Dear Colleagues:

Early April brought us the news of the demise of Dr John Howe. Though sad, it was an opportunity to look back and be grateful for he has been an inspiration to a great many of the current rural transport professionals and was a catalyst in the formation of a global community of practice in this field.

ASCAP had its first 2015 regional meeting in Nepal with many positive outcomes. However, the recent severe earthquake in Nepal is likely to disrupt some of the plans made. An approved working draft inception report for AFCAP has now been issued. Learn about a study on road traffic injury in Tanzania and how building roads in a village in Indonesia and a community bus service in a community in Sri Lanka positively changed the lives of many people.

AFCAP will be actively participating at the T2 Conference and invites you to join. AFCAP is also inviting papers for a themed issue.

Please give us your feedback and let us know if you are interested in sharing information about your rural transport projects. Please contact Ana Bravo at ana.bravo@ifrtd.org

Ana Bravo (Editor)

Passing on of John Howe: A towering champion of rural transport

On April 3, 2015, the rural transport and development community lost one of its most influential thinkers and champion, Dr John Howe. His pioneering work on rural access and poverty reduction dates back to the late 70’s and has spanned over more than four decades of research, writing, lecturing and mentoring. Dr. Howe has been an inspiration to a great many of the current rural transport professionals and was a catalyst in the formation of a global community of practice in this field. In his life, the previously unresearched rural transport issues have become a vibrant area of transport policy and practice in many developing countries.

The International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD) owes a great deal of its existence to the inspiration of John Howe. IFRTD joins his family, friends and the rural transport fraternity in honouring the life of Dr Howe.

ASCAP regional meeting in Nepal

The Asia Community Access Partnership -ASCAP- Regional Meeting was held in Kathmandu during April 6 and 7, 2015. It was attended by twenty participants from Nepal, India and Bangladesh. The participants were divided into three working groups: Bangladesh, Nepal and a Regional Group –including Indian delegates and one representative each from Nepal and Bangladesh. The identified themes by the group were: all-weather accessibility, road safety, use of marginal materials for road construction, climate resilience and slope stabilisation. A focal person from each country and members for the Regional Coordination Committee were identified. A national level stakeholders’ meeting will be organized. Research projects will start from July 2015.

For more information please contact ASCAP regional manager Chandra Shrestha at cshrestha@ntdrc.org
AFCAP inception report: approved working draft

This interim inception report is focused on AFCAP. An inception report covering both AFCAP and ASCAP will be issued at the end of the nine-month period on April 30, 2015. This current report firstly describes the project's governance/management arrangements and the current status of implementation activities before describing the proposed draft strategies and procedures for the project. Finally, it gives a preliminary work programme and budget for the project period.

Please send any comments to Gary Taylor at gary.taylor@cardno.uk.com

A baseline study to understand road traffic injury on low-volume rural roads in Kilolo District

While Amend's recent AFCAP-funded research into rural road traffic injury in Tanzania has focused on motorcycle taxis, it is recognised that some of Tanzania's more remote areas have relatively few motorcycles, with journeys being made by modes such as foot, bicycle and bus. Currently, little data is available concerning road traffic injury (RTI) in such areas and for that reason, in this second phase of AFCAP, Amend is conducting a baseline study of road traffic injury on low-volume rural roads in Kilolo District, Iringa.

The objectives of the research are:

- To understand the magnitude and describe the characteristics of road traffic injury among people living alongside and using low-volume rural roads in an area where the motorcycle is not the dominant mode of transport, establishing a baseline against which to assess future changes;
- To understand the number and type of vehicles and road users using such roads;
- To develop a simple and replicable methodology for data collection and analysis, enabling future comparison with the baseline.

For more information contact Tom Bishop at tbishopmend.org

ADB: Building roads and a community spirit in Indonesia's Lampung Province

When the villagers from Trimulyo came together in 2010 to decide how to spend the first of four instalments of 250 million Indonesian rupiahs (around US $25,000) allocated to them from Indonesia’s program for community empowerment, known as Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat (PNPM) Mandiri Rural Infrastructure Support, to develop rural infrastructure, they had no doubts: a new all-weather road is what they needed. Work began and was completed the following year. Two years on, the villagers are more confident than ever that they made the right decision.

