



News

**gTKP Newsletter 27 –
June - September 2007**

News Highlights

New Core Management Group for gTKP

Following an internal review, the Department for International Development (DFID) has taken the decision to move the global Transport Knowledge Partnership to a new institutional “home”, linked to or part of an existing organisation. Working with existing members of the Partnership, DFID expects to design and implement this new phase of support for gTKP, including detailed arrangements for its management, within the coming twelve months.

In the meantime, arrangements have been made for the interim management of gTKP over this period, so that its ongoing work and functions can be maintained, and indeed continue to develop, in preparation for a new long-term future. DFID has asked the Technology, Infrastructure & Urban Planning (TI-UP) Resource Centre, which was established by the Department to provide services in these areas, to manage gTKP for this interim year. TI-UP is a consortium of organisations including academic/research and private sector companies.

DFID remains committed to supporting gTKP to achieve its intended objectives of promoting the management and dissemination of high-quality and relevant knowledge in the field of transport, and of encouraging the practical application of such knowledge in order to produce better transport.

The website (www.gtkp.com) and email address (info@gtkp.com) will remain the same. However there is a new telephone number, which is +44 (0)1293 602678 and the new postal address is: c/o WSP imc, First Point, Buckingham Gate, Gatwick RH6 0NT, United Kingdom.

The outgoing core management group would like to take the opportunity to thank all of those members and website users who have worked with the team and contributed to gTKP over the past few years and wish the new team every success for the future.

Report on gTKP London Meeting

The outputs from the gTKP meeting held in London on 18 and 19 June are now available to view on the gTKP website (view the agenda, presentations and videos by [clicking here](#)). The event involved over 30 members of the Partnership and addressed various topics relating to the development of gTKP including the main priorities for the Partnership going forward, the best methods to share information and issues relating to institutional arrangements.

A summary of the main issues raised and points taken on board can be [viewed on the website](#). DFID and the Interim Governing Board are considering how to take forward many of these suggestions for the development of gTKP.

General News

Launch of Make Roads Safe Africa Campaign

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has urged political leaders and the G8 to ensure that road development does not aggravate the road safety crisis that Africa faces. Opening the Make Roads Safe Africa Conference in Cape Town, Archbishop Tutu said, “Road deaths and injuries are becoming a new health emergency for Africa. The human and economic cost is growing. I call on the leaders of the G8 to heed the request of African transport and health ministers, to ensure that safety is at the heart of international road investment. Protecting the poorest and most vulnerable road users in our communities must be the first priority.”

The conference took place during FIA Conference Week, and brought together automobile clubs and road safety campaigners from throughout the world, as well as senior representatives from the World Bank and UN.

The conference also heard the announcement of a new African Road Assessment Programme, part of the International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP), which has been running since April 2006. The Programme will be based on a pilot study carried out in South Africa’s Kwa-Zulu Natal province from March to April 2007. The inspections involved the use of the vehicle fitted with video assessment technology and covered 2,100 kilometres of road - approximately 4% of the nation’s paved roads. The results of the inspections are expected in September 2007.

John Dawson, Chairman of the iRAP said: “We need to identify the high risk roads across Africa. We must steer aid towards the roads where people are dying in large numbers just because there are no footpaths, safe crossing points or safety fences”.

Click [here](#) to read more.



Trans-Asia railway route in Vietnam

The China Railway Construction Corporation and the China Machinery Import and Export Corporation have submitted a feasibility study on constructing a rail route linking Ho Chi Minh City with Binh Phuoc, on the Vietnam-Cambodia border. The 128km line is estimated to cost around \$US438 million and would form part of a 5,500km Trans-Asia railway beginning in Kunming in China's Yunnan province, and extending through Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia before terminating in Singapore. Construction is scheduled to start in 2010 and it is expected to be completed in 2015.

Click [here](#) to read more.

New York Congestion Charge Blocked

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's plan to introduce a charge on traffic in Manhattan has failed to get approval in the New York State Assembly. Bloomberg called the setback a "disgrace" adding that it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make New York City more competitive. He argued the plan would reduce travel time and that the income generated by the \$US4 charge would have been ploughed back into improving the public transport system. Critics were concerned that the plan would penalise lower-income residents and commuters, and a recent poll showed that 61% of NYC residents were against the proposal. The Mayor has vowed to continue to push forward plans to improve travel in the city, and has recently ordered that the city's entire taxi fleet be converted to fuel-efficient hybrids by 2012.

