

IFRTD Network News

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

June 2011

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Dear Member

Welcome to IFRTD's latest newsletter. Remember to check the IFRTD website, as we are adding new articles all the time: www.ifrtd.org.

As always, we 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 Lanka:

TRANSED 2012 Organising Committee meet Sri Lankan organisations

A delegation consisting of Ms. Abha Negi, Chair –Organizing Committee, Dr. Lalita Sen, Member- International Steering Committee, and Co-Chair and Mr. Subhash Chandra Vashishth, Project Coordinator of the TRANSED 2012, the 13th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons have visited Sri Lanka and met the relevant Government Officials and the network of NGOs dealing with the subject. The visit and meetings have been arranged by the IFRTD Asia-Pacific Regional Coordinator and the affiliated national network in Sri Lanka, the Lanka Forum on Rural Transport Development (LFRTD) and the Development with Disability Network (DwDN). The objective of the visit was to get maximum participation relevant organisations from the countries in South Asia and use the TRANSED 2012 as a platform for learning and sharing experiences of implementation of transport policies, supporting the improved mobility and access of disabled and elderly people.

India:

How bicycles are fighting illiteracy and empowering women in India - by Jess Zimmerman

The Indian state of Bihar has only a 33 percent literacy rate for women -- the lowest in the country. But the state government, headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, is turning education for girls around with bicycles. In 2007 Kumar instituted a plan to give schoolgirls money to buy bicycles once they successfully complete Class 8 (eighth grade). With girls now able to easily get themselves to school, Bihar swelled its Class 9 enrollment by 170,000 in the programme's first year.

The state gave out 871,000 bikes in its first three years, and dropouts among girls have dropped from 2.5 million to 1 million per year. The programme has been so successful that other states in India are launching similar initiatives, and Bihar is expanding the programme to include boys too. ("Now, they have no reasons to complain," Kumar wrote on his blog.)

To read more please go to: <http://alttransport.com/2011/06/india-empowers-students-with-free-bicycles/>

Indonesia:

Programme on Bicycles for Rural Community in Indonesia

Arif Wismadi of the Indonesian National Forum Group (IFGRTD) writes;

The 'Programme on Bicycles for Rural Community' is a social programme organized by the Indonesia Forum Group for Rural Transport and Development (IFGRTD). The main purpose of this programme is to provide transportation access (bicycle) for rural community to support their mobility. The groups of society eligible for this programme may include farmer groups, high school students and women groups. Having mobility access tools, it is expected that the members of rural community groups could increase their income and welfare.

The programme has been softly launched on April 6, 2010 in Jakarta. For the first batch, IFGRTD had distributed bicycles to students of SMA Purwa Bakti, Cileungsi, West Java Province. For the second and the third batches, the programme is targeted for Central Java and East Java Provinces. Furthermore, in the short future, the programme will be national wide, covering all over Indonesia.

For this programme, sponsorship is opened for any organization or donor. The sponsor can

be fresh money or bicycle. For more detail about the programme, please contact the IFGRD Secretariat through ifgrtd@gmail.com.

The 14th FSTPT International Symposium

The Indonesian Inter University Transport Studies Forum, abbreviated as FSTPT, was founded on December 2, 1998 in Bandung. FSTPT is aimed at encouraging quality improvement on teaching-learning, research and community service activities related to transportation among higher education.

Nepal:

District Road Support Programme (DRSP), Nepal wins IRF award

Jun Hada, SDC Nepal reports from Nepal:

The Geneva based, International Roads Federation (IRF) announces various training and knowledge sharing workshops, conferences and seminars every year. In each of such events, they give recognitions and felicitate few initiatives in the road sector who are doing exemplary works. Early this year, IRF announced 'In a road' contest, an Innovation Award for Road Transport in Developing countries. A number of entries were submitted from various organizations including District Roads Support Project from around the world working in the road sector. Based on the submissions of entry papers by various organizations/projects, IRF selected DRSP for second place for the real impacts that DRSP made on transport and accessibility in villages of rural Nepal. IRF recognized DRSP's innovations, sustainable and good practices in this field, which has contributed to improve livelihoods of disadvantaged rural population in Nepal through direct cash incomes, skills and trades related to road construction and maintenance.

The first place winner is Rajasthan Mega Highway Project of India, and the third place winner is Miros Road Accident Analysis and Database System of Malaysia. IRF, by honouring excellence and innovation in transport, the awards showcase the positive impact of improved road infrastructure and transport conditions on the quality of life of communities and its vital contribution to poverty reduction, thus encouraging decision-makers and practitioners worldwide to scale-up such solutions for increased impacts. The Award ceremony took place on 10 May 2011 at the IRF Symposium 'Providing Infrastructure that improves Road Safety' in Bucharest, Romania.

