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## **IFRTD Network News**

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

July 2010

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### **In this issue:**

#### **NEWS:**

- Bridging the Health and Transport Divide
- Rural Water Transport: Call for Resources
- IFRTD East and Southern Africa Maps Road Ahead

#### **OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Farm Radio International: Radio Scriptwriting Competition on Healthy Communities
- UN Natural Resources Forum: Invitation to Contribute to Special Transport Edition

#### **EVENTS:**

- Regional Conference on Innovations in Road Financing and Management
- Benin: Labour-Based Employment Intensive Approaches in the Transport Sector
- Preserving Africa's Road Network

#### **RESOURCES:**

- Bangladesh: Country Profile
- Small Structures for Rural Roads: A Practical Planning, Design, Construction & Maintenance Guide
- Seguridad Vial: Bases Para el Entendimiento de la Problemática del Tránsito y la Seguridad Vial: Fascículo 6, Circulación

#### **NETWORK FOCUS:**

- Gender, Economic Integration and Cross-Border Infrastructure Development: Post Workshop Update

Dear Member

Welcome to the July edition of the IFRTD newsletter. There has been a great diversity of activity within the Forum recently and we bring you a snapshot of this below. It includes reinvigorating the rural water transport debate, the road ahead for IFRTD East and Southern Africa, gender and transport in the Greater Mekong sub-region and reflections from IFRTD's Executive Director Maria Arce on the role of transport in the health of rural communities.

As always, we welcome your additions to our websites and this e-newsletter. Please send your contributions to [newsletter@ifrtd.org](mailto: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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### **Bridging the Health and Transport Divide**

As IFRTD Executive Director Maria Arce Moreira explains in the latest edition of the UK Development magazine 'The Networker': "My grandmother gave birth to seventeen children, nine of which died before five years of age. In all cases she either could not afford or could not access health assistance on time to save her children." Maria argues that for many women, this devastating situation has not changed much and underlines the threat that we will not achieve the health related MDGs 4 and 5. The role of transport in the health of rural communities needs to be better understood. While the World Bank Transport Strategy Business Plan recognises that between 40% and 60% of the population in developing countries live at least 8km from a health service, and that 1.2 billion of the world's poor lack access to an all-weather road, transport interventions tend to emphasise either road infrastructure or a reduction of emissions in view of climate change. We must also look beyond these issues and include intermediate means of transport, participatory planning and community managed systems, cross-sectoral interventions and a strong gender approach as key elements to ensure transport plays its full part in achieving the health-related MDGs.

To read Maria's full article online please click on the following link:

[www.bond.org.uk/data/files/the\\_networker\\_junejuly\\_2010\\_issue\\_92.pdf](http://www.bond.org.uk/data/files/the_networker_junejuly_2010_issue_92.pdf)

### **Rural Water Transport: Call for Resources**

Have you been involved in, or do you know of any, recent work on Rural Water Transport? IFRTD is updating its web pages and library on RWT and would like to reinvigorate the debate on the development and usage of rural waterways. We are interested in hearing about any recent RWT research or project work, but in particular would like more resources on: The development of rural waterways as a means of reducing carbon emissions (climate change mitigation); Development of rural waterways to allow local communities to adapt to environmental changes brought about by climate change; The potential of rural waterway development to minimise localised environmental impact; As an alternative to road building or similar schemes.

If you have resources to share please contact:

Juliette Harries, IFRTD Network and Events Coordinator: [juliette.harries\[at\]ifrtd.org](mailto:juliette.harries@ifrtd.org)

If you would like to know more about RWT, or join IFRTD's rural waterways email discussion group, please visit the IFRTD Waterways and Livelihoods website:

[www.ruralwaterways.org](http://www.ruralwaterways.org)

### **IFRTD East and Southern Africa Maps Road Ahead**

IFRTD's East and Southern Africa region is embarking on an all-encompassing strategic review of its activities. In collaboration with the ESA Advisory Committee, NFGs, IFRTD Executive Director and external stakeholders a strategic plan will be drafted over the coming months that elaborates: vision, mission, values, programmatic themes, organisational structure and governance of the regional network. This participatory process will culminate

in the presentation of a 3 year Strategic Plan to the IFRTD Board and Advisory Committee in December 2010. Dr Kenneth Odero (Kenya) has been nominated as an additional member of the ESA Advisory Committee. He joins other committee members: Dr. Taye Berhanu (Ethiopia), Tatenda Mbara (Zimbabwe) and Light Chobya (Tanzania).