Four Chinese gas-powered buses on streets of Mozambican capital

Maputo Public Transport (TPM) has begun an operational trial of four buses powered by natural gas built by Yutong of China. Transport Minister Antonio Munguambe said that the new buses would benefit citizens of Maputo and Matola, and, at a later date, residents in other towns and cities after refuelling depots are built to service the gas-powered vehicles. A TPM executive said the new buses bring great economic savings to the Maputo transport operator, as a kilo of gas costs 18 meticals and a litre of diesel is priced at around 25 meticals (\$US1.05). Yutong Automobile Co Ltd, based in China's Henan province, exported more than 2,400 buses in 2005 worth a total US\$ 140 million.

Click [here](#) to read more

Get what you pay for: Tackling corruption in the construction sector

Plans to tackle corruption on a global scale were announced in June by the then UK Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn.

The UK will become a pilot country in The Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST), and will be one of the first states to create a new framework for making information on projects' purpose, location and cost available to the public. By bringing together government ministries and agencies, construction companies and contractors, and civil society, it is hoped that the plans will increase transparency and accountability in the sector.

Mr Benn said, "the new initiative will help deliver a 'get what you pay for' culture to the industry. It will help create greater transparency around the flow of money, and the quality of roads, schools, hospitals that are built with it."

Click [here](#) for more information.

International Road Safety Masters

The International Road Safety Academy Association has worked with universities worldwide to develop a harmonized road safety Masters and PhD program. Universities in Ecuador, South Africa, Ethiopia, Turkey, Romania, Spain and Sweden are participating.

Click [here](#) to read more.

World Bank Signs Credit Deal on Poverty Relief Programme

As part of the second phase of Poverty Reduction Programme 135 and Rural Transport for Viet Nam, the World Bank has agreed to give Viet Nam a US\$156 million interest-free loan to help reduce poverty and improve the country's rural transport network.

\$106.25 million will go to the Rural Transport Project for Viet Nam, which aims to reduce travel costs and improve access to poor rural communities in Northern and Central Viet Nam. Funding is also coming from the UK's Department for International Development, which is providing \$25.4 million towards the country's rural transport network.

Click [here](#) to read more.



TANROADS and the fight against HIV/AIDS

The Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) are working with the Government to mitigate the vulnerability of migrant labour forces to HIV/AIDS infection. The organisation plans to integrate an educational programme in all road projects. This programme aims to raise awareness of the danger of HIV/AIDS, promote preventative measures and reduce the impact on those already infected.

Measures include obliging contractors to provide access to Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) and provide condoms to workers. Depending on the target group involved, other measures include distributing posters in public places on and off site, training peer educators (one per 30 workers), and providing STD diagnosis and treatment.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Pedal Easy in South Africa

In June representatives from the South African Department of Transport and the bicycle industry met to decide on the technical specification for the one million bikes it plans to build by 2015. The DOT's programme, named Shova Kalula (Pedal Easy in the Zulu language), aims to promote bicycle use as a lower-cost means to access employment and basic services. The target recipients of the first 60,000 bicycles, to be distributed 2007-8, are rural school children and farm workers.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Transaid Tyre Safety Awareness Campaign

The charity Transaid, who work with local partners to improve transport management, have been targeting one of the major causes of road accidents: poor tyre safety. This year's campaign trained key groups in Malawi and Zambia, including the traffic police, government and road safety agencies. Topics covered included tyre construction and maintenance, inspecting tyre damage and using tyres efficiently to reduce costs and fuel consumption. The campaign engaged over 300 individuals and it is hoped the information will be disseminated yet further. Including the public transport sector and private companies should also help the campaign to have a greater impact on the transport sectors of Malawi and Gambia.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Anti-Corruption Training Manual

This manual, which is targeted at the infrastructure, construction and engineering sectors, aims to help users achieve a better understanding of corruption and how to avoid it. It is designed for use by both individuals and companies, as part of their corporate training. The five sections provide an overview of corruption, examples of corruption throughout the project cycle and practical advice about how to respond to a potentially corrupt situation.

Click [here](#) to read the manual.

23rd World Road Congress

The 23rd World Road Congress was held in Paris on 17-21 September 2007. The conference was focused on the World Road Association's four main themes of activity: Governance and Management of the Road System; Sustainable Mobility; Safety and Road Operations; and the Quality of Road Infrastructures. The conference, which marked the centenary of the World Road Association, also had an overall theme of sustainable development. The wide range of technical visits included a chance to board the Paris tramway and ride in a bus equipped with an information system used for the dynamic management of traffic flows in real time. Poster session topics included the development of rural roads, road safety and human powered mobility in urban areas. gTKP attended, and attracted a great deal of interest in the exhibition area. More detailed information will be available in the next newsletter.

Click [here](#) to read more about PIARC.

