



# News

**gTKP Newsletter 26 –  
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## News Highlights

### ***By 2010, total Highway mileage in China to total 2.2 million km***

By the end of 2005, total Chinese expressway mileage amounted to 41,000 km, ranking the country second in the world. According to the Chinese Ministry of Communications, the total highway mileage will be between 2.1-2.3 million km by 2010, with 5 vertical and 7 horizontal national trunk highways completed.

To read more, please click [here](#)

### ***UN warns on impacts of biofuels***

A UN report warns that a hasty switch to biofuels, particularly to replace traditional transport fuels, could have major impacts on livelihoods and the environment. The report produced by a cross-agency body, UN Energy, says that biofuels can bring real benefits. However it notes that there can be serious consequences if forests are cut down for plantations, if food prices rise or if communities are excluded from ownership. The report concludes that using biomass for combined heat and power (CHP), rather than for transport fuels or other uses, is the best option for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the next decade - and also one of the cheapest.

To read more, please click [here](#).



### ***Pan African Parliament Looks At Transport Infrastructure***

Nepad, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, has announced its support for a number of transport infrastructure projects to support its mission to rid the continent of poverty.

Chief Executive of the Nepad Secretariat, Prof Firmino Mucavele, speaking at the seventh Ordinary Session of the Pan African Parliament said that "there can be no poverty reduction without economic growth, and there can be no economic growth without trade, and there can be no trade without transport infrastructure."



Professor Mucavele said Africa's transport system was poorly integrated, imposing high cost premiums on trade transport, business and affecting the continent's competitiveness. He assured the Parliament that the Nepad transport programme would close the gap in transport infrastructure and reduce these costs.

The transport corridor programmes currently being implemented include:

- A road network connecting Mombassa to Nairobi, ending in Addis Ababa;
- Ghana to Togo;
- Benin to Togo;
- Mali to Burkina Faso until Ghana; and
- Mali to Senegal.

The Nepad Chief Executive also called for the acceleration of safety enhancing projects for air transport.

He said statistics showed that Africa had a high rate of flight accidents with 9.8 per million departures compared to the world average of 0.8 per million. His plea comes shortly after the horrific crash of a Kenyan flight, travelling from Cameroon to Kenya.

To read more, please click [here](#).



## **gTKP advertising for new Chief Executive**

Over the past two years, the work of gTKP has been guided by an interim Governing Board that comprised technical specialists in transport in developing countries from development institutions, private companies and civil society organisations. Currently managed by PricewaterhouseCoopers and funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development, gTKP is expected to become an independent charity by the summer, after establishing a launch platform based upon activities championed by transport specialists and coordinated through the web portal gTKP.com. This will help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as the lack of good quality transport services and infrastructure is a critical bottleneck to alleviating poverty in many developing countries.

In order to carry gTKP's legacy forward, gTKP is looking to appoint a new Chief Executive. The new Chief Executive will work closely with the gTKP board and will be expected to lead and shape a new independent organisation by employing visionary and effective management techniques.

The full advertisement for the job can be viewed [here](#), and if you would like an application pack, please email [info@gtkp.com](mailto:info@gtkp.com). The deadline for applications is 31 May 2007.

## ***Vietnam and Cuba to establish transport consultancy joint venture***

Vietnam's Ministry of Transport and Communication and the Cuban Ministry of Construction have agreed to establish a consultancy joint venture company by 2008. The agreement was reached during talks between Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications Ngo Tinh Duc and visiting Cuban Minister of Construction Fidel Figueroa De La Paz in Hanoi on May 8.



The two countries have worked closely together on various transportation infrastructure projects in the past, including the construction of the Ho Chi Minh Highway and Saigon-Trung Luong expressway on which Cuba's QCI consultancy firm played a major role.

The visiting Cuban delegation plan to tour construction sites of transport projects and meet with Vietnamese construction units and transport services to discuss co-operation possibilities.

To read more, please click [here](#).

