
IFRTD Network News

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

September 2009

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Dear Member

Welcome to the September edition of the IFRTD newsletter. We have again this month included an 'Opportunities' section as we wanted to draw your attention to various grants and funding sources that may be relevant to those in the rural transport sector. Part of IFRTD's role is to disseminate information that can help our members' impact on the rural transport debate, and the funding opportunities highlighted below may provide you with the funds to do so!

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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SEACAP Comes to an End

The South East Asia Community Access Programme (SEACAP) ended on 30th June 2009. Initiated by DFID in 2004, the programme aimed to improve the sustainable access of poor people in rural communities to health, education, employment and trade opportunities. Over 30 projects were carried out in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos PDR on low cost and sustainable road construction, many of which we reported in this newsletter. SEACAP's approach allowed planners and constructors to experiment and test new techniques, tailoring each project to the local environment and materials available. This same approach is now being taken forward in Africa under a new DFID funded programme - The Africa Community Access Programme (AFCAP) - which you can read about in the Events section below.

A summary article of SEACAP's work was recently published on the UNOPS website:

www.unops.org/english/howeare/news/Pages/Solving-problems-rural-transport-South-East-Asia.aspx

Vacancies for Labour Based Field Trainers in Vanuatu

The Vanuatu Transport Sector Support Program (VTSSP) is a long term partnership between the Government of Vanuatu and Government of Australia. The goal of VTSSP is social stability and economic growth to create an educated, healthy and wealthy Vanuatu. VTSSP - Phase 1 will support the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities and the Public Works Department to improve rehabilitation and maintenance of road transport infrastructure. Phase 1 will include technical assistance, financing for selected physical road works and support for the development of private sector capacity in road maintenance works. To be considered for this position, applicants will need to have proven experience in the application of labour based methods and implementation training programmes for road network management in developing countries. Closing date: 18th September 2009.

For more information, please click on the following link:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=449

Bus School in Delhi Slums

As a landmark education bill proposing free schooling for children aged between 6 and 14 makes its way through India's parliament, a short slide show recently published on the BBC website highlights how school buses have been converted to mobile classrooms for children in the Delhi slums.

To see the full slide show, click on the following link:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_pictures/8236636.stm

Transport Training Initiative Goes Live

We reported last month on the newly established Transport Training Initiative, with its objective to improve human capacities in the transport sector of developing countries through training transport experts using national training institutes, teachers and appropriate curricula. You can now find out more and get involved directly via their website.

To visit the website, please click on the link below:

<http://www.transport-training-initiative.org/>

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OPPORTUNITIES:  
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Below we have highlighted 4 funding programmes that may be of interest to you. Although the initiatives are broad in reach, rural transport can be seen as a cross-cutting issue underlying many of their focus areas:

The African Women's Development Fund

The African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) funds local, national, sub-regional and regional organisations in Africa working towards women's empowerment. The AWDF is an institutional capacity-building and programme development fund which aims to help build a culture of learning and partnerships within the African women's movement. In addition to awarding grants, the AWDF attempts to strengthen the organisational capacities of its grantees. The AWDF funds work in six thematic areas: Women's Human Rights; Political Participation; Peace Building; Health; Reproductive Rights; Economic Empowerment; and HIV/AIDS:

<http://awdf.org/web/index.php/grantmaking>

Global Funding for Institutional Growth and Organisational Development

The WINGS Global Fund for Community Foundation provides funds to philanthropy-based community foundations and NGOs for institutional growth and organisational development that can lead to sustainability of their interventions. How to apply: Preliminary letters of inquiry, containing a 3-page concept note, are to be submitted before sending actual proposals. The specific reasons for seeking funding from the Foundation could be for obtaining external assistance from national, international or regional consultants, capacity building in governance, fundraising, grant making, strategic planning, exchanges, study visits and sharing of information:

www.wings-globalfund.org

Ananda Foundation Funds NGOs Working on Health, Education and Empowerment

With a particular focus on Africa, the foundation offers grants worldwide to NGOs working with the poorest communities and providing them with sustainable solutions through local empowerment, healthcare services and education opportunities based on an approach that ensures basic human rights, compassion and service to humanity. They support, but are not limited to, the following project areas: Increasing access to basic medical services; Improving the health of vulnerable populations; Providing educational opportunities & scholarships for children; Providing economic empowerment projects for women; Providing economic opportunities for marginalised populations; and Economic & social integration opportunities for the physically challenged & disabled:

www.anandafoundation.org

UNIFEM Fund for Gender Equality

The Fund for Gender Equality is a multi-donor initiative designed to advance high-impact gender equality programmes that focus on women's economic and/or political empowerment at local and national levels. Grants are highly competitive and will support a maximum of 30 innovative, impact-oriented programmes. Grants range from US\$100,000 to US\$5,000,000 and proposed programmes can encompass global, regional, national or local initiatives, but each must make the case that it contributes to the implementation of commitments to gender equality at national and/or local levels that will generate concrete and measurable results in the lives of women and girls during the programme period. Submit your online application between 15th – 30th September 2009:

www.unifem.org/partnerships/fund_for_gender_equality/

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EVENTS:  
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IFRTD West and Central Africa Meeting: Call for Participation

IFRTD's main regional governance meeting for West and Central Africa will take place 2nd - 5th November 2009 in Cotonou, Bénin. It will aim to explore the regional and international implications of IFRTD's recent transition to an independent organisation. It will also act as a hub for the exchange of knowledge, information and experiences for rural transport professionals in the region. Although places are limited there is an open invitation for participants to present and contribute to the debate.

