
IFRTD Network News

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

June 2010

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Dear Member

Welcome to IFRTD's monthly newsletter. In an extended 'Network Focus' we highlight two recent editions of Forum News - each one dealing with a key issue facing the rural transport community. Firstly Climate Change: it is time for IFRTD to bring on board the wealth of experience our diverse membership represents and outline how we should collectively respond to this global problem. Secondly, we take a look at a pioneering research programme that explored the mobility constraints faced by girl and boy children, not as the adult researchers saw it, but through their own eyes.

A reminder that you can keep up-to-date with all of this and more by becoming a fan on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com. 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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Controversial Train Proposal through the Peruvian Rainforest

A new train line proposed by the Iquitos regional government of Peru would link Iquitos, the largest city in the Peruvian Amazon, with the thriving port town of Yurimaguas. Until now, the only way of crossing the 400km of dense rainforest separating the two is by air or river. A US\$28 million study will examine the engineering feasibility and environmental impact of the controversial proposal. The total cost of the project, if undertaken, would be around US\$850million. Critics ask why the cheaper option of water transport is not considered since it would minimise the impact on the Amazon's fragile ecosystem, whilst proponents argue it is far preferable to constructing a road. IFRTD Regional Coordinator for Latin America Ana Bravo says: 'right from the beginning studies such as this must consult with the population that will be primarily affected by the project. Whose interests are being represented by these big decisions?'

There has been much lively debate on the IFRTD Latin American listserv which you can join here: www.ifrtd.org/en/regions/region_LA.php

For information see this article (in Spanish):

<http://tinyurl.com/3xn4bhu>

Bridging the Gap: Addressing Mobility Needs as a Means to Achieve the Health Related MDGs

The Eighteenth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18) was held 3rd - 14th May in New York. It focused on the review of barriers and constraints in implementation, lessons learned and best practices on, amongst other topics, transport. Although the CSD is not a legally binding process and its relevance is under scrutiny, it is still the only institutional platform within the UN system where transport can be dealt with on its own to improve international co-operation and policy co-ordination.

To maximise this opportunity to highlight issues relating to rural transport and development IFRTD organised a side event in collaboration with AFCAP and Transaid. The event called "Bridging the Gap: Addressing Mobility Needs as a Means to Achieve the Health Related MDGs" was held during the first day of the meeting. Kate Molesworth, on behalf of IFRTD, presented the main findings and remaining challenges that the Mobility and Health international networked research programme had identified; Jeff Turner highlighted the need for research referring to a recent collaborative initiative to address key issues around emergency transport to prevent maternal and neo-natal mortality in Africa. Finally Gary Forster from Transaid shared important aspects of their practical experience on these issues.

Click on the link below to find out more about IFRTD's participation in CSD and to download the presentations:

www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=524

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OPPORTUNITIES:

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How to Apply for the Commonwealth Foundation's Civil Society Responsive Grants

The 'Funds for NGOs' website clearly sets out how to apply for this useful small grants initiative open to those of you based in Commonwealth countries. If your organisation is planning a regional or international workshop or an exchange visit to another NGO or project, this is a great option to help cover the costs. It has grant making programmes to support activities that involve intercultural exchange such as: short training courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, cultural festivals, exchanges and study visits in other Commonwealth countries. The Civil Society Responsive Grants supports activities in four main areas: Culture; Governance and Democracy; Human Development; Communities and Livelihoods. Generally, the Foundation awards grants around £5,000, but NGOs can request up to £10,000. Decisions are made on a quarterly basis.

For more information please visit the Funds for NGOs website:

www.fundsforngos.org/foundation-funds-for-ngos/how-to-apply-for-commonwealth-foundations-civil-society-responsive-grants

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EVENTS:

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Final Call for Participation: Workshop on Gender, Economic Integration and Cross-Border Road Infrastructure

Taking place 11th-12th June in Bangkok, Thailand, the workshop will explore how the mobility of goods and people are changing as a result of road infrastructure development and economic integration policies. How such changes affect the livelihoods of the people along the road and how such changes further affect the way of life and practices of local women and men, especially in terms of gender-based power relations. The effects can be varied for different communities, ethnicity, gender and age, and their coping/adaptation strategies will also be different.