## **General News**

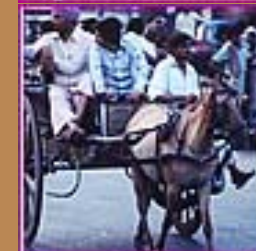
### ***Transformation of ECMT into the International Transport Forum***

On February 14<sup>th</sup> 2007, Mr. Jack Short, the Secretary General of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), briefed on progress to create The International Transport Forum, a global transport summit for discussion of key fields of action and strategy. He recalled that Ministers agreed in Dublin in May 2006 to transform ECMT into an International Transport Forum.

The event will be an annual highlight in the sector, covering global issues relevant to both the public and private sectors, and involving all modes. Delegates will include Transport Ministers, captains of industry from the transport and related sectors, as well as experts and decision makers. The presence of newspaper editors and journalists will also be encouraged.



As from May 2008, the date of the inaugural forum, the event will be established permanently in Leipzig. The city was chosen for its long tradition as a transport hub, its recognised expertise in conference organisation and its vibrant development. For 2008, the Forum will be on "Transport and Energy: the challenge of climate change." Commenting on the transformation, Mr. Short stated: "The International Transport Forum will be an excellent platform to highlight and debate transport strategy and transport issues that are relevant globally. I am confident that it will very rapidly establish its role as the primary meeting point for economic and sector leaders worldwide." gTKP looks forward to working closely with The International Transport Forum in the future.



## Road Safety Risk Reporter

The latest issue of Australia's Road Safety Risk Report newsletter is now available. This issue explores crash reduction estimates for road safety treatments. The newsletter,



produced by ARRB Research, is designed to disseminate results from the Austroads-funded Road Safety Engineering Risk Assessment project, which is developing information and advice on more effective ways to reduce road crashes and injuries using road engineering-based measures.

Please click [here](#) to access the full publication.

## Asian transport network on track

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations' body promoting Asian highway and rail networks, looks set to move from a purely infrastructural to a more value-adding and facilitating role as the early stages of two projects near completion.

Barry Cable, director of UNESCAP's transport and tourism division, says that the general goal now is "to develop an international, integrated inter-modal transport network for the region". This will mean looking at areas of concern such as logistics, the professionalism of the industry throughout the region and the development of dry ports and inland container depots (ICD's) throughout Asia and the Pacific.



UNESCAP is also going to tackle that great problem of Asia's roads: safety. Half a million people are killed on Asia's roads each year. UNESCAP hopes to reduce the forecasted number of deaths by 2015. Several factors on the

rail and road networks have allowed what is fairly rapid progress to be made, which in turn has freed up UNESCAP to set this new agenda. This, however, does not mean that the basic road work is finished - far from it. Of the 143,000 kilometres in the network, some 17%, according to Cable, is substandard, meaning that roads do not have two lanes and they are unpaved. It is clear that contracting parties involved in the 2005 intergovernmental agreement are willing to get the roads built.

"What we are increasingly seeing in the region is bilateral investment," he said. Two examples of this are Myanmar, where roads are being built by Thailand and India, both of whom see the advantage of a land link and are voting with their pockets. Beijing, along with some help from the Asia Development Bank, is financing the Asian Highway Route Number Three, which will link Thailand with China's south-western Kunming via Laos.

This development is paralleled on the rail network; Cable points to the big three - Russia, China and India - working towards endorsement of the intergovernmental agreement on the railway network. "It is exactly the same process as with roads," Cable said.

To read more, please click [here](#).

## India strengthening economic ties with Myanmar

India is steadily deepening economic and strategic relations with Myanmar, pressing ahead with work aimed at building or developing roads in Myanmar, as well as setting up a hydroelectric station and a communication and IT project.

The most ambitious of New Delhi's ventures is a link between ports on India's east and Sittwe Port in Myanmar that would further connect Mizoram through river transport and road. This is a \$100 million Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project. It is expected to provide an alternate route for transport of goods to northeast India.

The other project is upgrading the 160-km long Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo Road in Myanmar across Manipur. The Border Roads Organisation completed this in 1997. India decided in 2006 that the road needed to be resurfaced and repaired.



India is also building more roads in Myanmar, which is poor in infrastructure and communication, and a highway from Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand through Bagan in Myanmar.

