

G8 Summit a success despite London terror attacks

Despite the attacks in London on 7 July, the G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, continued as scheduled and its conclusions can be found [here](#). Most observers reacted positively to the conclusions it made. Bjorn Stigson, of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), believes the outcome and its associated plan echoes many of the values it has been championing in recent years.

- Both Africa and the environment are on the global agenda
- Aid to the continent will be significantly increased while foreign debt will be reduced or written off completely
- Refreshed discourse with more countries, especially those with emerging economies, on such issues as energy consumption and poverty alleviation

For further WBCSD reaction to the summit, please see their [website](#).

What do you think? We'd also be interested to hear your views on the g8 summit. Do send your thoughts and comments to [Lucy Richmond](#).

Website

The newly launched website is constantly being updated with new content. Your assistance would be appreciated with this task, particularly with populating the Directory. If there are organisations or links you'd like to see on the site please contact [Lucy Richmond](#).

Terrorism and Public Transport

Londoners have shrugged off the threat of further terrorist attacks and have returned to public transport in their droves. Those of us in London, including Peter O'Neill and the Core Management Group, are carrying on as normal and we were grateful to members, such as Fidel Delgado in Cuba, who sent their best wishes and condolences.

"It is important for individuals and public officials to avoid overreacting to terrorist threats in ways that increase overall danger" says the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, with research indicating that public transport's fatality rate one tenth of that recorded for automobiles. View the Institute's report on terrorism and public transport on their website [here](#).



African Union Summit in Sirte, Libya

The Libyan town of Sirte, 400 km east of Tripoli, played host to the 5th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on 4 – 5 July, 2005. The Summit was preceded by the 7th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 10th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC).

Hilary Benn, the UK Secretary of State for International Development, addressed the summit on the 4th of July. In his speech he praised the ground-breaking African Peer Review Mechanism, an initiative to stamp out corruption. He also highlighted the continent's various success stories. "Average GDP growth in 2004 was the highest in 8 years. Mozambique has cut poverty by a third in the past 15 years and has doubled the number of children in schools. Uganda has cut poverty by half and reduced the incidence of HIV by two thirds."

As part of the Union's Millennium Development Goals, the Assembly resolved to increase investment spending on transport infrastructure through various sources, including the engagement of the private sector.

To read Hilary Benn's speech in full, please refer to this DFID website [link](#). To comment, please contact [Lucy Richmond](#)

Working with Private Sector on Tsunami relief

UN-HABITAT has signed a deal with Australian-based group Bovis Lend Lease to help project manage their reconstruction work in Sri Lanka. The company, a world leader in project management in the construction industry, will provide managers to aid UN-HABITAT's two main sites in Galle and Hambantota, with the possibility of increasing its involvement after the initial phase of the agreement. After providing initial aid such as shelter, the UN agency is now focusing on the planning and implementation of a broader sustainable recovery in the affected areas. Full details of their activities are available from their [website](#).

Forthcoming Events

• **Institute of Transportation Engineers 2005 Annual Meeting and Exhibit** – 7-10 August 2005. To be held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre, Australia

• **Interregional Workshop on "Public Private Partnerships for Urban Poverty Reduction"** - 27 – 28 July 2004. To be held at the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin

Comments regarding this news bulletin? Please do not hesitate to contact Lucy Richmond of the Core Management Group.

