We are pleased to introduce this occasional newsletter to keep the Rural Transport Community of Practice abreast of news and events in the sector. This edition has the following highlights.

**NEWS**
- Gender Mainstreaming: An online discussion to review progress and bottleneck
- Ashden International Award for Sustainable Access and Travel
- Transaid launch of a Knowledge Center

**EVENTS**
- IFRTD’s presenting at High Level Conference on Africa’s Agricultural Transformation: 21st-23rd October 2015, Dakar Senegal.
- ReCAp to take part at the Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia 17-20 November in Kathmandu, Nepal.

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**
- International Conference on Transport and Road Research.

**JOIN AN ONLINE DEBATE TO REVIEW GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN RURAL TRANSPORT**

The Research for Community Access Partnership (ReCAP) has engaged Priyanthi Fernando to lead in the exploration of where we are in regard to gender mainstreaming in the rural transport sector. Priyanthi Fernando is a social development consultant who has coordinated pioneering networked research on gender and transport.

It is her contention that despite a decade or more of research into gender and transport, by IFRTD, the World Bank, Universities and other agencies, we have still failed to mainstream gender issues into the sector. Women remain more disadvantaged than men when it comes to mobility and access. She argues that this is not just a question of 'not knowing' - there is plenty of information out there about women's mobility and access needs etc - but a question of how decision making takes place in the sector, and what information is shared, and how. Maybe the information is inaccessible to many, maybe even with the information available decision makers do not have the capacity or the mandate to integrate gender into transport policy and planning or maybe there are other constraints.

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Transport Community of Practice) and other forums and through the commissioning of new research and communication outputs.

If you are interested in engaging with this discussion, please send an email to gatnet@dgroups.org. You will be able to follow the debate and contribute to discussions. You may also become involved in developing and implementing new research proposals to answer key questions. So please send an email to gatnet@dgroups.org and/or contact Priyanthi Fernando (priyanthi.fernando@gmail.com) for further information.

ASHDEN INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE ACCESS AND TRAVEL

Ashden is a charity that champions and supports the leaders in sustainable energy (including transport systems) and makes prestigious awards for innovative enterprises that bring social, economic and environmental benefits. (See www.ashden.org).

Ashden has launched a new international award relating to sustainable travel in developing countries. In addition to a significant cash prize (£20,000, or £30,000 for a Gold Award), the awards provide excellent publicity (including a high quality film of the work) and international recognition. The sustainable travel award is for innovative enterprises or programmes that are improving access to sustainable travel, encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of travel or using technology to enable more efficient fuel use. Businesses, NGOs, social enterprises and government organisations are all eligible. The work must be delivered in rural or urban areas in one or more developing country (which includes all AfCAP and AsCAP countries and also countries in Latin America and the Pacific). The work must be proven and delivered for at least a year (so pilot or demonstration initiatives are not eligible).

The sustainable travel award will go to an innovative enterprise or programme that is improving access to sustainable travel for those who have little or no access to transport, encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of travel or using more sustainable and efficient technologies. The work should enable communities to access wider socio-economic benefits.

AfCAP, AsCAP and ReCAP partners with proven and working systems for improving rural access should be eligible to apply for a 2016 award. This is provided that the initiatives meet the relevant criteria for sustainability and community benefits, contributions to rural access might include rural infrastructure (tracks, roads, bridges, ropeways), public transport, access to cycles or intermediate means of transport, specialised transport services or IT solutions to rural transport issues. They must be proven and in operation. The deadline for applications is Tuesday 3 November 2015. Full details on how to apply are on the Ashden website. (http://www.ashden.org/files/2016_forms/2016_Ashden_International_Awards_Information_for_applicants_English.pdf)

TRANSAID’S NEW KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

The Knowledge Centre works as an open knowledge sharing platform. Transaid will share their technical case studies, manuals, tools and other resources that they have developed through their experience of working in transport and development.

Technical Case Studies are two-page outlines of programmes and activities that Transaid has worked on. They aim to provide the reader with a clear and technical overview of the methodology,
outcomes, conclusions and recommendations. Tools are the practical instruments that help equip and guide Transaid and other partners when implementing programmes.

The Knowledge Centre currently contains over 50 case studies and over 70 tools, which include vehicle logbooks, formative research surveys, checklists, curricula and guidelines.

For more on how you can benefit from all this kindly go to: (http://www.transaid.org/home/knowledge-centre/)

UPCOMING EVENTS

IFRTD TO PRESENT AT THE DAKAR HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AFRICA’S AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA

IFRTD has been invited to present a paper on “Agricultural Logistics Management and Related Infrastructure Development” at the above conference that is taking place 21st-23rd October 2015 in Dakar Senegal. The meeting will bring together Ministers of Finance and Economy, Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministers of Trade and Industry, Governors of Central Banks, business leaders, the private sector, academia and civil society as well as technical experts across the continent and beyond. IFRTDs presentation will be based on its body of work on transport and access to markets for smallholder farmers.

For more information visit http://www.afdb.org/en/dakagri2015

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT (EST) FORUM IN ASIA

ReCAP will be represented at the 9th EST forum that is organised by the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MoPIT) of the Government of Nepal, Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan (MOE-Japan), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD). The forum will take place on 17-20 November in Kathmandu, Nepal. More information on: http://www.uncrd.or.jp/index.php?menu=384

CALL FOR PAPERS – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT AND ROAD RESEARCH

ReCAP will officially be supporting the International Conference on Transport and Road Research. The conference is themed 'Transport Solutions to transform lives: From Research & Innovation to Uptake and Implementation', to be held in Mombasa, Kenya on the 16-18th March 2016. The conference is organised by the Kenya Roads Board and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. Experts, researchers, academics and specialists in every area related to road and transport management and research are hereby invited to submit conference papers in the following areas: 1. Transport Policy and strategies; 2. Urban Transportation; 3. Rural Transportation; 4. Intermodal Transport.

Abstracts should be submitted by the 30th of October. For more information visit www.transportconferencekenya.org or contact the Conference Technical Sub- Committee: transportconference@krb.go.ke