

Welcome to Issue 32 of our eNewsletter

March 2008

WELCOME MESSAGE:

gTKP gets a new look

If you are reading this then you are already getting an idea of the new look of gTKP. In response to many factors, including ease and speed of use, the need for improved design and better opportunities for members to contribute, we have completely redone our website and newsletter.

You will still find that gTKP provides the **most current and best available global transport information** and that we are continually improving and updating the website. As always, we welcome your contributions and would especially like to hear your comments on the new website. Please visit us on www.gtkp.com or email us on info@gtkp.com.

Still seeking theme champions...

Last month gTKP welcomed new theme champions for Urban Transport and Social Development, both of whom have contributed extensively to the new website. We are still seeking expressions of interest for theme champion for Finance and Economics. We welcome applications from individuals or organisations, particularly those in developing/transition countries. Please email your interest to john.carr@wspgroup.com telling us a bit about you or your organisation.

University of Birmingham course for Senior Road Executives starts in April

Registration for the latest University of Birmingham course for Senior Road Executives is underway. This highly rated course runs from 28 April to 16 May and will be made up of three linked one-week courses taught by international road experts (including gTKP governance theme champion Stephen Vincent). Participants can attend all three courses, or can just choose the ones most relevant to their position. This year's course covers Road Financing and Road Fund Management; Restructuring Road Management, and; Road Maintenance Management. Past participants on the course have come from more than 28 countries around the world. For further details, please click [here](#).

Governance

gTKP seeking country experts in governance...

gTKP is always seeking to expand the broad range of contributors. Last year's governance roundtable discussions recommended gTKP "country knowledge champions". We are looking for people who enjoy discussion and debate, and who have an active interest in improving governance in transport in their own country.

Country knowledge champions will play an important role in gTKP by gathering and updating road benchmark data, identifying potential case studies, raising local awareness of gTKP, reporting local news items about governance in transport, and contributing to gTKP discussion groups. They will also help us with local events and exhibitions and assist us in identifying appropriate country delegates to attend regional events, such as the Asia regional workshop to be held in Manila in June. Limited funding will be available to support some of these activities.

If you are interested in being a gTKP governance knowledge champion for your country, or if you would like to recommend someone for such a post, please e-mail governance@gtkp.com. Initially only a small number of knowledge champions will be appointed. If this initiative is as successful as we hope it will be, additional champions may be engaged.

gTKP exhibits in Arusha, Tanzania

gTKP would like to thank the organisers of the Regional Seminar on Performance-Based Management and Maintenance Contracts, held in Arusha, Tanzania from 25 to 27 February 2008, for assisting with providing a gTKP governance theme exhibition stand at this event. This stand provided an opportunity to update delegates on current activities, including initiatives to develop [straightforward benchmarks](#) for the road sector and to write a book about [road infrastructure for non-road sector specialists](#). Your contributions to either of these initiatives would be appreciated.

Anyone organising an event in Africa or Asia who would be interested in setting up an exhibition stand, please e-mail governance@gtkp.com.

Asia workshop at Asian Development Bank in Manila 25 to 27 June 2008

The governance in transport theme is very pleased to announce that the Asian Development Bank will be hosting a gTKP Asia regional workshop in Manila in June. The workshop is planned for 25 to 27 June 2008, and is provisionally titled "Mobilising Civil Society to Improve Governance in Transport"; a subject originally recommended by the gTKP governance Asia roundtable discussion held in 2007.

We would be interested to hear from any organisations or individuals interested in participating. Limited funding will be

available to assist a small number of selected participants to attend. Input to this workshop, and recommendations for documents to be circulated to participants beforehand would be very welcome. Please e-mail governance@gtkp.com.

Road Safety

Cutting deadly toll of speed on the roads is addressed in new manual

The management of speed remains one of the biggest challenges facing road safety practitioners around the world and can only be addressed through a concerted, long-term and multidisciplinary response.

A new 'how to do' [manual](#) was published this month through global collaboration of leading agencies committed to reducing death and injury on the roads of developing countries. The manual advocates a strong and strategic approach to creating a safe road system. Speed management is at the heart of the approach.

