
IFRTD Network News

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

October 2009

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Dear Member

Welcome to the October edition of the IFRTD newsletter. Over the past couple of months IFRTD's new Executive Secretary, Maria Arce, has been getting to know the Forum and many of our members and supporters. Maria talks about her experience so far and outlines her hopes and aspirations for the future in this introductory article: www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=455

Remember to check the website regularly as we are adding new resources 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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IFRTD Members Meet the Hon. Prime Minister of Nepal

The seventh annual meeting of IFRTD's Asia and Pacific Region was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 9th - 11th September 2009. The meeting was jointly hosted by IFRTD and the Nepal Forum for Rural Transport and Development. An important feature of this year's meeting was the profound interest shown in the event by Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, the Prime Minister of Nepal, who invited participants of the event for a special audience. The Prime Minister discussed with the delegation the major transport issues and challenges being faced by Nepal, especially in the rural areas, and expressed his support for networks such as IFRTD that can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience and build human capacities on issues relating to rural access and mobility.

To find out more please click on the link below:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=453

Need for Inclusive Transport - Access Issues Faced by People with Disabilities and the Elderly

"In a few developing countries there are efforts being made to incorporate accessibility features for people with disabilities and the elderly in urban transport. While in rural areas, where problems like lack of proper transport facilities, lack of paved roads and high transport costs are commonly seen, transport infrastructure is completely inaccessible. As a result, disabled people and the elderly are often dependent on family members to escort them." IFRTD Regional Coordinator for Asia and Pacific, Ranjith de Silva, talks to Leonard Cheshire Disability South Asia about the accessibility issues faced by people with disabilities and the elderly living in rural areas of developing countries.

To find out more visit the Leonard Cheshire Disability website:

<http://www.lcdsouthasia.org/guest-speak-need-inclusive-transport>

Halving the Transport Burden in Rural Bangladesh

Nine years into Bangladesh's Rural Transport Improvement Project to help improve access to social services and economic opportunity, average transport times and transport costs have been cut by 50%. According to the World Bank the US\$190m project has improved and maintained more than 2,400 km of rural roads and built or improved 108 markets and 28 jetties. The project adopted an integrated approach to rural transport infrastructure development by focusing on the physical improvements of inter linked roads, small bridges and culverts, growth centre markets and river jetties.

To find out more, please visit:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=452

In Memory - Brian Williams

With profound sadness, IFRTD joins the family, friends and professional colleagues of Brian Williams in mourning his death. Brian collapsed and passed away on Saturday 4th October 2009, as he was jogging at the International School in Kenya, where he had joined his son for a school event. Brian closely interacted with IFRTD as the network's main point of contact with the UN system. A strong believer in networking, he was one of the earliest members of the IFRTD network in Kenya. His networking skills are reflected in his pioneering involvement with the Sustainable Transport Action Network [SUSTRAN] in Asia, a network model he endeavoured to replicate in Africa. At a personal level, we will all remember Brian for his engaging personality, laconic sense of humour and ability for straight talk.

Please click on the following link to read the full article:

<http://ifrtd.gn.apc.org/new/news/full.php?view=454>

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OPPORTUNITIES:

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Transaid - Seeking Transport and Development Experts

Transaid is seeking to build its capacity in the developing world through a team of indigenous transport consultants with the skills and experience to complement the core capacity of their full time programmes team. Transaid aims to attract individuals with proven theoretical and practical experience in the following areas: rural transport; fleet management; intermediate modes of transport; driver training; patient referral; community engagement; and cold chain logistics. You can find out more about Transaid in the 'Network Focus' section below, and to download an application form, please visit their website:

www.transaid.org/consultant-database-application-form

Conseiller Technique au Benin: Programme d'Appui au Secteur Routier

The Danish International Development Agency is currently seeking a Technical Advisor for Benin's Road Sector. The successful applicant will support the Ministry for Transport to implement the Rural Community Transport Strategy. A key objective is to help oversee the decentralisation of Benin's transport sector. The closing date is 15th October 2009.

To find out more (in French) please visit the Danida website:

www.danidajob.um.dk/da

Commonwealth Foundation's Civil Society Responsive Grants

The Commonwealth Foundation provides grants for NGOs in developing countries to "enable people from the Commonwealth to participate in activities that involve intercultural exchange: such as short training courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, cultural festivals, exchanges and study visits in other Commonwealth countries." Focus areas include: culture; governance and democracy; human development; and communities and livelihoods. Grants are intended for building cooperation and exchange of knowledge, skills and ideas between developing Commonwealth countries.

You can find out more from their website:

www.commonwealthfoundation.com/about/grantseekers/

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EVENTS:

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PIARC International Seminar on Sustainable Maintenance of Rural Roads

To take place in Hyderabad, India, 21st - 23rd January 2010, this seminar is being organised by Technical Committee A.4 (which deals with Rural Roads Systems and Accessibility to Rural Areas) together with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The seminar is open to participants from around the globe working with rural / low volume roads and maintenance. It is also expected to address, more specifically, the needs of the countries in the region that have similar climatic, geographical and socio-economic conditions. Seminar themes: Indian experience of implementing PMGSY; good practices for planners and practitioners; framework, pre-requisites and implementation of maintenance; community participation in rural roads; and sustainable rural roads.

To find out more, please see PIARC flyer:

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

Third International Symposium on Infrastructure Engineering in Developing Countries

In July 2010, the NED University of Engineering and Technology, Pakistan, and the University of Mississippi, USA, will hold the Third International Symposium of Infrastructure Engineering in Developing Countries (IEDC 2010), in Karachi. The aim of the symposium is to increase understanding of, and mitigate for, urban infrastructure planning management issues in developing countries. It is

intended that the symposium facilitates the sharing of ideas, the transfer of technologies and development of linkages between the transportation industries of developed and developing countries. Please click on the following link for more information:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=450

Quick Reminder: IFRTD WCA - Call for Participation

IFRTD's main regional governance meeting for West and Central Africa will take place 2nd - 5th November 2009 in Cotonou, Bénin. Although places are limited there is an open invitation for participants to present and contribute to regional activities.