If you would like to attend, or for more information please visit:

www.ifrtd.org/en/events_full.php?id=212

Velo-City Global 2010: World's Largest Conference on Cycling

The world's largest international conference on cycling is drawing near: between 22nd-25th June, Copenhagen will open its doors to 1000 cycling experts, researchers, decision makers, urban planners and NGOs representing 5 continents. First held in 1980, participants will discuss the potential and challenges of cycling. From the event organisers: "The world faces huge challenges in terms of congestion and pollution in cities, health related illnesses like obesity and cardiovascular diseases and global warming. The prospects of the bicycle in tackling these problems have yet to be fully explored, but the time is ripe for unleashing this potential and spreading the word".

For more information please visit:

www.velo-city2010.com/

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RESOURCES:

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The Route to Good Living – HIV Prevention in the Transport Sector

This pamphlet was produced by the World Bank to give an overview of the roles and responsibilities for HIV prevention strategies in transport sector projects. Cross-border trade is vital for Africa's economic growth yet increased mobility and longer travel routes also extend the reach of HIV and AIDS. Mobile workers such as truckers, construction workers and project managers are among the most at-risk populations for HIV infection. HIV risk in communities near construction sites also increases because of contact with these outsiders and easier access once roads are complete. This pamphlet is organised into question and answer sections for key actors within the transport sector such as World Bank staff, Ministries of transport, project coordination units, contractors and NGOs.

You can download the 8-page pamphlet in different languages here:

<http://tinyurl.com/36qhqse>

Transaid TV on YouTube

Catch up on the work of Transaid at their YouTube channel. Recently uploaded videos include stories from their work distributing bicycle ambulances in Eastern Province, Zambia and working with women traders in Ghana to address their transport needs.

Transaid is an international development organisation that seeks to reduce poverty and improve lives in Africa and across the developing world through creating better transport. They do this by building local management skills and knowledge to make transport cheaper, safer, cleaner and more effective, ensuring better access to the essentials for everyday life such as healthcare, education and economic opportunities. They combine the expertise of the UK and European Transport and logistics industry with their long experience of working in the developing world and partner with communities, governments, donors and other organisations to achieve their aims.

To find out more, please click on the link below:

www.youtube.com/user/Transaid1

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NETWORK FOCUS:  
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Forum News 14.4: Building the Links - Climate Change and Rural Transport

In recent years climate change has become a critical consideration for the development community, with an increasing awareness of its impact in the fight against poverty. It is time for IFRTD to bring on board the wealth of experience and capacities among our diverse membership. To date, the direct association of transportation with Green House Gas emissions has meant that urban transport takes centre stage, while the role of rural transportation in climate change has been largely ignored.

In this issue of Forum News, IFRTD members shine a light on specific concerns such as the exacerbation of existing gender and transport issues by climate change, the profiling of rural transport in critical climate change documents and where exactly our research priorities should lie. What emerges is a clear recommendation to broaden the existing sector vision from a focus on mitigating urban transport emissions to understanding the role of rural transport services and systems in facilitating adaptation to climate change by the rural poor.

Click on the following link to view the full edition:
www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=515

Forum News 15.1: A Moving Issue - Children and Young People's Transport and Mobility Constraints in Africa

Children and young people are rarely at the forefront of transport studies, despite the fact that their ability to access health and educational facilities is crucial to the achievement of many of the Millennium Development Goals. To address this knowledge gap a pioneering collaborative research project led by the University of Durham has gathered evidence of the specific mobility constraints experienced by girl and boy children as they attempt to access the facilities and services that are important to their lives.

The project explored the travel challenges faced by girl and boy children through their own eyes. It looked at their access to health, education and other services and the lack of direct information on how mobility constraints impact on children's current and future livelihood opportunities. In this issue of Forum News we highlight the key findings of the project, share relevant resources and ask where do we go from here?

To read the online edition in full, click on the link below:

www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=517

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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