
IFRTD Network News

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

January 2010

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Dear Member

Welcome to the January 2010 newsletter! IFRTD's first Executive Committee Meeting as an independent organisation took place last December in Berne, Switzerland, where network members met both to reflect on 2009 and look forward to the year ahead. [Click here](#) to find out more.

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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Sri Lankan Women are Key Beneficiaries of Rural Road Project

Local villagers, and in particular women, will be offered employment opportunities as part of a new Asian Development Bank project in the Eastern and North Central provinces of Sri Lanka. More than 60 villages will be better connected through the upgrading 250 km of access roads and the improvement of rural transport services. At least 50% of the project workforce will be women, with opportunities extended to war widows and female heads of households. "Isolation and marginalisation are fundamental causes of poverty, and the villages in the project area have been isolated and marginalised for many years," said Francesco Tornieri, Social Development Specialist in ADB's South Asia Department. "Through the rehabilitation of rural access roads, this project will help address the underlying causes of poverty and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to a considerable number of the poor."

Click on the link below to read more:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=467

The SLoCaT Partnership

The Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT) Partnership has 3 main aims: Improve knowledge on sustainable low carbon transport; Help develop better policies; and Catalyse their implementation. Over 40 organisations have joined the Partnership so far, including UN organisations, multilateral development banks, technical cooperation agencies, NGOs, research organisations and others.

Transport in developing countries is one of the largest and fastest growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time transport is largely missing in climate change mitigation policies and actions worldwide. The SLoCaT Partnership aims to fill this void and promote sustainable solutions to transport and mobility.

For more information please visit the SLoCaT Partnership website:

www.slocat.net/

Meet 23 Year Old Bike Mechanic - Sandra Fredricks

The Bicycle Empowerment Network Namibia tells the story of Sandra Fredricks, a 23-year-old woman from Walvis Bay, Namibia. Following the despair over the death of her first child and the weight of living with HIV her uncle put her in contact with the Walvis Bay HIV support group. In one meeting Sandra heard about bicycle mechanic training for group members. I went to the support group and begged them for a place. I was chosen and felt so happy. In May 2009 Sandra had the bicycle mechanic training, and is now part of the Welwitschia Bicycle Shop. There aren't many women fixing bikes, but I saw some of them in BEN Namibia projects and now I know we can also do that... now I have my own income, I can support my daughter and my mother and I'm proud of myself, she says with a smile.

To read more, please see BEN Namibia's latest newsletter:

www.benbikes.org.za/namibia/news/bennews-dec2009.html

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OPPORTUNITIES:

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IREX Small Grant Fund for Africa and Asia

This small grants programme may be of interest to IFRTD members working in Africa and Asia as a means of promoting the rural transport agenda in the media. The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) awards grants to non-governmental institutions for journalism training, media advocacy and institutional development of media and media-related institutions.

For more information please visit their website:

<http://tinyurl.com/y9umwdf>

Your Views: The Rural Access Index - Does it Capture Enough?

A new IFRTD blog asks whether the Rural Access Index - the most established headline indicator of access to rural roads - sufficiently captures the complexities people face. Do you think its current definition: % of population within 2kms of an all weather road is sufficient? Could it be improved? Let us know! We will share all views we receive with the network and feed them into the ongoing World Bank Transport Results Measurement programme.

You can check out the blog here:

<http://ruraltransport.blogspot.com/2006/11/rural-access-index-does-it-capture.html>

Contribute to gTKP's Low Cost Surfacing Guideline

gTKP are commencing work with sector partners on the development of a Low Cost Surfacing Guideline. It is envisaged that this new guideline, alongside the gTKP Low Cost Structures Guideline currently being finalised, will provide the technical tools to substantially increase support for improved Basic Access initiatives. Your contributions would be most welcome.

Please contact gTKP theme champion for rural transport Rob Petts directly: [rob.petts\[at\]gtkp.com](mailto:rob.petts@gtkp.com)

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EVENTS:  
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Networks for Mobility: 5th International Symposium

Solutions to most of the current and future transportation problems cannot be found within one single mode of transportation or within one single discipline. On the contrary, improvements in the direction of sustainable mobility require close interaction between the different transportation modes and integration of planning, technical and socio-economic fields.

