
IFRTD Network News

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

October 2010

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Dear Member

Welcome to the October edition of the IFRTD newsletter. Some important changes are afoot in the IFRTD Secretariat. We are currently implementing a new organisational structure that will help the Secretariat improve efficiency, use our resources more effectively and most importantly, respond to the Forum's key needs.

Juliette Harries, IFRTD's Network and Events Co-coordinator, has recently moved on from the Forum. We would like to thank her for her contribution and commitment over the past few years. Kate Czuczman, Editor and Communications Coordinator, will also be winding down her work with IFRTD in the next couple of months. Kate has been with the Forum for

ten years and we would sincerely like to thank her for her dedication and enthusiasm over this time. We wish both Kate and Juliette the best of luck in their future endeavours.

While the reorganisation of this important area of work continues, IFRTD is taking all measures to ensure that work is implemented as usual. If you require any information on communication related work, new or pending, please contact Maria Arce, Executive Director, directly: [maria.arce\[at\]ifrtd.org](mailto:maria.arce@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 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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In rural Zambia, a bicycle is one of the most important possessions someone can have

At one Zambian school when bicycles were given out to pupils by World Bicycle Relief, the roll increased from 300 to 867 pupils, reports the Lusaka Times. Many children in rural Zambia do not complete their education because their families, especially families with HIV or AIDS, are dependent on their children's economic activity. Among those who have received one of World Bicycle Relief's distinctive black bicycles is 15 year old Fewstar Walweendo. She uses it to cycle the two kilometres to school after completing her daily chores, including sweeping the yard, making breakfast and cleaning the plates. Her deputy headteacher Monica Mtongadaka said: "To a Zambian child, to a rural child, to have a bicycle really motivates, because it eases her movement to and from school, and that's what's happened to Fewstar."

To read the full story please click on the link below:

www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=558

Reminder: Colin Relf Young Voices Award 2010

A final reminder that you still have time to enter IFRTD's Colin Relf Young Voices Award 2010. The award is an exciting opportunity for young people from developing countries to share their innovative ideas, opinions and perspectives on rural transport and development. This year the questions will focus on two issues vital to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: the role of rural transport in health provision for the rural poor; and rural transport and climate change. Winners will be awarded prizes and the opportunity to have their work disseminated and published by IFRTD. This year the Colin Relf Young Voices Award has kindly been sponsored by ITTransport. Application deadline: 15th October 2010. For full details please visit the IFRTD website:

www.ifrtd.org/en/membership/Colin_Relf_award.php

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OPPORTUNITIES:  
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TRL: Low Volume Road Training Specialist Wanted

The Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) is looking for a low volume road training specialist. Applicants must have a degree in Civil Engineering (or equivalent) and minimum of 20 years post graduate experience. Experience of labour-based rural road construction and maintenance, as well as low volume road surfacing techniques, is essential. Applicants should also have extensive experience as a trainer in rural road technology. It would be for a few months, starting as soon as possible.

For more information, please get in contact directly with Robin Workman:
rworkman[at]trl.co.uk

EADN Individual Research Grants Call for Proposals

The East Asian Development Network (EADN) is inviting research organisations and independent researchers to submit proposals for the EADN Individual Research Grants. EADN is a network of research institutions in developing countries of East Asia. The programme aims to strengthen the capacity of institutions and independent researchers in East Asia to undertake high quality, development-focused and policy-relevant research in the social sciences. Research proposals related to economics, human development, political and social dynamics, gender issues, international relations and other topics within the social sciences will be considered. Proposals which are development-oriented and which have implications for policy will be given preference. The closing date to submit proposals is 11th October 2010.

For more information, click on the link:

www.eadn.org/eadn2010.pdf

Out of the Box Prize 2010 for Community Health and Development

Community Toolbox, a global resource of free information on essential skills for building healthy communities is inviting applications for its Out of the Box Prize 2010. The Prize has been established to honour innovative approaches to promoting community health and development worldwide. The Prize is looking for innovative and promising approaches implemented in the areas of community health, education, urban or rural development, poverty, the environment, social justice or other related issues of importance to communities. 'Innovation' may include a unique or effective way of planning or implementing a change effort, creative use of existing community resources, original ways of generating participation and collaboration, implementing a best practice within a new context or group for example. Deadline for submitting applications is 31st October 2010.

For more information, please click on the link below:

http://ctb.ku.edu/en/out_of_the_box.aspx

Call for Contributions to IRF Special Edition Bulletin: Rural Transport

The International Road Federation (IRF) is inviting you to contribute to their special edition bulletin on Rural Transport. From IRF: "Don't miss this opportunity to highlight your ideas, findings, best practice and research in this widely read and influential publication." Topic covered include: Rural transport's impact on socio-economic development; Effective planning and management of rural roads; Alternative and/or cost-effective construction materials and techniques; Sustainable rural roads maintenance; Sharing the road: cycling, walking and non-motorised transport. The IRF Bulletin will be published in December 2010 and the deadline for submissions is 29th October 2010.