Over 750 families have benefitted from the new road. Children can now walk to school and mothers bring their infants to the local clinic even at the peak of the rainy season.

Read more at the Asian Development Bank project news site…

AFCAP workshops at the T2 Conference

AFCAP is organising parallel knowledge sharing workshops and field demonstrations as part of its contribution to the T2 conference to be held in Zimbabwe, in May 2015. The objective of the workshops is to facilitate discussion, knowledge exchange and learning on a range of factors affecting rural access and mobility. These factors include rural transport policy, social and economic impacts of road investments, engineering design standards, road maintenance and coping with climate change, and transport services.

A call was prepared by the AFCAP Project Management Unit inviting proposals from regional and international practitioners to facilitate the workshops. A total of seven proposals were received and accepted by AFCAP. The objective of the field visit is to showcase practical demonstration on provision of affordable access through road maintenance, spot improvement and upgrading interventions using mainly tractor-based intermediate equipment.

For more information, please contact Nkululeko Leta at nkululeko.leta@gmail.com
Sri Lanka, Kosgala Community Bus Service: 16 years later, by Ranjith Da Silva

Abstract. In 1998, a pilot project was implemented in Sri Lanka to assess the feasibility and capacity of a village community to manage its own community bus service. Sixteen years after its inauguration, the bus service is still in operation, despite the fact that the project implementing agency withdrew its support about six years after the service was established. The current article describes the rural transport challenges which led to the idea for the project, the challenges faced by the community and project team in creating and running the service, and the lessons learned from the past sixteen years. One of the indirect impacts of the project was the improvement of a rural access road, which resulted in a number of other changes in the transport situation of the villages. The article also... (read more).

(>The article also discusses the indirect impact of the project on the transport situation of the villages.

(Published on UNESCAP Transport and Communications bulletin, Asia and Pacific, Bulletin 84 Article 4)

ADB Gender Tool Kit: Transport

This tool kit provides guidance for transport sector specialists and gender specialists on how to mainstream gender equality issues into transport project design, implementation, and policy engagement.

The purpose of the tool kit is to assist staff and consultants of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and government partner executing agencies to conceptualize and design gender-responsive projects in the transport sector. ADB's Policy on Gender and Development adapts gender mainstreaming across all sectors to promote and support gender equality and women's empowerment.

Read more and download the tool kit

AFCAP Themed Issue Call for Papers: Transport emissions, climate change and air quality

Transport accounts for 26% of global carbon dioxide emissions and is one of the few industrial sectors where emissions are still growing.

One of the key challenges for the transport sector globally is to work together to reduce the contribution of transport-related emissions to climate change and poor air quality.

For this themed issue of Transport, authors are invited to submit papers on:
• Case studies and examples of successful climate change and air quality mitigation measures
• Monitoring, assessment and modelling of emissions adjacent to transport routes
• Public awareness of, perceptions and attitudes towards transport-related emissions

If you would like to contribute to this themed issue, please submit a brief (<200 word) summary of your proposed paper by 5th May 2015 to agnes.alvite@icepublishing.com

For more information please click link below:
http://www.icevirtuallibrary.com/content/serial/tran
Course on rural non-paved roads, Pelotas, Brazil

The Soil Mechanics Laboratory of the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering, Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Brazil, has been carrying out research on non-paved rural roads for the past 20 years. Three times a year, the Laboratory, under the umbrella of IFRTD, carry out training courses with the aim of sharing knowledge and building capacity at district and community level. Contents of the course include non-paved road drainage, environmental quality on non-paved road, coating materials for non-paved road and lab tests. Next course will be held on May 28 and 29, 2015, Pelotas, Brazil. Limited vacancies for optimal training.

For more information please contact Alfredo Solos at alfredosolos@yahoo.com.br or pcorrallf@gmail.com

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