To read more, please click [here](#).

### **Sustainable Roads**

An important dimension of the European Commission's recent Transport Policy review has been the conceptual shift from demand management to a greater focus on the supply side of transport, where each mode needs to work harder to contain the negative environmental effects of growing demand. In other words, as stated in a recent European Environment Agency report, "modal shift towards rail and inland shipping is not in all circumstances an efficient way to reduce the environmental impact".

The implication of this policy chance has been to place the "burden of proof" on the road sector to improve its performance at a time when there is widespread concern that Kyoto and other environmental targets are not being met by the European Member States.

The European Union Road Federation has released a discussion paper that explores the role of planning, building, and maintaining roads in terms of reducing the environmental impact of automobiles.

This paper however will argue that enormous progress has been made by the road sector and that the technologies are for the most part in place to change the environmental "footprint" of road construction and management while generating new opportunities for road sector stakeholders.

Please click [here](#) to access this discussion paper.



### **Creating the Environment for Active Travel**

There is increasing evidence that links poor spatial planning and over-reliance on the car with obesity and related health problems (see for example 'The Road to Obesity or the Path to Prevention'). Sustrans (UK) has recently published a leaflet on how to create an environment to support active travel, and why such transport planning is important to support strong communities and healthy, active, individuals. Whilst the leaflet focuses on the UK, it has wider applicability and also contains links to other useful sources of information.



Click [here](#) to access the leaflet.

### **Old road to China revived**

Indian officials announced that they have started rebuilding their part of a strategic road link with China that has remained closed for 60 years. The Stilwell Road was built by Naga and Kachin labourers, Indian soldiers and American engineers at the height of World War II and was a vital lifeline for the movement of Allied forces fighting the Japanese.

It has remained closed since India gained its independence from the British Raj in 1947, the victim of ethnic insurgencies and hostile relations between Beijing and New Delhi. Recently, however, talks have started involving India, China and Burma, through which the road also passes, with a view to reopening it as a major trade and transport conduit stretching from Assam into the Chinese heartland.

Assam's Chief Minister, Tarun Gogoi, said the 1726km road "would be a dream come true for the northeast of India". It would "boost trade and commerce significantly". Chief Minister of Manipur state, Okram Ibobi Singh, added: "Free trade with Southeast Asian countries and India's northeast would be possible only with the reopening of the Stilwell Road."

Hundreds of workers and engineers have been deployed to rebuild the 61km of the road that lie on Indian soil. China has already upgraded the 632km of its stretch, and given Burma money to help with the reconstruction of its 1000km section.

To read more, please click [here](#).

### **Conference discusses Black Sea Ring Highway and Silk Road**



The Turkish Road Association and the International Road Federation are hosting a conference in Istanbul from 14-16<sup>th</sup> May. It will discuss options for upgrading the Black Sea Ring Highway and upgrading the ancient Silk Roads from China to Europe. The conference is supported by the Black Sea Economic Co-operation and the Traceca Programme and will focus on practical projects and how they can be funded.



### ***'NICHES' a highlight at POLIS 2007***

The EU-funded NICHES initiative held its final event in Toulouse on 16 March 2007, as part of the POLIS 2007 conference on 'Innovation in local transport for attractive cities and regions'. The occasion was attended by more than 300 participants from across Europe and featured the presentation of the 'OSMOSE' Awards by EU Transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot.

"NICHES is clearly helping local urban mobility decision makers to exchange ideas and to bring those ideas into practice," said EU Project Officer Patrick Mercier-Handisyde. "It has assembled players from different sectors and disciplines across the EU and accession countries in order to promote the most promising new concepts, initiatives and projects, elevating them from their current 'niche' positions to more 'mainstream' urban transport applications."

To read more on this new initiative, please click [here](#).

***gTKP invites you to register on the new web portal***

The new gTKP web portal has now been 'live' for a few weeks. Many of our members have already registered on the site and we warmly invite anyone interested in sustainable and efficient transport in developing countries to get involved. Registering will allow you to interact with the site, its resources, and other gTKP users to a greater degree. You can read about the different types of registration and the benefits they allow you [here](#).

