
IFRTD Network News

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

May 2009

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Dear Member

Welcome to the May edition of the IFRTD newsletter. From Africa, to Asia, to Latin America, on a bike, a bus, a track or a road, we report on what's been happening over the past month from the field of rural transport. And looking forward to next month's edition, we hope to bring you news of the appointment of IFRTD's new Executive Secretary, as well as winners from the Colin Relf second award round - so watch this space!

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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Invest More in Africa's Roads

Taken from an excellent article featured in UK newspaper The Guardian: "The goods which finally

reach Katine market [in rural Uganda] all bear the cost of transport over hundreds of miles to get there. Every Katine farmer ends up paying steeply for the costs of transporting his goods to market...The shocking fact is that up to a half of crops produced in fertile areas in Uganda can go to waste – rotting, disease or termites – before they can reach a market to be sold because of a combination of poor roads, lack of transport and little storage.

This is why weak transport infrastructure features so prominently in any analysis of sub-Saharan Africa's poverty. Roads are the basic building blocks of development, but... investment in this kind of infrastructure by aid agencies declined as the emphasis moved in the 1990s to investing in human capital – health and education."

Click on the link below to read the full story:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=425

South African Bike Factory in New Phase

The Shova Kalula project to provide a bike for everyone in South Africa has entered a new phase. The national Department of Transport has issued an 'expression of interest' to establish a bicycle manufacturing plant in South Africa to produce bicycles for its Shova Kalula (Bicycles for Everybody) project. The project promotes the use of non-motorised transport, especially for low-income households, and aims to ensure the roll-out of one million bicycles by 2014. It forms part of the government's action programme and is expected to contribute to the anti-poverty strategy and second economy interventions.

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

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=424

Problems Abound for Rural Bus Service in India

In better times Haryana, a state in Northern India, received a trophy for best transport services in the country. Now some complain that services are being reduced, money is disappearing and buses are lying dormant. Hundreds of routes do not have state-run buses, curtailing people's mobility and choice.

To read the full story please visit the Punjab Newsline website:

<http://www.punjabnewsline.com/content/view/16251/93>

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EVENTS:  
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IX Encuentro Latinoamericano de Unidades Ambientales del Sector Transporte

Organised by SLUAT (the Society of Latin American Environmental Actors in the Transport Sector), the conference will take place 22nd-26th June 2009 in Tela, Honduras. This year's theme is: 'Social and Environmental Management in the Transport Sector - The Challenges of the New Millennium'. It is an international event that takes place every two years in different Latin American countries and counts on the participation of government institutions from more than 15 regional countries, international experts and multilateral institution consultants, amongst others.

SLUAT was officially founded in 1998. The initiative is designed to increase regional cooperation, institutional capacity and the exchange of experiences between those responsible for social and environmental management.

You can find out more from the organiser's website:

www.sluat.org

Conference & Workshop: Make Roads Safe - Africa's Decade of Action for Road Safety

To take place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 7th-9th July 2009, the event is hosted jointly by Make Roads Safe, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility and

the Automobile Association of Tanzania.

On the 7th July there will be a high level conference: 'Africa's Decade of Action for Road Safety', followed on 8th-9th July by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's target setting workshop. The conference and workshop will provide Africa's main opportunity to debate road injury prevention issues before the first ever global United Nations Ministerial Conference on Road Safety which will be held in Moscow later this year, on 19th-20th November.

You can find out more from the gTKP website:

www.gtkp.com/news.asp?step=4&contentID=439

Call for Abstracts: 16th International Road Federation World Road Meeting

This landmark international gathering will be convened in Lisbon, Portugal from 25th-28th May 2010, around the theme of 'Sharing the Road'. The deadline for receiving abstracts is 31st May 2009. From the organisers: "The 16th World Road Meeting will bring together the world's foremost experts and industry representatives to develop and define dynamic strategies that respond equitably and sustainably to the evolving needs of all stakeholders. Sharing our roads means planning infrastructure that balances rapid and efficient commerce with the fundamental need to ensure safe, viable and nuisance free surroundings for urban and rural dwellers alike. It involves responding to modern demands for freer and cheaper mobility with new cost and energy efficient materials and technologies. Above all, it calls for us to develop our industry in harmony with growing environmental awareness and the finite resources of our increasingly fragile planet."

