster with their produce. It has also allowed students on the south side to access a school on the north bank, whilst residents on the north bank can now access a clinic to the south, without danger from crocodiles and hippos which are common along the Galana River. Bridging the Gap Africa, a Nairobi based NGO, constructed the bridge with engineering assistance from Bridges to Prosperity, an international footbridge NGO. Funding came from AIG, Gorta, and the Presbyterian Church of East Africa.

You can check out a blog with many insightful photos from the following link:

www.bridgingthegapafrika.org/galana/

Peru Receives 10,000 Mountain Bikes from China

The Peruvian Ministry of Education has taken receipt of 10,000 mountain bikes, donated by the People's Republic of China to support the implementation of a diverse set of social programmes in the country. This donation follows a visit by President Hu Jintao to foster friendship and solidarity between the two countries. Peru's Minister Díaz Chávez expressed a desire to replicate countries in Europe and integrate this clean mode of transport into public transportation systems.

To find out more, click on the link below:

www.minedu.gob.pe/noticias/index.php?id=8367

Indian Farmers Supply Chain to be Modernised by British Supermarket Giant Tesco

A recent article in The Telegraph newspaper highlighted India's intention to radically shake up its agricultural supply chains by opening its market to foreign firms: "Ministers are particularly keen to boost rural incomes and encourage investment to stop so much Indian farm produce rotting on the road to market. A combination of bad roads, bullock cart transport, excessive numbers of agents and middlemen means Indian fruit and vegetables take so long to get to market that as much as half rots before it can be sold... Now ministers want companies like Tesco to play a role in developing India's backward food distribution and retail system by opening their own stores and introducing modern 'cold-chain' transport to make sure food arrives fresh at the markets. They want to see new computerised purchasing systems, more direct supply deals between farmers and supermarkets, and faster refrigerated transport to boost rural incomes.

To read the full article, please click on the following link:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=444

Bicycle Stories Wanted

Personal stories are wanted that feature the bicycle as a distinct vehicle of mobility and transportation. The call comes from two independent documentary film-makers from Germany who wish to portray

personal accounts of bicycle use in Asian countries, that at the same time give insight into the characteristic of each country and culture. They are motivated to show the bicycle as an inexpensive, yet efficient and up-to-date form of mobility. In particular, they are looking for a story that features the advantages of the bicycle in rural areas, preferably with an impact on women, although other accounts are also welcome.

Any current projects, people or stories readers may have, please contact the film-makers directly via the following email addresses:

Dorothea Künzig: [dkuenzig\[at\]web.de](mailto:dkuenzig[at]web.de) & Andrea Gatzke: [andrea.gatzke\[at\]gmx.de](mailto:andrea.gatzke[at]gmx.de)

Sad News

It is with great sadness that we must inform you that our friend and colleague Restu Novitarini Djarwoningrum, known to us all as Vita, passed away in Jakarta on Tuesday 7th July 2009. We know that many of you will have had the great pleasure of meeting Vita through the years. She was an enthusiastic IFRTD member, the Secretary of the Indonesia NFG (IFGRTD) and of course a very loyal assistant to our Chairman, Danang Parikesit. We were fortunate that the combination of these roles enabled Vita to both participate in and organise many IFRTD events, not only in Asia but across our global network.

For the IFRTD Secretariat team Vita was, quite simply, part of the family. We have enjoyed working closely with her over many years and have found her hard work and enthusiasm difficult to match. Above all however, Vita was our friend, she was great company, funny and warm and she will be greatly missed. May she rest in peace.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=445

~~~~~

OPPORTUNITIES:

~~~~~

Major Funding Programme for Asian and Latin American Think-Tanks

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has instigated a multi-donor programme that is dedicated to strengthening independent policy research institutions, or 'think-tanks', in developing countries. The 'Think-Tank Initiative' will foster sound research that both informs and influences policy, and ultimately drives positive change in the lives of millions of poor people. The Think-Tank Initiative will make a series of multi-year core grants to eligible Latin American and South Asian organisations to cover operating and research costs. In this newsletter we previously reported on the call for Expressions of Interest from organisations in East and West Africa - this closed in August 2008. Since then, 24 think-tanks have qualified for multi-year grants totalling US\$30million. The application for Latin American and South Asian organisations is open until 28th September 2009.

