
IFRTD Network News

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

December 2009

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Dear Member

Welcome to the December edition of the IFRTD newsletter, which features a new section - 'Food for Thought' - an occasional series by IFRTD members that helps put transport issues in the context of wider development thinking. Check out our first article below.

IFRTD's Executive Committee meeting begins today in Berne, Switzerland - it is the cornerstone of IFRTD's participatory governance structure - and we'll be keeping you informed as events unfold.

And finally, a reminder that this newsletter is not the only way of staying in contact - you can also follow our tweets on [Twitter](#), where we post regular updates from the IFRTD network, become a fan on [Facebook](#), or login to our blog at: www.ruraltransport.blogspot.com.

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.

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NEWS:  
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Mensajes Amazonicas – Remote Villagers use Social Networking Tools to Reach Politicians

Indigenous Awajun and Wampi communities living on the River Cenepa in Peru's rainforest are among the most remote and excluded communities in the country. IFRTD's Mobility and Health research project (2006-2008) revealed a combination of factors that obstructs their access to vital medical services. Members of IFRTD recently revisited these communities this time armed with mobile phones, a camcorder and wind-up chargers to help villagers create a series of messages that are being broadcast on video blogs, YouTube and Facebook. This forms part of a new IFRTD Latin America initiative to utilise modern social networking tools and community-created video to reach out to Peruvian politicians and the general public.

Ana Bravo, IFRTD Latin America Regional Coordinator, said: "this is an exciting and innovative project that aims to empower the community to call for immediate improvements to their mobility and health services. These are tiny communities who barely feature on the radar of national government and whose needs have long been ignored. We are hoping that these new tools will help break down the enormous barriers between the communities and the policy makers and bring a new impetus to address the community's urgent needs.

You can find out more from the IFRTD website:

www.ifrtd.org/MensajesDelAmazonas/

Or support the project and the community by visiting and subscribing to the YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/MensajesAmazonicos>

Or become a fan of the project's Facebook profile:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Mensajes-del-Amazonas-Messages-from-the-Amazonas/165090116085?ref=ts>

Simple Stretchers Breathe Life into Rural Nepal

In rural areas of Nepal where there are no roads and motorised transport is not an option, simple stretchers can provide a vital means of transporting sick and injured people to health care facilities. Funds raised by the Women in Transportation Seminar London (WTS) have been used to place stretchers in the heart of rural communities in 3 districts of Nepal, where they are being managed and maintained by local groups to improve their own access to routine and emergency medical care. Disadvantaged groups, primarily women and discriminated castes, tend to live further from the road and from health facilities. Strategically located stretchers therefore have a huge potential to benefit these groups, who are isolated by their situation and poverty.

Click on the link below to find out the impact this pilot project is having on local communities:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=463

First Ministerial Meeting on Road Safety held in Moscow, Russia

First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety took place in Moscow, Russia, 19th-20th November 2009. The event was officially opened by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and ministers from more than 70 countries responsible for road safety as well as leaders from international, regional, governmental and non-governmental organisations from more than 140 countries participated. The Moscow declaration, which will be introduced for adoption at the UN General Assembly session, sets the agenda for coordinated international effort to curb the growing epidemic of road deaths and injuries in developing countries. Following the conference various development agencies and multilateral banks pledged support to a broad package of road safety initiatives.

For more information please visit the official conference website:

<http://www.1300000.net/home.en.html>

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OPPORTUNITIES:

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Research Scholarships - University of Cape Town

The University of Cape Town Centre for Transport Studies invites applications for two doctoral and two master degree scholarships as follows: Minibus taxi regulation in the context of transforming public transport systems (Doctoral thesis); Travel behaviour change dynamics, encouragement and measure (Doctoral thesis); Non-motorised school travel planning initiative development and demonstration (Masters dissertation); Measuring the impacts of a travel demand management strategy on travel behaviour (Masters dissertation). Deadline for applications is 31st December 2009.

Click on the link below for more information:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=462

Convocatoria ComunicARTE Prevención Vial 2010

Back in 2005 to celebrate their 20th anniversary the Instituto de Seguridad y Educación Vial (ISEV), Argentina, organised a competition entitled 'CommunicARTE'. They invited artists to submit works around the theme of road safety and road accidents as a social illness. The results represented these issues in a new and creative light, with the ability to reach out to different audiences. Following its success ISEV has just announced the call for a 3rd round of the competition - open to artists from Latin America until 30th April 2010.

You can find out more from ISEV (in Spanish):

<http://en.calameo.com/read/000004809f931df25aa77>

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EVENTS:

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Call for Papers: International Workshop on Gender, Economic Integration and Cross-Border Road Infrastructure Development

With a focus on the Greater Mekong Subregion this workshop will take place May 6th-7th 2010 at AIT Conference Centre, Thailand. The workshop will explore how mobility of goods and people is changing dramatically as a result of road infrastructure development and economic integration policies. In particular, how such changes affect the livelihoods of the people along the road and how such changes further affect the way of life and practices of local women and men, especially in terms of gender-based power relations. The effects can be varied for different communities, ethnicity, gender and age, and their coping/ adaptation strategies will also be different. The call for papers is open until 20th March 2010.