Click on the following link for more information:

www.irf2010.com/

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RESOURCES:  
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Building Rural Roads

Author: Johannessen, Bjørn

Published by: ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Rural roads provide a critical link in the road transport network - facilitating access to and development of rural areas. While these roads form the majority portion of the road network, they often carry low volumes of traffic. Despite this, their design and construction need to cater for common types of vehicle loads and allow access throughout the year, in all kinds of weather conditions. These features place specific challenges on the road agencies in charge: on the one hand, there is a need to find good engineering solutions that address the functional requirements relating to maintaining all-weather access. On the other hand, due to the size and extensive distribution of rural roads, road agencies are under pressure to find low cost solutions that allow authorities to build and maintain an extensive network of roads.

The purpose of this manual is to provide technical staff ranging from site supervisors to engineers with a technical reference which in detail explains and describes commonly used work methods and best practices for constructing rural roads.

The entire manual can be downloaded for free from the ILO website:

www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/publications/lang--en/docName--WCMS_100216/index.htm

Make Roads Safe 'Decade of Action' Report Launched to Save 5 Million Lives

Governments in all countries must combat the world's fastest growing public health emergency by committing to a road safety 'Decade of Action' which would save 5 million lives and prevent 50 million serious injuries, says the new report by the Commission for Global Road Safety launched in Rome on 5th May.

Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, Chairman of the Commission for Global Road Safety, said: "Five million

lives are at stake over the coming decade. We have the tools and the vaccines to save these lives. Now we need the international community to demonstrate the political will to succeed... We must respond to this preventable epidemic with urgency and determination." The campaign is calling on the UN to approve a 'Decade of Action for Road Safety' at the first ever global governmental conference on road safety, to be held in Moscow, Russia in November 2009.

You can download the report from the Make Roads Safe website:

www.makeroadssafe.org/publications/Documents/decade_of_action_report_lr.pdf

Low Volume Rural Road Environmentally Optimised Design Manual

Produced by: SEACAP, for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Laos PDR

This manual, for use in the design of low volume rural roads is based on the Environmentally Optimised Design (EOD) approach. It provides a range of low cost designs which are adequate for typical traffic on rural roads. The road is designed to suit a variety of tasks and environmental factors such as rainfall, available materials, construction capacity, gradient, flood risk and so on. Some of these factors vary from road to road and even from site to site along a road. Therefore a road design may also vary with, for example, gravel along a level section and a sealed surface for a hill section. This variable nature is referred to as 'variable longitudinal design'. Whereas the priority of those using national highways is to travel fast and comfortably, the priority of those using low volume rural roads is on safe and reliable travel.

To download the manual, click on the link below:

www.seacap-info.org/uploads/File/SEACAP%203-002%20LVRR%20EOD%20Manual.pdf

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NETWORK FOCUS:  
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Gender, Poverty and Mobility Analysis of Road Transportation Development in Greater Mekong Sub-Region

What positive or negative impacts do roads have on poverty alleviation efforts in the poorer regions of ASEAN? Establishing the answers to this and other key issues is the aim of Gender, Poverty and Mobility Analysis of Road Transportation Development in GMS. This programme is a Japan-ASEAN solidarity fund of the ASEAN Foundation that focuses on four main countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. It involves key decision-makers such as governments and high-level officials in order to provide information and training on capacity building, develop assessment tools and generally ensure greater awareness and understanding of knowledge gaps and limitations with respect to current road construction projects.

The project comprises three main pillars: Training, Research and Education, under which come a variety of initiatives such as training workshops, lecture programmes, and a unique gender and transport Master's degree.

More information can be found at the website:

www.genderandtransport.ait.ac.th/index.html

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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