To find out more visit the IDRC website:

www.idrc.ca/thinktank/

ESRC/DFID Joint Scheme for Research into Poverty Alleviation

The Department for International Development (DFID) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) of the UK are pleased to announce that they have agreed to continue their strategic partnership to provide a joint funding scheme for development research. The purpose of the scheme is to support a more robust conceptual and empirical basis for development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The second phase of funding retains the overall 'poverty alleviation' theme from the first phase, and applications under this broad heading will still be welcome. However, ESRC and DFID have identified three specific thematic areas for this call: Security, conflict and development; Economic crisis, poverty and growth and the implications for development theory and practice; and Cities and development. Full applications are invited between GBP100,000 to GBP500,000. The scheme is open to applicants from both UK and non-UK institutions. The deadline for applications is 24th September 2009.

Full details of the call and all documentation can be accessed from the ESRC website:

<http://tinyurl.com/lowhfx>

Call for Expressions of Interest: AFCAP Ethiopia

The Africa Community Access Programme (AFCAP) has been asked to assist the Government of Ethiopia in the "Preparation of a Manual and Standard Bidding Documents for Low Volume Roads". The Manual and Standard Bidding Documents (Design, Supervision, Construction and Maintenance) for low volume roads in Ethiopia will promote the use of local resources and the cost effective and sustainable provision of low volume roads.

AFCAP are therefore seeking a series of lead authors for different sections of the Manual including: Construction methods and approach to low volume road works; Maintenance techniques for low volume roads; and cross cutting issues including environment, employment, gender and HIV/AIDS. The application deadline is 11th August 2009.

For more information please click on the following link:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=446

Global Road Achievement Awards Competition Now Open

The International Road Federation's Global Road Achievement Awards (GRAA) programme is a competition to honour and recognise road industry projects that demonstrate excellence and innovation in road development worldwide. The programme is designed to elicit information on successful projects and programmes from leading industry organisations and draw attention to this best practice, providing a road map for others to follow in continuously improving and advancing road development. The IRF is now accepting applications for the 2009 GRAA Competition. The competition is open to both IRF members and non-members and the application deadline is 1st September 2009. For more information please visit the IRF website:

<http://internationalroadfederation.cmail4.com/t/y/l/kjekk/dudldhitu/j>

~~~~~  
EVENTS:  
~~~~~

IRF/gTKP/TARA 2009 Convention on Rural Roads

The Tanzania Roads Association (TARA) in cooperation with the International Road Federation and gTKP are organising an international conference on rural roads that will take place in Arusha, Tanzania, 25th - 27th November 2009. Rural road infrastructure is an extensive and expensive asset that deserves effective management to ensure the intended benefits for rural communities. Governments alone cannot deliver the required transport systems; improved cooperation between government agencies, communities and the various transport stakeholders is required. Conference organisers are inviting a high calibre team of international and local practitioners and researchers to present on key issues and challenges for rural roads and transport in developing regions.

For more information please visit the IRF website:

www.irfnet.ch/eventdetail.php?catid=1&id=109&title=IRF/gTKP/TARA%2020

Viet Transport Conference 2009

The conference will be held alongside the ASEAN Transport Ministers' Meeting, as part of the Vietnam Transport Week from 9th - 11th December 2009 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The event is a key networking platform to connect with government officials and stakeholders of various infrastructure projects in the country and beyond. Organisers are accepting papers up until 28th August 2009 on a variety of themes including: Road Safety/Accident Prevention, Rural Roads Maintenance and Financing, and Sustainable Road Development and Operations.