The Networks for Mobility 5th International Symposium will take place in Stuttgart, Germany, 30th October - 1st November 2010. The event derives its name from the network approach and will be a platform for the interdisciplinary exchange of information and experiences from the various areas of transportation and related fields. The first four symposia (2002, 2004, 2006 & 2008) have shown that bringing together representatives from various disciplines leads to new insights and new projects.

Abstracts to be submitted by 28th February 2010.

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

www.uni-stuttgart.de/fovus/

First International Shared Transport Forum

The World Share/Transport Forum will take place in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan, this 16th - 19th September 2010. "Share transport" is the largely uncharted middle ground between the familiar mobility poles of "private transport" (albeit on public roads) and mass transport (scheduled, fixed-route, large vehicle services). It needs to be far better understood by policy makers, researchers and practitioners alike.

The driving idea behind the creation of this informal World Share/Transport Forum will be to see how we might get together in an open international collaborative network to develop a stronger strategic base for understanding and advancing not just the individual shared modes (e.g., car-share, bike-share, street-share, taxi-share, etc.), important as they are, but of combining them in concert with strategic advances in traditional modes and practices, to advance the sustainable transport agenda.

Please visit the Share Transport website for more information:

<http://www.sharetransport.org/>

Senior Road Executives Programme 2010

For over fifteen years the Senior Road Executive Programme has provided continuing professional development for those working in the road sector, and by so doing has contributed to the dissemination of knowledge and expertise throughout the world. The programme is designed to advance the global understanding, through an inter-disciplinary approach, of the most pressing issues facing the road sector.

This year the programme will take place between 12th - 24th April 2010. It is run by the University of Birmingham in association with the International Road Federation (IRF) and consists of four linked intensive residential courses: Establishing responsibility through regulatory and institutional reform; Providing adequate, stable and continuous financing; Introducing appropriate enforcement, educational and traffic engineering measures to improve road safety; Applying fundamental asset management principles and appropriate technology for road maintenance.

Click on the following link for more information:

www.srecourse.org/

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RESOURCES:  
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Bamboo Bikes in Kisumu, Kenya

Author: Katherine Athanasiades, et. al.

Published by: The Earth Institute at Columbia University & Vale Columbia Centre on Sustainable International Investment

Published in December 2009, this paper assesses the feasibility of implementing a bamboo bicycle production facility in Kisumu, Kenya. The paper concludes that producing bamboo bikes is feasible. Bamboo bike production can result in numerous economic benefits for the Kisumu region, including job creation among the youth and the potential stimulation of the nascent bamboo industry.

Environmental benefits could take place in both the early and late points of production: growing bamboo helps prevent soil erosion, purifies water and air and generates little waste, while production does not use harmful chemicals. Finally, bamboo bike production can contribute to positive social externalities by providing community health workers and students, amongst others, with access to a more durable and affordable means of transportation.

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

www.vcc.columbia.edu/documents/KisumuBambooBikes-Dec09.pdf

The International Development Association: Providing Access That Links People to Opportunities

This document gives an overview of the transport-related work of the International Development Association (IDA) - the World Bank's fund for least developed countries. The IDA provides US\$1 billion of funding for rural roads each year. Projects completed in the last eight years have built, rehabilitated or maintained some 240,000 km of roads - with the resulting improvements benefiting over 75 million people. From increasing crop yields in Andhra Pradesh, to accessible schooling in Bhutan, from the Rural Access Index, to the Millennium Development Goals, this paper gives a brief outline of an institution at the heart of the rural roads sector.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/IDA/Resources/IDA-Transportation.pdf>

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NETWORK FOCUS:  
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GATNET - The Gender and Transport Network

Established in 2004 following a research programme on mainstreaming gender into the World Bank's transport sector, GATNET has ever since served as a hub for discussion and action surrounding mobility and access for poor women and men in developing countries.

Many of you will have heard of GATNET but 6 years since its inception gender mainstreaming faces a new set of challenges: increasingly being subsumed into broader 'social inclusion' and 'diversity' approaches, gender issues also need to find a voice in the climate change debate. Now more than ever the issues that GATNET promotes need to be heard within the transport sector and beyond. Members are already actively planning for 2010. Play your part and get involved.

To sign up to the listserv, please click on the link below:

<http://tinyurl.com/gatnet>

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.

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