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

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

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of SITRASS

The 9th seminar of the Solidarité Internationale sur les Transports et la Recherche en Afrique Sub-Saharienne (SITRASS) will take place 16th - 18th November in Lomé, Togo, where the organisation will celebrate its 20th birthday. The seminar is open to a broad range of actors and will provide space to explore research surrounding Africa's transport system. With a particular emphasis on methodology and results, it will ask the question: what will be the pressing issues for the sector in years to come?

To find out more click on the link below:

www.ifrtd.org/new/news/full.php?view=447

Workshop Report: AFCAP Rural Access Research Priorities

Held 21st July in Nairobi, Kenya, this workshop elicited a priority list of rural transport research issues and knowledge gaps for the Africa Community Access Programme in Kenya. Attended by a wide spectrum of stakeholders from the road sector, local government, health, education and agriculture, as well as NGOs and Civil Society the workshop was designed to incorporate a wide variety of perspectives. AFCAP is a programme of research and knowledge dissemination funded by the UK government through the Department for International Development (DFID). AFCAP is promoting safe and sustainable rural access in Africa through knowledge sharing between participating countries in order to enhance the uptake of low cost, proven solutions for rural access that maximise the use of local resources. The outcomes of this workshop will help bring together various actors and set the agenda for AFCAP's work in Kenya.

To see the full workshop report please click on the link below:

http://www.ifrtd.org/new/res/AFCAP_researchpriorities_WorkshopReport_july09.doc

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RESOURCES:  
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Intersections: Gender, HIV and Infrastructure Operations Lessons from Selected ADB-Financed Transport Projects

The Asian Development Bank is committed to mainstreaming gender equality approaches in all sectors of its operations. This publication assesses the nexus between gender inequalities, HIV spread and infrastructure development. A desk review and comparative analysis of existing infrastructure sector policies, legal and regulatory frameworks related to HIV prevention in Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, India, Papua New Guinea and Tajikistan identifies factors which may contribute to promoting an effective response to the epidemic. The assessment of, and field visits in, selected ADB transport project sites identified promising practices for a more sustainable and gender-inclusive response.

You can download the report for free from the ADB website:

www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Gender-HIV-Infrastructure-Operations/default.asp

Transport Against HIV/AIDS: Synthesis of Experience and Best Practice Guidelines from the World Bank

The World Bank Transport Group has been proactively mainstreaming HIV responses by assisting client governments to design and implement sector-level interventions. Programmes are most developed in the highest prevalence areas, initially in Sub-Sahara Africa and now also in Asia. Support to the sector includes organising training events to increase staff awareness and knowledge, providing access to research materials and securing funds to develop or scale up intervention programmes. To institutionalise the response, explicit provisions for HIV prevention have been embedded in the standard bidding document. The group also collaborates with local workers organisations with the help of International Transport Workers Federation and the International Labor Organisation. Some lessons learnt are: (i) Strategies must be crafted to meet the specific needs of the country in accordance with the local culture and unique epidemic situations; (ii) Coordination with the health sector and the national AIDS authority is necessary for effective programme design; and (iii) Involving stakeholders from local communities is key to programme success.

Click on the link below to visit the World Bank website and find out more:

<http://tinyurl.com/novqpg>

Ingeniería de Caminos Rurales: Guía de Campo para las Mejores Prácticas de Gestión de Caminos Rurales

Authors: Gordon Keller & James Sherar

Published by: US Agency for International Development (USAID)

The title of this publication translates as: Engineering Rural Roads – a Field Guide to the Best Practice Management of Rural Roads. To maximise utility whilst minimising the negative impacts of low volume rural road projects, feasibility should be analysed in terms of its social, environmental and physical impact. This can best be achieved through an interdisciplinary approach to project design. The main objective of this guide therefore is to help engineers, planners, environmental specialists and road managers alike take good decisions in order to protect the environment whilst constructing high quality low volume roads that benefit the community.

You can download the report (9mb) by clicking on the following link:

http://www.ifrtd.org/new/res/keller_sherar_jan08.pdf

Or to receive a hardcopy, please contact the author directly:

Gordon Keller: gkeller[at]fs.fed.us

YouTube Video: An Introduction to Riders for Health

Though many of you may already be aware of Riders for Health work, this introductory video short outlines simply and effectively the role vehicles and appropriate training can play in enabling health workers in Africa to reach the communities they serve. As Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organisation says: "All the donated drugs in the world won't do any good without an infrastructure for their delivery.". Bubacarr Jallow is a Community Health nurse working in the rural communities of the Gambia. He is responsible for 13,000 people, in 13 villages over a distance of 100km, and he explains how a Riders for Health motorbike facilitates his work: "whenever the communities need me I am able to rush there... and get to them to do the work: so this helps with saving lives.

You can watch the video on the YouTube website:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrhjKTWylfs>

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NETWORK FOCUS:

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Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli Dar es Salaam

Dar es Salaam's Cycling Community - Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli (UWABA) - have for many years been promoting cycling as a sustainable, enjoyable and affordable means of transport in Tanzania's capital. The aims of UWABA are to participate in road planning with the relevant Government and city authorities to ensure that roads include safe cycle lanes, to assist cyclists to know and exercise their rights and responsibilities, to promote cycling as a sustainable means of transport and to improve the environment and safety for cyclists. As UWABA chairperson Mejah Mbuya said: "when asked why other people do not cycle, 78% cited safety as a reason. UWABA allows us to work together to solve cycling problems and to have a voice."

For more information please visit the UWABA website:

www.uwaba.or.tz

UWABA has recently launched a new cycling community newsletter that you can receive by joining their Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uwabanews/>

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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