For more details of DRSP, please go through the page of DRSP in SDC Nepal portal with link: http://www.swiss-cooperation.admin.ch/nepal/en/Home/District_Roads_Support_Programme_DRSP_Phase_4/drsp_more

AfDB Invests USD 806 Million in African Transport Sector

Tunis, 21 December 2010 - In line with the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group's 2008-2012 Medium-Term Strategy which has transport as one of its core intervention areas in the Regional Member Countries, the institution's Boards of directors approved USD 806.1 million loans and grants to finance a number of national and multinational transport infrastructure and related projects on the continent in the past two months.

The operations concern Morocco, Kenya, Ghana, Congo, Central African Republic, Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Kingdom of Morocco was among the beneficiaries with the approval of 300 million euros to finance the Tangier-Marrakech Railway Line Project.

Link: <http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/afdb-invests-usd-806-million-in-african-transport-sector-7630/>

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OPPORTUNITIES:  
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TRANSED 2012 – Deadline for abstracts approaching

30th June, 2011 is the deadline for submitting an abstract for the 13th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED 2012), to be held in New Delhi, India September 17-21, 2012.

Hosted by Svayam in partnership with Government of NCT of Delhi and Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, the conference is co-sponsored by Transport Research Board (USA).

Abstracts may be developed for either a paper or a poster. The theme of the conference is "Seamless Access for All: Universal design for transport systems and infrastructure as a key element in the creation of livable cities."

Please note that the abstracts are required to be submitted on line at link: http://www.transed2012.in/Abstract_Paper_Submission.aspx

The organisers encourage all interested persons, academicians, research institutions, DPOs, non-government organizations and friends to consider submitting an abstract for this important conference independently or in collaboration with other professionals. Also, please feel free to circulate this call for abstracts to any other parties who might be interested in submitting an abstract or attending the conference.

For specific questions about the conference, please go to: <http://www.transed2012.in> or write to secretariat@transed2012.in.

Department TPR / Steunpunt Goederenstromen - 5 research jobs on offer

The Department of Transport and Regional Economics / Steunpunt Goederenstromen of the University of Antwerp has five research jobs on offer:

- in transport and maritime economics
- in hinterland transport analysis
- in transport infrastructure finance
- in city and last-mile logistics
- in macro-economic transport analysis

For each position, a master degree in applied economics and logistics or related is requested, with outstanding results. A quantitative approach is highly recommended.

Each position features full remuneration under a doctoral scholarship. Positions are for one year to start, with possibility of extension after positive evaluation.

Applications are due before 25 June. Positions are to start in the summer of 2011. Please see: http://www.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=*TPR&n=35270

Reinventing Parking: Urban India gropes for parking solutions

Karthik Rao-Cavale tackles parking policy in India's cities in a recent post on his blog, "India lives in her cities too!" It is a really good overview with clear thinking. Certainly, India's parking policy debates urgently need clearer thinking!

He makes an excellent point about the opportunity India has to get its parking policies on track NOW. Read more: <http://www.reinventingparking.org/2011/06/urban-india-gropes-for-parking.html>

Call for papers - International Scientific Conference on "Sustainable Land Use and Rural Development in Mountain Areas"

The Uplands Program is organizing a three day scientific conference on Sustainable Land Use and Rural Development in Mountain Areas at Hohenheim University in Stuttgart from 16-18 April 2012.

This conference aims to bring together international experts to share knowledge, lessons learned and experiences from across the globe related to sustainable mountain development with an emphasis on developing countries. The focus will be on knowledge that cuts across scientific disciplines and combines insights from the social and natural sciences.

Organisers are currently inviting contributions for 15 minute oral or 5 minute poster presentations. Extended abstracts of these presentations (400-600 words in length) are to be submitted to the conference website until 1 November 2011. Additional information about the conference is also available from the site: <https://uplands2012.uni-hohenheim.de>

Uplands program look forward to your contributions and to meeting you in Hohenheim in April 2012.

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EVENTS:  
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International Road Federation: Green Public Procurement & Technology Advancements in the Road sector - 20 September 2011 - Brussels, Belgium

The concept of Green Public Procurement has been widely recognised in recent years as a useful tool for driving the market for greener products and services and reducing the environmental impacts of public authorities activities. To which extent can this be effective in the road sector?