For more information visit the IRF website:

www.irfnet.org/files-upload/NewsLetter/2010/mailling-20100916/mailling_20100916.html

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EVENTS:  
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2nd International Convention on Rural Roads

A reminder that IRF's 2nd International Convention on Rural Roads will take place in Jinan City, China, between 26th-29th October 2010. Following the success of the first Convention on Rural Roads held in Tanzania last November, this year's convention aims to identify aspects of the current rural transport sector that can be improved. It will offer delegates an opportunity to gain insight into the latest research outcomes and experiences in the impacts, planning, management, construction and safety of rural roads. An interactive gTKP workshop on Environment and Urban Mobility immediately precedes the conference. Ranjith de Silva, Asia & Pacific Regional Coordinator for IFRTD, will be representing our network at the event.

To find out more about this event please click on the link below:

<http://tinyurl.com/358qr7q>

International Seminar on Reducing the Carbon Footprint in Road Construction

The mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and the reduction of the consumption of fossil natural resources are now on the agenda of all countries throughout the world and for all sectors of human activity. Road construction is no exception. 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint in Road Construction Seminar' is being organised by World Road Association (PIARC) between 17th-19th February 2011, in the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India. The main objective of the seminar is to provide a common platform for practitioners to acquire up-to-date information on the latest innovative approaches and products which contribute to reducing the carbon footprint in road construction, to share experiences and to discuss the associated issues and challenges. The seminar will broadly cover the following themes: The context in India; Determining the carbon footprint of road works; Road design for reduction of the carbon footprint; Innovative bituminous techniques to reduce energy consumption; Use of local materials; Recycling and preservation of fossil resources.

If you are interested in attending please visit the organisers' website:

<http://www.piarc.org/library/aipcr/8/3036.First-Announcement.1-E.pdf>

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RESOURCES:  
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Spanish Version of the Makete Tree Website now Online

Recently launched by IFRTD, the www.maketetree.org website charts the history of a small pilot programme in the Makete District, Tanzania that changed the rural transport sector forever. The website is now also available in Spanish. A new approach to rural transport was pioneered in Makete that for the first time put people at the heart of transport planning. Today, the 'Makete Approach' is recognised to have had a formative influence on transport sector policies and institutions in many countries across Sub-Saharan Africa and similar approaches have been widely replicated in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Indeed, IFRTD itself emerged from these early roots. This new website, which was created by IFRTD, uses

the image of the Baobab tree to trace the roots, growth and branches of influence of this ground-breaking programme.

To visit the website click on the link below:

<http://www.maketetree.org/es>

El Programa de Investigación en Accidentes de Tránsito

Members of IFRTD Latin America were involved in the Road Traffic Accident Research Programme (El Programa de Investigación en Accidentes de Tránsito) that took place in Peru in 2009. Its objective was to explore the diverse aspects related to road traffic accidents, that include: Necessity of implementing integrated information systems; Evaluation of current and planned high-impact implementations; Cost/benefit analysis of these interventions; Consideration of the knowledge, attitudes and practices of those responding to road traffic accidents; And an exploration of the epidemiological profile of the problem and its socioeconomic impact. The results of this important research programme are now available (in Spanish) for free online, in 11 downloadable documents. They are designed to give a holistic approach to understanding how effective public health policy can reduce the risk of road traffic accidents.

To visit the website click on the link below:

www.ins.gob.pe/portal/jerarquia/2/253/programa-nacional-de-investigacion-en-accidentes-de-transito/jer.253

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NETWORK FOCUS:  
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Road Dust: The Silent Killer and Growth Strangulant

In many developing countries roads through villages remain unsealed and vehicle-generated dust is a constant part of the lives of many villagers for much of the year. Dust is one of the main reasons given by rural dwellers for the sealing of rural roads. It is known that vehicle generated dust has adverse impacts on the health of individuals (especially children), the safety of road users, agricultural production, the local environment and the cost-effectiveness of the gravel road material.

The World Bank has commenced a new research programme that will quantify these impacts so that they can be included in future investments. The project will involve collaboration between experts in the transport, health, agriculture and environmental sectors and is expected to be published in December 2010. It is hoped that this will facilitate the use of cost-effective upgrading options aimed at improving safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly village and rural-urban access roads for poor communities and that it will influence funders and practitioners to take up the findings.

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

<http://tinyurl.com/38rx4my>

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

Rethinking Rural

This short article by Matthew Boms explores what 'rural' really means in the modern context. He draws on his experience of working with schools in the rural communities of La Rioja, Argentina, where each child will receive a laptop through the efforts of local government and the 'One Laptop per Child' NGO. As Matthew says: "what's so 'rural' about 'rural' anyway? In several months, each of these kids—among the poorest in Argentina—will have his/her own portable laptop and solar panel. They will not have to move to a big city, or see their village become a big city, or buy a laptop from a big city. Rather, they are the beneficiaries of a substantial shift in policymaking. We are quickly moving from macroeconomics to grassroots economics. In just a year's time, access to energy and technology will have created development that is both sustainable and attainable in La Rioja."

You can read the full article on the IFRTD website:

www.ifrtd.org/en/full.php?id=537

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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