
IFRTD Network News

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

June 2009

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Dear Member

Welcome to the June edition of the newsletter. We are delighted to be able to announce the appointment of IFRTD's new Executive Secretary - someone we are confident will be able to take forward our diverse and dynamic network. You can find out more below.

And this month we can also announce winners of the second round of the Colin Relf Young Voices Award, in which young people from developing countries expressed their ideas and opinions on the role of rural transport in sustainable agricultural development. [Click here](#) to read the winning entries.

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.

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NEWS:  
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New IFRTD Executive Secretary

The IFRTD Board is delighted to announce the appointment of the next IFRTD Executive Secretary. Maria Arce Moreira will take up her post with the IFRTD Secretariat on the 10th August 2009. Maria brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise in networking and advocacy in the development sector. Most recently Maria has been a Policy Advisor at Practical Action.

To read more about Maria's background, click on the following link:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=430

In Wamakko, Donkeys are Ambulances

For the people of Kauran Kimba village in Wamakko, Sokoto State, Nigeria, the use of donkeys to transport the sick to hospital is a necessity. According to the villagers the lack of vehicles has now compelled them to engage the services of donkeys to convey the sick to the local government headquarters a few kilometres away, before getting a vehicle to hospital in Sokoto, the state capital. Mamman Sani, a resident, said, "on many occasions we use donkeys when there is no car. Though we have a hospital where minor cases are treated, however, serious problems are taken to Wamakko or Sokoto for treatment". Commenting on the situation, Hajiya Aisha Aminu, a local community health worker, called on the "government at the grassroots to put in place well articulated healthcare delivery systems in their various councils".

Click on the link below to read the full story:

www.nigerianbestforum.com/generaltopics/?p=4456

Health without Limits in Peru

Salud Sin Limites (Health without Limits) Peru has undertaken a programme of research into transit accidents. 11 studies will ascertain the main characteristics, causes and affected groups of accidents. With additional components elaborating health centre management, information systems and economic impact it is hoped that the results, when published at the end of 2009, will inform the public policy debate and ultimately reduce accidents.

You can find out more from their blog:

<http://saludsinlimitesperu.blogspot.com/2009/03/programa-de-investigacion-en-accidentes.html>

Could Motorbikes Cut Deaths in Childbirth in Africa?

The UK newspaper The Guardian recently reported on the e-Ranger motorbike ambulance - a high powered multi-terrain vehicle with sidecar stretcher "bed" for a patient – and asked whether these tailor-made bikes can help reduce maternal mortality rates in rural communities like Katine, in north east Uganda.

To read the blog please click on the link below:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/katineblog/2009/may/13/motorbike-ambulances-childbirth>

IFRTD Makes Submission to the UK's DFID White Paper Consultation

The UK government's Department for International Development (DFID) has recently completed a consultation process for the White Paper on International Development that is currently being compiled and is due to be published in July 2009.

IFRTD has made a comprehensive submission to the White Paper process, highlighting: the critical role that rural transport plays in achieving socio-economic development and economic growth through sustainable agricultural development and basic service provision; the underlying need for improved governance in the transport sector; and the contribution that rural transport can make to combating climate change.

You can find out more by clicking on the following link:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=429

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EVENTS:  
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Non-Paved Municipal Roads Course – Pelotas Brazil

Organised by the Federal University of Pelotas and IFRTD Latin America, this course will take place 11th-12th August 2009 and will focus on non-paved roads. In particular course participants will discuss aspects such as materials, draining properties, environmental quality, and laboratory testing. For more information please email Alfredo Luís Mendes d'Ávila: [alfredosolos\[at\]yahoo.com.br](mailto:alfredosolos@yahoo.com.br)

Call for Abstracts: 15th International Conference 'Road Safety on Four Continents'

To take place in March/April 2010 in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, the event is organised by the Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI) together with the National Transport Authority of UAE. The conference aims to be a forum for the exchange and transfer of road safety knowledge and good practice. Topics include: road safety plans and strategies; special road user groups such as the young, old and vulnerable; interurban and rural safety; awareness raising and campaigns.

The chosen topics and themes are intended to attract participants from the international research community, national safety experts, decision makers, road safety engineers and planners, traffic law enforcement officials and many others with an interest in road safety development. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 1st August 2009.

For more information please visit the organisers' website:

www.vti.se/templates/Page_____11111.aspx

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RESOURCES:  
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Turning Point – The New Road Safety Documentary

This hard-hitting film, presented by actress Michelle Yeoh, investigates the neglect of road safety by the international community and unveils the true scale of the hidden epidemic of road traffic injuries in developing countries. From the Make Roads Safe campaign the film was shot over the course of a year in countries including India, Costa Rica, Malaysia, South Africa and Vietnam, and it was recently aired on BBC World News.

You can view the video from the Make Roads Safe website:

www.makeroadssafe.org/Pages/home.aspx

Burkina Transport Directory 2008

The Burkina Faso Transport directory 2008 is now available. This 2nd edition, jointly published by 'Ministère des Infrastructures des Transports et de l'Habitat' with financial support of the 'Programme de développement du Système Statistique National', is based on a six year data collection period and involves air, land, waterways and train transportation. It includes searchable data on transport infrastructure, costs, road injury and much more.

The directory is available (in French) from the following website:

<http://bdt.transports.gov.bf>

Best Practice from Cambodia

In Cambodia, there is an increasing recognition that it is a major challenge for engineers and road managers to provide and maintain sustainable all-weather rural access with the limited available resources. This new series of technical papers from SEACAP gives a snapshot of the latest techniques:

Behaviour of Engineered Natural Surfaced Roads: Experimental Evidence in Cambodia
www.seacap-info.org/uploads/File/SEACAP%2019%20TP%202.2%20BehavENSR%20Experimental%20Evidence.pdf

Low Volume Rural Road Upgrade Options:
www.seacap-info.org/uploads/File/SEACAP%2019%20TP%204%20LVRR%20Upgrade.pdf

Stabilisation Techniques to Improve Local Materials for Rural Road Pavements in Cambodia:
www.seacap-info.org/uploads/File/SEACAP%2019%20TP%203%20Stabilization%20Technicques.pdf

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NETWORK FOCUS:  
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IFRTD on Facebook, Flickr, Twitter & YouTube!

Social Networking sites have changed the way we communicate - tens of millions of people across the globe are now connected through sites such as Facebook and Twitter. For a network like IFRTD these platforms provide a space to share information with new audiences. They are also a fantastic way for existing network members to share resources such as photos (through Flickr) and videos (through YouTube). You can find us on the following sites:

Flickr. Many photos already uploaded and more coming all the time:
www.flickr.com/photos/ifrtd

YouTube. A selection of powerful and informative films from the field of rural transport:
www.youtube.com/ifrtd

Twitter. A free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: what are you doing? Members can view recent posts, or post an update themselves:
www.twitter.com/ifrtd

Facebook. Become a fan of IFRTD!:
www.facebook.com

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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