For more information please contact:

Regional Coordinator for East and Southern Africa, Peter Njenga: peter.njenga[at]ifrtd.org

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OPPORTUNITIES:

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### **Farm Radio International: Radio Scriptwriting Competition on Healthy Communities**

Farm Radio International is launching a radio scriptwriting competition on healthy communities in sub-Saharan Africa. The competition is open to organisations and individuals that work with radio in Africa, including radio stations, broadcasters, production organisations, NGOs, farmers' associations, health NGOs interested in collaborating with a local radio station and others. Competitors are invited to submit a radio script that tells the true story of a local initiative that is contributing to a healthy community. To assist participants with writing the radio scripts, a free 10-week online scriptwriting training course will be offered beginning 16th August 2010. Script entries must be received no later than 1st November 2010.

For more information please visit the competition website:

<http://scriptcompetition.farmradio.org/>

### **UN Natural Resources Forum: Invitation to Contribute to Special Transport Edition**

The United Nations Sustainable Development Journal - NRF - is inviting your views on the following question for the Viewpoints section of the November 2010 issue: "How can the stigma of public transport as the "poor man's vehicle" be overcome to enhance sustainability and climate change mitigation?" The Viewpoints section offers a platform for academics, practitioners and experts to share their perspectives. Each entry should be 200 words or less addressing the above question. The deadline for submission is 15th August 2010.

Please submit your contribution directly to the following address with your name, title, affiliation and contact details:

nrforum[at]un.org

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EVENTS:

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### **Regional Conference on Innovations in Road Financing and Management**

This conference is being organised by the Roads Fund Board of Tanzania to commemorate 10 years since it was established. The conference has been designed to gather global expertise and will take place 26th – 28th August 2010, in Arusha, Tanzania. The conference will focus on: a) Road financing - in developing countries a number of alternative sources of funding are being sought to overcome inadequate and unsustainable traditional sources; b) Road management - a different growth pathway is called for driven by a range of economic,

social and environmental challenges, including poverty alleviation, climate change, congestion and the provision of basic mobility among others. To find out more about this event please click on the link below:

[www.ifrtd.org/en/events\\_full.php?id=246](http://www.ifrtd.org/en/events_full.php?id=246)

### **Benin: Labour-Based Employment Intensive Approaches in the Transport Sector**

This Forum will take place in Parakou, Benin between 2nd – 7th August 2010. This special event is being organised jointly by DANIDA, the Ministry in charge of Transport and Infrastructures and COWI (National Agency in charge of implementing the Transport sector Programmes). IFRTD West and Central Africa Regional Coordinator Guy Kemtsop has been invited as a resource person to benchmark the issue of job creation in labour-based approaches. The Forum will draw on the social, financial and technical expertise of participants who will attend from a variety of sectors.

For more details please contact:

Mr. DOSSOU Samuel: [samdossou\[at\]yahoo.fr](mailto:samdossou@yahoo.fr)

### **Preserving Africa's Road Network**

Held every four years, coinciding this time with the South African Road Federation's 60th anniversary, this SARF/IRF regional conference will take place 11th - 13th October 2010, in Cape Town, South Africa. From event organisers: "Road networks throughout sub-Saharan Africa have led to significantly increased road user costs and increased death and injuries from incidents and collisions caused by poor road conditions. There is thus a compelling need for road authorities within this region to take pre-emptive steps to assure the preservation and development of road networks on the subcontinent. This conference will bring together political and executive decision-makers as well as professionals and researchers in the roads field to examine the state of the African road network and identify means to redress the situation through efficient delivery, management and cost effective operations. Two one-day post-conference workshops will take place on 14th October 2010: 'Workshop on Road Safety Solutions for Africa' and 'gTKP interactive Workshop on Governance Capacity in the Transport Sector in Africa'.