More information: <http://www.irfnet.ch/eventdetail.php?catid=1&id=382>

International Road Federation: 6th IRF Conference on Road Safety and Intertraffic India Exhibition - 03-05 October 2011 - New Delhi, India

This conference will be the sixth edition of the highly successful IRF Regional Conference on Road Safety since 2006. The Conference will bring together a unique set of international and local researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

More information: <http://www.irfnet.ch/eventdetail.php?catid=1&id=317>

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ADB News: The poor state of pedestrian facilities in some Asian cities

The poor state of pedestrian facilities in some Asian cities was highlighted in the report published by the Asian Development Bank and the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities. Ironically, the lowest walkability ratings are found to be along public transport terminals and schools where footpaths, pedestrian amenities and access for persons-with-disabilities are sorely lacking. Commercial areas get the highest walkability rating followed by residential areas. The walkability ratings were derived from field surveys where pedestrian facilities and the general walking environment were assessed.

The average walkability rating for the 13 cities was 58 out of 100.

Cities included in the survey are Cebu, Davao and Manila (Philippines), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam), Hong Kong and Lanzhou (China), Jakarta (Indonesia), Karachi (Pakistan), Kathmandu (Nepal), Kota (India) and Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia).

A sad fact is that there is a wide gap between investments made by cities for pedestrians and for motorized vehicles. Asian cities have traditionally been cities of walkers. If pedestrian facilities are more integrated and made comfortable, more people will choose to walk instead of drive resulting to less fuel consumption and less air pollution," says Bert Fabian, Transport Programme Manager of the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities.

Read the full report: <http://cleanairinitiative.org/portal/sites/default/files/documents/ADB-WP17-Walkability-Pedestrian-Facilities-Asian-Cities.pdf>

For more information, visit:

Walkability in Asian Cities: <http://cleanairinitiative.org/portal/WalkabilityAsian>

Walkability in Indian Cities: <http://cleanairinitiative.org/portal/India-walkability>

Accessible Transportation around the World – June 2011 Newsletter

The June edition of Accessible Transportation around the world, the Bi-Annual news letter of the Access Exchange International, is out. The pdf format of the newsletter, will soon be available on their website URL: <http://www.globalride-sf.org/news.html>

Sail Transport Network is Unfurling - by Jan Lundberg

A sail transport revival is afoot and afloat around the world. As the cheap, easy crude oil has mostly been extracted from the Earth and spewed into the sky and water, the desirability and economics of sail power get stronger.

Sail Transport Network (STN) is an open project for almost anyone to participate in. Most of the inhabited world is coastal or on rivers.

STN was put forward originally by Culture Change in 1999. We sail- transport activists envision linking coastal communities, islands, and river communities together sustainably -- without the extreme petroleum dependency we have known.

Post-petroleum travel and shipment of goods are about communication and exchange that we might have a hard time doing without. Long distances may be bridged only by sail in the fairly near future.

However necessary this might be, sail power will allow any local surpluses to be traded. This helps specialized areas gain diverse sources of needed products, skills, heirloom seeds, etc.

A few years ago sail transport was thought to be off on the distant horizon and impractical in the "real world." This is changing rapidly.

You can read more at: <http://www.culturechange.org/cms/content/view/734/1/>

gTKP is now fully integrated to the IRF

gTKP (the global Transport Knowledge Practice) has now been fully integrated into the International Road Federation (IRF) and will continue to build on its reputation as a comprehensive and respected Knowledge Library, as well as a leading Resource Centre of Excellence. The dedicated website at www.gtkp.com has been streamlined to better meet your needs, and we have added important additional content - including a whole new section devoted to Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). The website is constantly updated to include the latest state-of-the-art information on road infrastructure, access and transport; and all registered users are updated monthly regarding key additions to gTKP's unique virtual library.

Pickup Modifications for Rural Transport Services in Cambodia – Matthew Ericson, Journal of Public Transportation, Vol 14, No 1, 2011

This paper regards the operation of rural public transport services provided by pickup trucks and minibuses in Cambodia. A particular emphasis is placed on the importance of pickup transport services to economic activity. The results reveal that passengers traveling for economic reasons constitute 66 percent of passengers and carry 77 percent of the cargo weight. Transport operators may be modifying vehicles in response to their passengers' commercial requirements. This paper highlights both the economic benefits and safety risks of such modifications.

To read more please go to: <http://www.nctr.usf.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/JPT14-1Ericson.pdf>

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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