
IFRTD Network News

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

February 2011

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Dear Member

Hello and welcome to IFRTD's February newsletter. From the mountains of Nepal to the lowlands of Paos Koto, Senegal, we bring you a roundup of the latest rural transport news from around the globe. Please do check out the 'Rural Transport Management and Financing' workshop being organised by IFRTD and partners in the events section below and 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

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NEWS:  
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India's Road-Building Rage

This excellent article argues that whilst India's new roads are undoubtedly great enablers, they cannot fulfill the aspirations of many ordinary Indians. As author Anurag Behar says "One can think of very few physical assets whose economic multiplier is greater than roads. Roads change lives and economies wherever they go." Yet he explains, "there are no overhead bridges or underpasses. Nothing that has been designed and built for pedestrians to cross the highways across stretches of thousands of kilometres, because the truth is that people like us, who determine how and where the roads will be made, rarely cross such roads. They usually drive on them. Those who routinely cross the roads, especially in the thousands of small villages and towns, have no voice in the making of these roads. Symbolic of where India is going, and how it is getting there, is the way we have gone about building roads to prosperity, which are also our roads to perdition."

To read the original article, please click on the link below:

www.livemint.com/2011/01/26204034/India8217s-roadbuilding-ra.html?h=B#

New GIZ Project: TRANSfer – Towards Climate-Friendly Transport Technologies and Measures

This new project hopes to enable decision-makers in developing countries to devise climate change strategies that are appropriate to their own transport sectors. The intention is to reduce the use of motorised transport that currently accounts for 19% of global energy consumption and is responsible for 23% of fossil-fuel related carbon dioxide emissions. The project uses the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) framework, where emission reduction measures are voluntarily set by developing countries as part of their commitment to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. The 3-year project is being run by the GIZ and funded by the German Environment Ministry. During the project, GIZ will develop a handbook on "Navigating Transport NAMAs". The handbook will be based on south-south networks of countries and practical implementation within three motivated partner countries. The project is looking for developing country transport decision-makers to get involved.

Please click on the link below to find out more:

www.transport2012.org/bridging/ressources/documents/2/1072.factsheet_TRANSfer_Jan2011_EN.pdf

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OPPORTUNITIES:  
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Concept Notes Invited for USAID's Global Development Alliance

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking concept notes for its Global Development Alliance (GDA) programme, a public-private alliance model for improving social and economic conditions in developing countries. It invites interest from

prospective partner organisations to form innovative Global Development Alliances that contribute significantly towards USAID's key initiatives: addressing issues of global health, climate change, food security, water, technology and innovation. The concept notes will be accepted through to 30 September 2011.

For more information please visit the Funds for NGOs website:

www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/concept-notes-invited-usaids-global-development-alliance#ixzz1Cv6mV5lx

Foundation Ensemble Funding Programme: Sustainable Development and Job Creation

This funding programme from the 'Foundation Ensemble' aims to support the emergence of local, environmentally friendly and job-creating microstructures. It covers the areas of water and sanitation and sustainable development, with a particular focus on the following seven countries: Benin, Malawi, Mozambique, Cambodia, India, Laos and Peru. Funding is for euro 50,000 per year up to a maximum of 5 years.

Please visit the Foundation Ensemble website for more information:

www.fondationensemble.org/appel_projet/appel_a_projets_GB_2011.pdf

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EVENTS:  
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Training and Workshop on Rural Transport Management and Financing

This workshop intends to build capacity for rural transport planning, management and financing by focusing on policy solutions to rural infrastructure. It is being organised by IFRTD in partnership with the Indonesian Center for Transportation and Logistical Studies (PUSTRAL), the Indonesian Forum Group for Rural Transport and Development (IFGRTD) and the Master's Programme in Management and Infrastructure and community Development (MICD) and will take place between 21 February - 4 March in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The workshop is targeted at rural transport policy and decision-makers from national and international agencies, members of transportation organisations, private sector, academics, NGOs and research institutions. The programme includes field visits and lectures by international experts. It is a fantastic opportunity to expand your knowledge, increase your professional network and learn and share experiences from various parts of the world.

