
IFRTD Network News

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

March 2010

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Dear Member

Welcome to the March edition of the IFRTD newsletter. As well as our monthly roundup of the latest rural transport information below, remember to check out our brand new website - www.ifrtd.org. You can find out what IFRTD is up to in your part of the world by clicking on the improved regional pages.

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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International Collaboration to Tackle Transport and Environmental Problems in Africa

Researchers at the University of York, in partnership with universities from six African countries, UN-Habitat and IFRTD, are leading an international effort to tackle problems such as traffic congestion, air pollution and road safety in Africa. The Transport and Environment - Science Technology (TEST) Network is a three-year capacity building project that will strengthen networking, share knowledge and enhance research capacity to enable the implementation of sustainable transport policies in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Gary Haq, TEST Network coordinator, said: "The network is a major new initiative bringing together African researchers, international organisations and University of York academics. We aim to mount a determined effort to improve air quality, reduce death and injury on the roads, reduce greenhouse gases and widen opportunity and accessibility for all, but especially those on very low incomes. We are excited at the prospect of taking part in such an important project."

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

www.physorg.com/wire-news/27348953/tackling-transport-and-environment-in-africa.html

National Campaign for Reduction of Road Fatalities in India Launches

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) & International Road Federation (IRF) have jointly launched the National Campaign for Reduction of Road Fatalities in India, whose target is to reduce fatal accidents by 50% by 2012. India currently accounts for 10% of global road accident deaths with about 125,000 fatalities and at least 500,000 serious injuries each year. Minister Mr. Kamal Nath said that the problem of road safety has not been addressed holistically until now, and therefore, the national campaign aims for coordination at every step to realise a change in mindset and attitude. From legislation, to improved infrastructure, from media outreach, to business partnerships, the hope is this campaign will immediately start to improve the safety of India's road users.

To find out more and view YouTube videos of the campaign's launch, click on the link below:

www.indiairf.com/?q=activities.html

Improving Rural Transport in Morocco

Reuters Africa report on a □500 million World Bank scheme to improve rural transport in Morocco. The government aims to increase spending on social development programmes which includes building roads and schools in remote villages, providing food subsidies, and offering cash incentives to encourage poor families to ensure their children keep going to school. It forms part of a □1.8 billion loan to support the country's efforts to reduce mass poverty and spur economic growth.

Visit the Reuters website to read the full article:

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE61F0GU20100216>

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OPPORTUNITIES:  
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For up-to-date information you can also visit our new 'Opportunities' section on the IFRTD website: www.ifrtd.org/en/membership/opportunities.php

Skat Seeks an Experienced Infrastructure Specialist

Skat is a leading Swiss resource centre and consultancy group, working internationally in development co-operation and specialising in technical, social, institutional and economic aspects of infrastructure and environmental management, water supply and sanitation, solid waste management, sustainable building and settlement development as well as mobility and transport. Skat seeks an experienced professional with a strong background in rural and urban infrastructure development. The responsibilities of the position include: Developing and implementing sector-specific concepts and strategies that balance social, institutional, economic, environmental, technical and legal aspects; Investigating, reviewing, and documenting 'best practice' in developing countries; Managing and supervising implementation projects in the field of sustainable building, water supply and sanitation. Deadline: 31st March 2010.

You can find out more by clicking on the link below:

www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=499

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EVENTS:

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Call for Papers: Gender, Economic Integration and Cross Border Road Infrastructure Development

A final reminder that the deadline for submitting abstracts for this workshop is 20th March 2010. It is being organised by the Asian Institute of Technology and the Asia Pacific Regional Secretariat of IFRTD, 6th-7th May 2010, in the AIT Conference Centre, Thailand. Asia has historically experienced high intra-mobility of goods and people, but in recent years such mobility has increased dramatically. One of the largest factors contributing to this trend is the heavy investment in the construction and renovation of road networks. Although there have been studies on regional economic integration with the improved mobility of goods and capital, how this has impacted on the socio-economic conditions and cultural practices among the local people along the road, as well as at the border regions, are still under-researched. This is particularly true from the perspective of gender and ethnicity.