For more information please see the article below (in French):

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=448

IFRTD Latin America Converges in Paraguay

IFRTDAL, the Latin American regional network of IFRTD, recently held their Executive Committee meeting in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay. The meeting coincided with Rural Transport and Development Symposium, both of which took place 14th - 18th September. Participants gave updates on strategic advances and future plans, and enjoyed the shared sense of enthusiasm for issues relating to rural transport in the region. Shirley Cañete, coordinator of the Paraguay National Forum Group was chosen to represent the region at IFRTD's International Executive Committee meeting this December, alongside Roberto Aguerrebere, from Instituto Mexicano del Transporte, who already sits on IFRTD's Board of Directors. The proposal is for the next IFRTDAL Executive Committee meeting to be held in Brazil. Minutes of the meeting will shortly be available on the regional pages of the IFRTD website:

www.ifrtd.org/spanish/reg_wrk/lat_am.php

Training Course: "Climate Change and the Implications for People and Poverty"

For those readers based in London, Practical Action Consulting is offering a new date for its popular training course: "Climate Change and the Implications for People and Poverty". As climate change becomes increasingly urgent, more people are seeking to expand their understanding of the issues which surround it. This course not only clarifies the basics, such as how weather differs to climate, but also explores the myriad of factors that impact the negotiation processes involving governments, as they discuss this global crisis. Practical Action has a wealth of experience in working with those currently facing the realities of climate change – the poor in the less developed world – and will showcase some of the projects it has already delivered to help people adapt their lifestyles and infrastructure in the face of their changing environment.

To find out more about the course, please visit the PAC website:

www.practicalactionconsulting.org/consulting/climate-change-training

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RESOURCES:  
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Transit Access Training Toolkit

Many people around the world often cannot use public transportation because of: (1) inaccessible design of buses and other public transit vehicles; and (2) driving habits which make it impossible to safely use public transportation. These passengers include persons with disabilities, older persons, pregnant women, passengers carrying heavy packages and others. The purpose of the Transit Access Training Toolkit is to help motivate and train bus drivers and other transit staff to provide safe and accessible service to all their passengers and especially to improve service for persons with disabilities and the elderly. It was compiled by Access Exchange International's Tom Rickert for the World Bank.

To download the report please click on the following link:

http://ifrtd.gn.apc.org/new/res/Transit_Access_Training_Toolkit.pdf

Report on Rice Husk Fired Clay Brick Road Paving, Vietnam

Many rural communities produce clay bricks in simple clamps or kilns for their domestic housing needs. Wood or agricultural waste is usually used for the firing process. A prime benefit is that the building materials are locally produced with no significant haulage or import component. Unfortunately, the quality is usually too low for use as durable road paving. A recent gTKP report documents the successful use of rice husk fired clay bricks in Vietnam, where high quality fired clay bricks are produced that are suitable for road surfaces. These experiences suggest that other agricultural waste products could be similarly used for paving quality bricks with appropriate simple kiln technology. The technique has the potential to be an innovative low carbon footprint solution for durable road paving. Click on the following link to download the report:

www.gtkp.com/uploads/public/documents/Themes/GTKP%20Fired%20Clay%20Brick%20Report-a.pdf

New Amnesty Report: Out of Reach - The Cost of Maternal Health in Sierra Leone

The report is about maternal mortality as a human rights issue. It focuses on: the urgent need to remove financial barriers to healthcare, including transport costs. Chapters cover: emergency obstetric care; the accountability of the government of Sierra Leone and its obligations to address maternal healthcare; the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of healthcare services, facilities and goods; and discrimination and other social factors that contribute to undermining women's right to health. This hard hitting report from Amnesty International concludes with steps that should be taken by the government and the international community to reduce maternal mortality and increase respect for women's human rights.

You can download the report here:

www.amnestyusa.org/pdf/SierraL_maternaltrpt.pdf

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NETWORK FOCUS:  
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Transaid

Transaid is an international development organisation that seeks to reduce poverty and improve lives in Africa and across the developing world through creating better transport. They do this by building local management skills and knowledge to make transport cheaper, safer, cleaner and more effective, ensuring better access to the essentials for everyday life such as healthcare, education and economic opportunities. They combine the expertise of the UK and European transport and logistics industry, with experience of working in the developing world and partnering with communities, governments, donors and other organisations to achieve their aims. Here's a snapshot of some recent projects:

Project to Improve Access to Healthcare for Women and Children in Northern Nigeria:

In a country where immunisation rates are among the lowest in the world, this project aims to cover access to healthcare for mothers, newborn babies and children. The role of Transaid is to provide technical assistance for the transport elements of the project.

Transaid Called Upon to Help Improve Vaccine Distribution:

In Jigawa State, Northern Nigeria, Transaid is working with health workers to implement a transport management system. This project focuses on ensuring that recently donated motorcycles are used effectively in order to improve vaccine distribution throughout the state.

Zambia Bicycle Ambulance Project Completed:

Transaid teamed up with World Bicycle Relief and a number of other partners to increase access to healthcare for men, women and children in rural areas by using the bicycle ambulance. Transaid has carried out an evaluation of this project and produced a report which highlights the positive impact of this innovative means of transport.

Transaid are currently seeking transport and development experts - find out more in the 'Opportunities' section above, or visit their website:

www.transaid.org/

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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