
IFRTD Network News

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

January 2011

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Dear Member

Welcome to the first IFRTD newsletter of 2011! Only 10 days in to the new year and there is plenty to report both from within the IFRTD network and the wider field of rural transport. Important meetings alongside key resources and fundraising opportunities are brought together below. If you have not seen them already, do check out the two latest editions of IFRTD's Forum News for an in-depth look at the links between mobility and health and how the gender and transport debate has progressed in recent years.

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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The 2010 IFRTD Executive Committee Meeting

Between 6th-10th December 2010 the Executive Committee Meeting of IFRTD took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka - the first time that an ECM has taken place in the South. Many thanks to the Lanka Forum for Rural Transport and Development for organising this excellent event. The Business Plan for the coming two years was presented for discussion and the regions presented their own strategic plans. IFRTD organised two field visits to community-run bus projects managed by Sri Lankan communities, set up to address the challenges they face accessing services and amenities. Both field visits proved very inspiring for the ECM members and a final day policy workshop on "socially responsible transport" reached out to broader civil society and covered themes such as disability and the environment. The ECM minutes, the proceedings and presentations of the policy workshop will soon be uploaded to our website.

Please click on the link below to find out more:

www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=601

Rural Roads Boost Ethnic Minority Livelihoods in Vietnam

The UK's Department for International Development report on their rural road building programme in the Hoa Binh province of Vietnam. They tell the story of Thich, a local farmer who had to walk 25 kilometres in mountainous terrain to get to the local markets. Life was tough and trading produce was a slow process. "I rarely went anywhere, unless it was necessary," recalls Thich. "Perhaps my only trip in a week was to go to the market to exchange maize and cassava for salt and cooking oil, which is critical for our daily life." A new road built as part of the DFID project has benefitted Thich's family and some 400 other ethnic minority households. 70% of them now own a motorbike. Thich and his wife Som have been able to open up a small grocery store to improve the family income. "We now can earn around 1.5 million VND [around £50] a month altogether," says Som. "And my kids can go to school by bicycle. It's made a big difference."

Please click on the link below to read the full blog article:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Case-Studies/2010/Rural-roads-boost-ethnic-minority-livelihoods-in-Vietnam-/>

Transport in Mountains: Godavari Statement of Intent

Between 21st - 27th November, the international workshop on Transport in Mountains took place at the Godavari Village Resort in Nepal. The workshop was jointly organised by IFRTD and its affiliate in Nepal, the Nepal Forum for Rural Transport and Development (NFRTD), with the active collaboration and sponsorship of Helvetas Nepal, Practical Action Nepal, SKaT (the Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development) and DFID (the UK Department for International Development). The workshop was attended by approximately 50 participants from ten countries from all over the world. The presentations were

insightful, covering a broad range of topics and papers presented will soon be available for download. The workshop concluded with the Godavari Statement of Intent which outlines key principles and intentions for collaboration from this diverse and expert group of professionals. Please visit the workshop's own mini-website for the proceedings, papers and Godavari Statement of Intent:

<http://ifrtd.gn.apc.org/mountains/>

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OPPORTUNITIES:

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EC Call for Proposals: Research for Sustainable Development

The European Commission has issued an open call for proposals under their Research for Sustainable Development Programme. The overall objective of this call is to contribute to sustainable development of Caribbean and Pacific countries belonging to the ACP Group of States through research in science and technologies. The specific objective of this call for proposals is to support research projects in the fields of: agriculture and post harvest; renewable and sustainable energy; water and sanitation; and climate change. Projects should contribute to the fight against poverty in the target countries and improve their resilience. The deadline for submitting proposals is 31st January 2011.

For more information please visit the Funds for NGOs website:

www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/call-proposals-research-sustainable-development-programme#ixzz1AYbOnFrT

WWSF Prize 2011: Women's Creativity in Rural Life

Awarded since 1994 by Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) - an international, non-profit, humanitarian NGO serving the implementation of women's and children's rights - the prize honours women and women's groups around the world exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment for the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities. While rural women are vital in providing examples of sound practice in their communities, they still do not have full access to the tools needed for development, such as education, credit, land rights and participation in decision making. WWSF hopes that by highlighting inspirational women it can contribute to addressing the eradication of rural poverty, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. Deadline: 31st March.

Please visit the WWSF website for more information:

www.woman.ch/index.php?page=nomination-guidelines&hl=en_US

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EVENTS:

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Development of Land Transport Systems

This 16 day programme will be held between 15th February–2nd March at the Galilee International Management Institute Study Centre, Israel. It aims to provide participants with in-depth training to fulfill 3 main objectives: to assist public transport managers to efficiently plan and manage their organisations; to increase the capacities and competence in public transport planning; to allow more strategic overlook on the development of infrastructure. As course organisers explain: "Transport systems should ensure mobility and

accessibility at an acceptable level of safety and comfort, in an environment-friendly manner for the movement of people and goods. Additionally it should encourage patterns of growth and economic activity by providing access to far-flung communities.”