For more information please visit the conference website:

www.viet-transport.com/en/

Call for Papers: Preserving Africa's Road Network

The conference will be held 11th - 13th October 2010, in Cape Town, South Africa. Conference organisers, the South African Road Federation (SARF) and the International Road Federation (IRF), are accepting high calibre papers until 30th November 2009. Topics include: the importance of road asset preservation and asset management systems for the effective management of road networks, sustainable standards and construction techniques for road maintenance and the influence of road conditions on road safety.

Background: A World Bank study in 1998 has shown that tens of billions of US dollars have been eroded from the capital investment in road networks because of inadequate maintenance. This situation has led to vastly increased road user costs, and arguably, an increased death rate from crashes caused by poor road conditions. This conference seeks to bring together political and executive decision-makers as well as researchers and other professionals in the field to examine the state of the African road network and what can be done in terms of sound delivery, management and operations.

For more information click on the link below:

www.sarf.co.za/pdf/preserving_africas_roads_oct_2010.pdf

~~~~~  
RESOURCES:  
~~~~~

Lessons Learnt from a Community Bus Project in Sri Lanka

Ten years ago in the Ratnapura district of Sri Lanka 3 villages worked with LFRTD (Lanka Forum for Rural Transport and Development) and ITDG (now Practical Action) to introduce a community bus service. A decade later villagers now enjoy a newer bus and improved road conditions as they continue to benefit from cheaper and more reliable access to the local school, health centre and market. The service is managed by members of the community and although it has remained economically viable over the years it has also faced its own set of problems. A recent evaluation conducted by the Centre for Poverty Analysis draws conclusions that will have relevance to a wider audience and to possible future projects as this successful pilot is replicated elsewhere. To download the full evaluation please click on the following link:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/Cepa_Evaluation.php

New Publication on Road Safety: Traffic Lessons for Children

The Ethiopian National Forum for Rural Transport and Development (ENFRTD) has recently published a book on Transport Safety for Children. It addresses issues such as children inside a vehicle, children as pedestrians and cyclists and children at play and work. To disseminate the messages of the book and create better awareness on road safety by school children and by the wider public, workshops will be organised that focus on various primary schools and bring together a range of stakeholders.

Click on the link below for more information:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=442

gTKP 10 Minute Briefings

A new series of short and sharp briefings are available from gTKP that convey key rural transport issues faced by developing and transition countries. In the form of downloadable presentations, each highlights the essential information in 10 minutes or less and they are intended for use in briefings, decision making, education and training. The current topics covered include: eco-roads for emerging economies, rural road management, rural transport and agriculture synergies, and rural transport strategies to support the Millennium Development Goals.

gTKP plan to expand the series and you can find out more from their website:

www.gtkp.com/sectors.asp?step=4&typeOfPage=0&contentID=3455

~~~~~  
NETWORK FOCUS:  
~~~~~

The Lanka Forum for Rural Transport and Development

LFRTD was established in 1995 and has since built up a remarkable national network that deserves highlighting in this edition of Network Focus. With members spanning local NGOs, Multilaterals and Government Ministries, LFRTD is able to impact on the rural transport agenda in Sri Lanka and reach out to a wider audience. In the past they received regular funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and even today they are able to employ a network coordinator - Geetha Akmeemana - who reports to the Executive Committee and administers the network.

LFRTD have released many publications that include: Guidelines for Re-Building the Rural Transport System Destroyed by the Tsunami and the Community Bus Project Evaluation highlighted above. They also produce a regular newsletter, the most recent of which carries a diverse mix of stories from the pros and cons of concreting rural roads; to a recent disability sensitive infrastructure workshop; to the electric bicycle vs. the electric car.

You can download all these resources and find out more from the LFRTD homepage:

www.ifrtd.org/new/nfgs/sri1a01.php

The IFRTD is a global network of individuals and organisations working together towards improved access, mobility and economic opportunity for poor communities in developing countries.

Email: info@ifrtd.org

Phone: +44 (0) 20 7713 6699

Websites: www.ifrtd.org / www.mobilityandhealth.org / www.ruralwaterways.org
