

Videos and presentations from Tunis Workshop now available on [gTKP website](#)

gTKP Tunis Workshop

Over 80 delegates from 26 countries and 48 organisations met in Tunis for the first Annual Workshop, hosted by the African Development Bank.

The Tunisian Minister of Transport, Abderrahim Zouari, delivered the opening speech to an international audience, with representatives from governments, NGOs and research organisations.

The two days were filled with workshops and interactive sessions which will help to shape the direction of the Partnership.

At the close of the Workshop, gTKP's current Chair, Peter O'Neill said, "This Workshop has shown how much information we can share with each other to improve transport systems across the developing world. We now know that much of the learning is already out there – now we can develop the best ways to share it and put it into practice.

The work programmes for the four depth areas are being revised and agreed with the UK Department for International Development. We are also hoping to set up email discussion groups for the four themes shortly.

[Videos and presentations](#) from the Tunis Workshop are now available on the website. Please forward the link to colleagues who were not able to attend.

SEACAP Extension to Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is the latest country to sign up for partnership with SEACAP – the South East Asia Community Access Programme – to rehabilitate rural travel.

It came after Peter O'Neill, Chair of gTKP – the global Transport Knowledge Partnership – led a flying visit, accompanied by Yogita Maini, a UK-based transport expert, to discover how they could help.

During the meeting with Sri Lanka's transport stakeholders several issues emerged:

- a serious shortage of skills
- a need to build technical institutional capacity – particularly at provincial and local government levels
- an immediate need for a design manual for rural roads to ensure quality control in both construction and maintenance.



Afterwards the talks were hailed as a success – with the stakeholders welcoming the partnership with SEACAP to improve country roads.

The next step is to hold a workshop in Colombo to identify suitable research projects to enable local communities to be involved with planning, provision and maintenance of rural transport. It will bring a range of stakeholders together to discuss central issues on community access infrastructure and possible initiatives. Our next newsletter will provide feedback from this workshop

Website Highlights

A Review of Rural Road Prioritisation Methods: Phase 1

This scoping study develops a simple typology of appraisal processes and tools to prepare the ground for developing best practice guidance towards rural road prioritisation. It was commissioned and funded by gTKP as a background paper for its rural accessibility 'depth' work stream within the overall 'Transport and Exclusion' theme. Comments and suggestions for actions are warmly invited from interested practitioners. Please send these to info@gtkp.com by 17th April so that they can be considered during the consultation period. Click [here](#) to see the study.

EMBARQ Transforming Transportation Summary

In January 2006, EMBARQ ran a series of events themed "Transforming Transportation". These included a session focusing on Latin American experiences and a two-day conference addressing the difficulties involved in managing the human element in the transport system. A summary of lessons learnt from the event is now available [here](#).

Maternal Mortality: Africa's Burden

This toolkit on gender, transport and maternal mortality was put together by Margaret Grieco (Visiting Professor at the Institute for African Development, Cornell University) and Jeff Turner. gTKP are working with Jeff Turner and Margaret Grieco to improve the resources available in this area. Jeff's presentation on Maternal Mortality, given at the Tunis Workshop, can be viewed [here](#).

Forthcoming Events

The World Road Association (PIARC) Seminar on The Maintenance of Rural Roads - Stakes and Perspectives

Rabat, Morocco, 20 – 21 April 2006

This seminar will focus on the following topics: the role of rural roads and maintenance stakes; maintenance techniques for rural roads; management and financing of rural roads; and integrated planning and rural roads.

Registration for this event closes on 15 April 2006. See [here](#) for more details.

Mayors' Asia-Pacific Environmental Summit

Melbourne, Australia, 9-12 May 2006

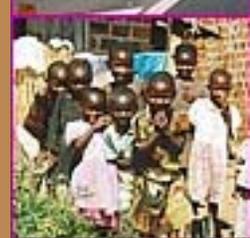
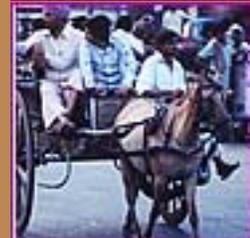
This event will provide the opportunity for mayors and local government officials to: promote sustainable development in their cities; share information and best practices; and build partnerships. Amongst the topics covered will be the Certificate in Urban Sustainability Program. This proposed program will offer city leaders and executives a two-day course in sustainable urban infrastructure. Registration closes on 30 April 2006.

See [here](#) for more details

UITP Asia-Pacific Congress

Seoul, Korea, 18 – 23 June 2006

The 5th biennial congress will be held in conjunction with the Mobility and City Transport Exhibition and the UITP International Conference on Creating Intelligent Public Transport. See [here](#) for more details.



SPECIAL REPORT

Cities of Tomorrow – choices for sustainable public transport, air quality & energy **23-24 February New Delhi, India**

The purpose of this two-day conference was to review the increasing challenges in urban transport. It examined the impact of travel on air pollution and health in emerging countries – and looked at the technology which could help. Organised by IIEC – International Institute for Energy Conservation and UITP – the International Association of Public Transport, it fielded a range of experts. They included Marcel Alers UNDP, Professor Amita Athavale KEM Hospital, Mumbai, Petra Mollet UITP, Gordon Neilson CPCS and BI Singhal MOUD.

The population living in urban areas in developing countries is increasing rapidly – with people travelling more than ever. By 2050, the population of India will be 1.7 billion with 40 per cent living in urban areas – leading to a four-fold demand for travel. And without strong demand management, it would be an increasingly difficult task to find a sustainable solution.

Day One presented India's urban transport problems and the recognition of the importance of technology and of promoting air quality. Examples of success were given by Bangalore metropolitan transport corporation and the Hong Kong MTR – and the day ended with a round table discussion.

Day Two focused on the World Bank's bus planning scheme and ended with a tour of the Delhi Metro. But there still seemed a lack of understanding in the social and economic changes behind urban travel and in the renewed health risks of pollution on top of poverty and malnutrition.

gTKP is helping to increase knowledge sharing on Urban Demand Management and Sustainable Urban Mobility through its focus on this theme. Some ideas suggested at the conference included producing a framework as a model for cities based on their expected future needs – with safe, efficient transport fundamental for social interaction and the ending of poverty.

In developing countries, like India, transport infrastructure is becoming bottlenecked by increasing urbanisation – leading to increasing health and safety problems. Technological advances were expected to reduce the number of people travelling – but it been the opposite worldwide.

Comments

Given the magnitude of the problem, a more holistic approach needs to be adopted to urban transport planning, taking into account demand and supply management – and environmental, social, health and safety issues.

In seeking a solution to travel in the future, planners may look at town planning itself – rather than integrating the transport modes.

It would be similar to the rail-plus-property model of the MTR Corporation, where emerging technologies are used to make the cities of future sustainable.

Other solutions suggested at the conference included:

- Promoting the study of traffic engineering
- Setting up special urban road transport departments
- Promoting switching of modes of transport to mass transit systems
- Investing in developing cleaner fuels & modes of transport like bio fuels & hybrid electrical vehicles