For more information please click on the following link:

www.galilcol.ac.il/page.asp?id=34

PIARC: Sustainability of Rural Road Networks

This PIARC seminar will take place in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 10th-12th March. The primary objective of the seminar is to raise awareness on the importance of the provision and maintenance of sustainable rural road networks for the benefit of communities. This seminar will provide a platform for experts to share experiences and discuss issues and challenges related to the planning, provision and maintenance of rural roads in a sustainable manner. Innovations regarding the participation of local communities in the whole process are also part of the overall programme. Key topics include: the Bolivian experience in implementing the Pro-Road programme and its future challenges; best practices for planners and practitioners; and maximising community participation in rural roads.

For more information please visit the PIARC website:

www.piarc.org/en/congresses-seminars/3083.htm

Enhancing Green & Sustainable Transport for Africa and the Middle East

This two day conference is jointly organised by the Arab Center for Transport Studies and Research (ACTSR) and the International Road Federation and will take place in Egypt between 14th-15th June. Themes to be covered: sustainable transport planning and design; green construction and maintenance; green management and operation; and sustainable urban mobility. An exhibition space will also be organised.

For more information please visit the IRF website:

www.irfnet.org/eventdetail.php?catid=1&id=332

Regional Symposium: Providing Infrastructure that Improves Road Safety

This IRF organised symposium will take place 10th-11th May 2011, in Bucharest, Romania. It will examine the major road infrastructure improvement measures that reduce fatalities and injuries on the roads, such as: forgiving road design; black spot management; data collection; traffic studies; road safety audits; sharing regional experience; and ensuring institutional capacity. Special attention will be paid to low-cost solutions for infrastructure improvement. A launch ceremony will also take place for the Decade of Action on Road Safety.

For more information please visit the IRF website:

www.irfnet.ch/mediadetail.php?catid=2&id=240&title=Bucharest:%20IRF%20launch%20of%20the%20Decade%20of%20Action

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RESOURCES:  
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Curso Virtual de Educación Vial para Docentes

Given the importance of education in reducing road accidents and fatalities the Instituto de Seguridad y Educación Vial (the Institute of Road Safety and Education) has developed this online virtual road safety learning course for students and teachers. It contains materials,

presentations and interactive fora that are intended to be used by educational institutions wanting to integrate road safety into curriculums.

Please click on the following link for more information (in Spanish):

www.isev.com.ar/uploads/CursoDocentesOnlineEduVial.pdf

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NETWORK FOCUS:  
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A reminder that two new editions of IFRTD's Forum News series are available to download:

Forum News 15.2: Health and Transport - a Pioneering Partnership

Although the impact of transport interventions on livelihoods has been acknowledged and used as a means to achieve rural development, our understanding of the dynamics of health and mobility in low-income settings has lagged behind and there is a lack of synergy between the health and transport sectors. In this issue of Forum News we share the key findings of IFRTD's pioneering Mobility and Health Networked Research Programme, highlighting the breadth of the studies, the innovative research approach, ways in which the research is already being used to leverage change and how you can join the community.

To read the full edition of this Forum News please click on the link below:

www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=596

Forum News 15.3: Why are we Still Talking About Women Headloading?

Over 20 years ago in a remote district of Tanzania, the Makete Integrated Rural Transport Project (MIRTP) initiated the notion of gender disaggregating household travel data and in doing so demonstrated the unequal transport burden borne by women and girls. IFRTD was established in the aftermath of MIRTP and we can identify various significant milestones in our journey since: the pioneering Balancing the Load research project; support to the Gender and Transport Network (Gatnet) and this year an important international workshop on gender and transport.

This edition of Forum News aims to maintain this momentum. Alongside a melting pot of the latest research findings, resources and project news, we also bring together the reflections of long time gender and transport champions to ask how, if at all, the agenda has moved forward, where do the gaps remain and where should we be heading?

To read the full edition of this Forum News please click on the link below:

www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=597

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT:  
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This occasional series explores the wider relationship between transport and current development thinking. We welcome your contributions to future 'Food for Thought' editions.

On the Delhi Metro: an Ethnographic View

This essay, featured in 'Economic and Political weekly' starts with a quote from Delhi Metro Managing Director, Elattuvalapil Sreedharan: "The [Delhi] Metro will totally transform our

social culture giving us a sense of discipline, cleanliness and enhance multifold development of this cosmopolitan city". Public transit systems have long been a way to determine the "health" of cities and this essay explores how the metro has given citizens greater autonomy. But this inextricably comes with novel constraints. It focuses on the new cultural geography that is created by the physical imposition of the metro, the spaces created within the metro itself (on trains and in stations) and spatial imaginaries experienced by individual riders.

You can view the full essay online here:

www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/Delhi%20Metro_0.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.

Email: info@ifrtd.org

Phone: +44 (0) 20 72508323

Websites: www.ifrtd.org / www.mobilityandhealth.org / www.ruralwaterways.org

Company registered in England and Wales.

Company Number: 6835743

Registered Address: IFRTD, CAN Mezzanine, 49-51 East Road, London, N1 6AH, UK