For more information please visit:

[www.sarf.org.za/seminars-and-conferences/2010A/FINAL-ANNOUNCEMENT-GB.pdf](http://www.sarf.org.za/seminars-and-conferences/2010A/FINAL-ANNOUNCEMENT-GB.pdf)

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RESOURCES:  
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### **Bangladesh: Country Profile**

IFRTD is in the process of updating all the country profile pages on our website. They will contain the most up-to-date information and analysis for each of the countries in which IFRTD is active. Our Bangladesh page is now live, carrying details of the country's impressive economic and social progress in recent years. It highlights the importance of rural transport for the agricultural sector, which, making up 48.1% of Bangladesh's entire labour force, underlies the success of the country as a whole. Bangladesh has one of the largest inland waterways networks in the world and it is still thought of as the lifeline of the nation. Many thanks to our IFRTD intern Ben Shute for producing this country profile.

Please click on the following link to read more:

[www.ifrtd.org/en/regions/country\\_pages/Bangladesh.php](http://www.ifrtd.org/en/regions/country_pages/Bangladesh.php)

## **Small Structures for Rural Roads: A Practical Planning, Design, Construction & Maintenance Guide**

**Authors:** Paul Larcher et al., May 2010

The aim of this document is to provide guidance to planners, designers and practitioners of rural roads in developing and transition countries. It is based on proven techniques and experience and provides an introduction to low cost but durable construction practices in environments experiencing severe resource restrictions. It is intended that rural road practitioners and professionals will be able to utilise and adapt the knowledge in this document to introduce more appropriate and affordable techniques, standards and specifications into everyday practice, academic curricula and training. The document has now been finalised after extensive review and contributions from the South East Asia Community Access Programme (SEACAP), the Africa Community Access Programme (AFCAP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Road Federation (IRF) and others.

[www.gtkp.com/theme.php?themepgid=210](http://www.gtkp.com/theme.php?themepgid=210)

## **Fascículo 6: Circulación, Parte 2**

**Publication:** Seguridad Vial: Bases Para el Entendimiento de la Problemática del Tránsito y la Seguridad Vial

**Publisher:** Instituto de Seguridad y Educación Vial

As we have reported before in this newsletter this book is being published for free by the Instituto de Seguridad y Educación Vial (The Institute of Road Safety and Education). It comes in nine free and downloadable chapters, the sixth of which is now also available online (in Spanish). It is entitled 'Circulación', which in this sense means the movement of people, animals and vehicles along public routes. The aim of the series is to chart the history and various aspects of road safety in an open and accessible manner. Other chapter titles include: The Environmental Factor, Policies and Strategies of Road Safety and Human Mobility.

If you want to find out more, please visit the ISEV website:

[www.isev.com.ar](http://www.isev.com.ar)

Or read the chapter in an online book format here:

<http://en.calameo.com/read/000004809b27f87483f26>

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NETWORK FOCUS:  
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## **Gender, Economic Integration and Cross-Border Infrastructure Development: Post Workshop Update**

This key workshop took place 10th-11th June 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. It focused on how regional economic integration, strengthened by cross-border road networks, has a differentiated effect based on gender, ethnicity and class. The workshop was organised by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Thailand and the Asia-Pacific Regional Secretariat of IFRTD. As Kyoko Kusakabe, Associate Professor of AIT in Thailand said: "The research findings related to gender, poverty and mobility analysis in the transport sector has been instrumental in promoting policy advocacy and networking in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). However, we now need to critically review the gender dimensions of mobility and its impacts on rural livelihoods."

Many excellent papers were presented during the workshop that fell into three broad categories: Transportation development and gendered mobility; Transportation development and its social and gender impact; Cross border trade and transportation development. You can view the abstracts on the IFRTD website and plans are already underway to bring this important collection of work to a wider audience.

[www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=528](http://www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=528)

You can also read how Jhabindra Bhandari reported on the issues raised during the workshop in an article for the 'The Rising Nepal' publication:

[www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=529](http://www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=529)

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**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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