For more information and an application form, please click on the following link:

www.ifrtd.org/files/uploads/Rural%20transport%20management_financingTrainingWorkshop.pdf

TRANSED 2012: Call for Abstracts

The 13th International Conference on 'Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons' - TRANSED 2012 - will be held in New Delhi, India, from 17 - 21 September 2012. Organised since 1978, this conference reviews advances in research, profiles outstanding international experiences and technological innovations in response to the mobility challenges of the elderly and people with disabilities. The call for abstracts is open and interested parties should submit their abstracts on or before 30 March, 2011. The main focus of TRANSED 2012 is "Seamless access for all: universal design in transport systems and built infrastructure, a key element in the creation of liveable cities." There are many sub-themes that should interest IFRTD members.

For more information please visit the TRANSED website:
www.transted2012.in/

2nd World Landslide Forum: Call for Abstracts

The Second World Landslide Forum will take place 3 - 9 October 2011 in Rome, Italy, at the headquarters of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). It will provide a global cross-cutting information and cooperation platform for all types of organisations and individuals that contribute to landslide research, practice, education and decision-making and are willing to strengthen landslide and other related Earth system risk reduction strategies. The emphasis of this forum will be "putting science into practice" with special attention given to actual implementation of technology and research in everyday applications and procedures. Deadline for receiving abstracts is 15 March 2011.

For more information please visit the event website:
www.wlf2.org/home/home-page

Reminder: PIARC - Sustainability of Rural Road Networks

This PIARC seminar will take place in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 10 - 12 March 2011. 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 practice 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

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RESOURCES:  
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The Impact of the Bicycle in Paos Koto, Senegal

This excellent video charts how bicycles have transformed the lives of villagers in Paos Koto, Senegal. Bicycles have been adapted to become ambulances, farm vehicles and school transport. The video tells the story of how one woman's entrepreneurial flare enabled her to establish a small business selling flavoured ice to villagers and how she hopes a second bicycle will allow her reach a wider market for her goods.

Please click on the following link to watch the video:
www.articlesbase.com/videos/5min/502318334

Are Rural Road Investments Alone Sufficient to Generate Transport Flows?

This World Bank paper draws lessons from an original randomised experiment in Malawi to understand why roads in relatively good condition in rural areas are not frequented by buses. As the abstract explains: "a minibus service was subsidised over a six-month period over a distance of 20 kilometres to serve five villages. Using randomly allocated prices for use of the bus, this experiment demonstrates that at very low prices, bus usage is high. Bus usage decreases rapidly with increased prices. However, based on the results on take-up

and minibus provider surveys, the experiment demonstrates that at any price, low (with high usage) or high (with low usage), a bus service provider never breaks even on this road. This can contribute to explaining why walking or cycling is so widespread on most rural roads in Sub-Saharan Africa. In terms of policy implications, this experiment explains that motorised services need to be subsidised; otherwise a road in good condition will most probably not lead to the provision of service at an affordable price for the local population."

You can download the paper from the World Bank website:

<http://tinyurl.com/6b2hb3m>

Steering the Way to Greener Road Infrastructure

The International Road Federation affirmed its commitment to the development of environmentally sustainable roads as an investment in the long-term prosperity of both planet and society in a newly released policy statement. Launched simultaneously in Geneva, Washington DC, New Delhi, Africa, Australia and New Zealand, it set out 4 priorities: Safeguard the environment to the maximum extent possible; Mitigate any adverse effects through pro-active consideration of environmental issues at every stage of planning and implementation; Manage and use resources efficiently; Encourage and provide incentives for ongoing innovation. IRF Chairman Kiran Kapila said "IRF believes that if widely adopted and wisely applied, these recommendations will prove that economic development and protection of the environment need not be irreconcilable goals; and that viable green road infrastructure is today a reality."

You can find out more from the IRF website:

www.irfnet.org/files-upload/NewsLetter/2011/pressrelease_20110125/statement_enviro_WEB_final.pdf

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NETWORK FOCUS:  
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New Transport in Mountains International Discussion Group

The provision and maintenance of access in mountainous areas has long been the subject of public controversy. Some parts of society see transportation as modernisation, others see transport as a disturbance to fragile social and economic contexts, geology, hydrology and ecology. As a result of the International workshop on Transport in the Mountains held on this subject in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 21 - 27 November 2010, an international discussion list has now been established to continue the conversation, share and exchange experiences and explore some of these controversies in depth, learning from one another and identifying viable solutions.

You can join this group by clicking on the following link:

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

To find out more about these issues and the results of the Kathmandu workshop, please click on the following link:

www.ifrtd.org/mountains/index.php

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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