To find out more, please click on the link below:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=461

Colloque International: Transport et Développement des Territoires

This call for papers for an international symposium on 'Transport and Development of the Territories' comes from the 'Commission des Géographie des Transports' in partnership with the University of Le Havre, the Conseil National Français de Géographie and IRTAI/IDEES. It will be held 8th-10th September 2010, in Le Harve, France. In a world of increasing mobility, many inequalities still exist. It is essential to use scientific research and the exchange of knowledge between experts and researchers in the global North and South to successfully articulate mobility and transport for the benefit of all. 3 main themes for this symposium include: The role of science in bringing together transport and development; The wider effects of transport infrastructure; Environmental effects of transport around the globe. Abstracts should be submitted before 31st January, 2010.

Click on the link below for more information:

<http://ifrtd.gn.apc.org/new/news/full.php?view=464>

PIARC International Seminar on Sustainable Maintenance of Rural Roads

To take place 21st-23rd January 2010 in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, this event forms part of the PIARC programme of international seminars. Rural Roads are a key component of rural development since they provide access to economic and social goods and services thereby generating increased agricultural income and productive employment. The main objective of the seminar is to provide a common platform for practitioners to share experiences and deliberate the issues and challenges associated with the planning, provision and maintenance of rural roads in a sustainable way. In particular, participants will examine the experiences of India's highly ambitious national programme (Prime Minister's Rural Roads Programme - PMGSY) with the aim of providing connectivity to all habitations having a population greater than 500 people. Other seminar themes include: Good practices for planners and practitioners in development and sustainability of rural access; Frameworks, pre-requisites and implementation of maintenance; Community participation in rural roads; Sustainable rural roads – the way forward. Deadline for applications is 15th December 2009. For more information, please see the PIARC flyer:

<http://www.piarc.org/library/aipcr/8/2798,Announcement-India-Jan-2010-FINAL.pdf>

IFRTD Eastern and Southern Africa – Update from the Regional Meeting

IFRTD Eastern and Southern Africa held a one day regional meeting in Arusha, Tanzania on the 24th November 2009. The meeting preceded a major international rural roads convention also held in Arusha between 25th-27th November, under the auspices of the Tanzania Roads Association, the International Road Federation and the global Knowledge Partnerships (gTKP). The IFRTD meeting was attended by network representatives from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia. It was also attended by one of the IFRTD board members, and IFRTD regional coordinators for Asia and Central and West Africa. Key outcomes of the meetings were: Endorsement of the need to institutionalise/legalise IFRTD in the region; Commencement of a process to establish a regional advisory committee; Initiation of a process of re-organising the IFRTD membership in the region; Endorsement of initiation of a research programme on rural transport and security; Commencement of collaboration between IFRTD network members and the Transport Training Initiative (TTI), initially focusing on capacity building in planning for rural regional transport linkages and logistics. Several IFRTD members attending the regional meeting subsequently had an opportunity to make presentations at the rural roads convention.

For more information, please contact IFRTD Regional Coordinator for East and Southern Africa: Peter Njenga: [peter.njenga\[at\]ifrtd.org](mailto:peter.njenga@ifrtd.org)

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RESOURCES:

### **IFRTD Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting Proceedings and Presentations**

The proceedings and presentations from the IFRTD Asia and Pacific regional network meeting in September 2009 are now available for download. The meeting was hosted by the Nepal Forum for Rural Transport and Development in Kathmandu between 9th-11th September 2009. Alongside the reports made by IFRTD affiliated national networks in Nepal, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh there are also interesting thematic presentations on issues ranging from gender mainstreaming, to gravity ropeways and rural transport safety.

<http://ifrtd.gn.apc.org/new/news/full.php?view=460>

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NETWORK FOCUS:

Bridging the Gap: Pathways for Transport in the Post 2012 Process

The 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) that is taking place in Copenhagen between 7th-18th December is one of the key climate conferences of the decade. It is a major milestone on the road to agreeing a successor to the 1997 Kyoto protocol - the first global, legally binding contract to reduce greenhouses gases, which is due to expire in 2012. Although transport

accounts for 23% of energy related CO2 emissions (which is expected to double by 2050), compared to other issues like deforestation or energy, it receives little attention. It is exactly this policy gap that a new initiative – Bridging the Gap: Pathways for Transport in the Post 2012 Process – intends to fill.

Established by a number of donors and organisations (GTZ, TRL, Veolia Transport and UITP), it aims to improve the link between the transport sector and the climate change negotiations process. One of the main barriers to achieving this link is a clear understanding of the different negotiation streams and how to develop a targeted strategy to integrate transport into the current negotiations. To this end their new website elaborates both on how transport professionals can get involved, and what the transport sector's key messages must be if a post-2012 climate change agenda is to be inclusive of our issues.

To find out more about this important and timely initiative, and how IFRTD has been involved, please click on the link below:

<http://www.sutp.org/bridgingthegap/>

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT:  
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This new, occasional series by IFRTD members explores the relationship between rural transport and current development thinking. We welcome your contributions to future Food for Thought editions.

'Do you Believe in Social Justice or in the Social Entrepreneur?'

In the first essay of this new series Natalia Gunther asks whether a for-profit business opportunity can be the driver for wider social justice in developing countries. She uses an example we reported on in this newsletter a few months back – British supermarket giant Tesco, who are looking to modernise India's food retail and distribution systems through opening their own stores and introducing 'cold-chain' transport. Tesco is clearly motivated by profit and not social entrepreneurial spirit, but may their actions be seen as socially beneficial – increasing consumer choice whilst reducing wastage on the road to market?

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

http://www.ifrtd.org/new/res/Gunther_foodforthought_oct09.doc

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

Company registered in England and Wales.

Company Number: 6835743

Registered Address: 113 Spitfire Studios, 63–71 Collier Street, London. N1 9BE. UK