The workshop explores how 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. For more information please visit:

www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=492

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

First held in 1980, this year's conference will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, 22nd-25th June. It will bring together cycling experts, city planners, decision makers, NGOs and researchers from all over the world to 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. Velo-City Global 2010 will serve as a platform for the exchange of knowledge, research, ideas and experiences. It is a unique possibility to join efforts across cities, borders and disciplines and take cycling to the next level across the world."

For more information please visit the event website:

www.velo-city2010.com

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RESOURCES:  
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Mensajes Amazonicas: Spreading the Word

Back in December we reported on the innovative 'Mensajes Amazonicas' project that is helping remote Awajun and Wampi communities living on the river Cenepa in Peru's rainforest talk to policy makers about the mobility issues they face. UK radio station 'RoundHouse Radio' recently interviewed project team members, including IFRTD's Ana Bravo, who said these isolated villages are often ignored by policy makers in the capital Lima. As the presenter commented: "the videos are striking in their simplicity - just single people standing in the jungle telling their own story in the own language. They are raw and instantly engaging... the project has already shown that social networking can give even the most isolated communities a powerful voice". The challenge now is for the policy makers in Lima to hear their story and take action.

You can listen to the interviews online (7minutes 30 seconds into the show) at:

<http://broadcast.roundhouse.org.uk/roundhouse-radio/arts-attack/arts-attack-19-february-2010>

Video Feature: Accessible Transport and Health of Disabled Persons in Rural India

This research case study, presented as a YouTube video, charts the barriers faced by disabled villagers in accessing health, education and employment opportunities. Nitya Soundarya has to use crutches and a walker and it can take her up to an hour to reach the nearest bus stop. The bus's high steps make boarding difficult. Ganesh has severe locomotor disability and cannot travel in shared vehicles. He has to hire a jeep to reach the local health centre, when he arrives there is no ramp for his wheelchair meaning he needs further assistance to enter the building. Their stories highlight the difficulties faced by some of India's 60 million disabled people and the video ends with some key recommendations for policy makers.

You can watch the video on the IFRTD homepage:

www.ifrtd.org

HIV/AIDS in the Transport Sector - Opportunities and Challenges

Author: Diana L. Aristizábal

To stop and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS will take coordinated action by all parties. Country specific information tells us what resources need to be mobilised to stem its advancement, and fortunately, more and more sectors are working together to make this happen. Transport is one of them. The first part of this paper is a general explanation of the link between transport and HIV/AIDS and the factors that increase the risks faced by communities. The second part offers a general panorama of the disease in Latin America and details the experiences of long distance truck drivers and road infrastructure workers.

The final section elaborates on the opportunities and challenges for the transport sector and possible next steps in combating this disease.

You can download the article in Spanish here:

www.ifrtd.org/en/dianaaristizabal.pdf

The Uvumbuzi Newsletter

Alongside monthly cycling events and their Climate Change Forum, the latest Uvumbuzi newsletter reports on a major new programme. Their 'Cycling Blue Project' programme has three interlinked aims: Through a micro credit system equip high school students with bicycles to save walking time by two thirds; Parents use the bicycles during the weekends and long holidays to earn a living through enterprise; Increase families' accessibility to basic amenities and facilities e.g. clinics, hospitals, markets, water, etc.

To download the newsletter please click on the following link:

www.ifrtd.org/en/uvumbuzi.pdf

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NETWORK FOCUS:  
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New Directory of Transport Sector Groups and Discussions

In this month's Network Focus we wanted to bring to your attention not one organisation, but fifty six. A new resource from GTZ gives details of newsletters and discussion groups for researchers, policy makers and planners in the transport sector. From Sustrans to Civitas, from IFRTD to SSATP, it is a useful resource not only for those wanting to find transport related information, but also for those wanting to spread the word about their own projects, workshops and publications. The authors welcome new additions.

You can download the document by clicking on the following link:

www.sutp.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1841&Itemid=1&lang=uk

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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