The manual was written to inform and support policy-makers and road safety practitioners involved in developing and implementing road safety and speed management programmes in low and middle-income countries. It is easy to use and consists of a series of practical 'how to' modules showing why speed management is important, how to assess the situation of speed management in a country. Finally, it outlines steps to be taken to reduce speed-related injury and death.

The manual is also available free of charge in CD ROM or printed form from the [Global Road Safety Partnership](#) c/o International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, PO Box 372, 17 Chemin des Crêts, CH-1211, Geneva 19, Switzerland (email: grsp@ifrc.org)

Seeking case studies...illegal use of lane and shoulder widths

We are looking for case studies, on behalf of United Nations ESCAP, on the "safety and operational tradeoffs of freeway lane and shoulder widths". We are particularly interested in studies or accounts of experiences in developing/transition countries. A major issue in numerous countries is the legal or illegal use of paved (or even soft) road shoulders on freeways in major urban areas during rush hours (e.g., Bangkok). What are the safety implications of such behaviour and how is the safety effect related to the shoulder width? Have you come across reliable findings on this issue in the developing world? If so, please share your experiences through the gTKP discussion forum on www.gtkp.com or email adrian.walsh@gtkp.com.

SADC Road Safety Practitioner Convention, Namibia: 8-9 April 2008

gTKP is supporting [GRSP Namibia](#), the NRSC Namibia and the Walvis Bay Corridor Group's first Road Safety Convention for Practitioners in the of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The convention is primarily designed for road safety practitioners within government, NGOs and communities. It aims to:

- develop a strong regional road safety partnership
- share local good practice
- develop a regional database
- present a series of road safety good practice guides in workshops.

More information is available from yolandi@proimage.com.na or from www.qrspnamibia.org

Indian Highway safety initiative aims to cut traffic accidents on improved highways

Experience in India and elsewhere shows that upgrading highways frequently leads to an increase in speed and traffic, often resulting in severe accidents. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has appointed gTKP partner, the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) to develop a Road Safety education programme on the Delhi-Kolkata section of Golden Quadrilateral Highway for a 1453 km stretch of road. This road length currently has an alarming annual accident rate of 2865, of which 1594 are fatal.

The aim of the Road Safety Education Programme is to reduce risk by raising awareness among local inhabitants and road users of National Highways. More about this initiative and the work of IRTE is available [here](#).

gTKP addresses the World Conference on Injury Prevention

gTKP road safety expert Kate McMahon spoke at the [World Conference](#) on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in Mexico to advocate the Safe System Approach which builds on existing and developing road safety interventions and aims at the long-term elimination of fatal and serious disabling injuries. It focuses treatment efforts on interventions to reduce the likelihood and severity of crashes. The approach can be applied progressively in all countries, not only the best performing ones.

In a paper delivered at the March conference, Kate noted that "by adopting the ambition to eliminate death and serious injury on the road network in the long term, countries will be making a clear statement that fatalities and serious disabling injury are unacceptable products of mobility." Copies of her paper will be available shortly on www.gtkp.com.

Rural Transport

This month we are focussing on the subject of [Basic Access](#) and also taking a look at the means of vehicle propulsion. This [article](#) on compressed air cars may be a glimpse into a lower pollution future?

Rural Transport Discussion Groups

The launch of the new gTKP website is a chance to initiate some discussion topics to which anybody can contribute, and share experiences and views.

The initial Rural Transport discussion topics are:

- Basic Access
- Mainstreaming Good Practice

We will add more in the coming months. If you would like to comment on information already posted on the gTKP website, identify knowledge gaps (towards which we may be able to find some funding), suggest a new discussion topic, or generally 'let off some steam' on a Rural Transport subject, please contribute to the Discussion Forum or write to rob.petts@gtkp.com to set things in motion.

Basic Access

In addition to the above Discussion Forum, we have posted a new topic briefing on [Basic Access](#). The concept of Basic Access has come to the fore in recent years with the realisation that for many countries the lower category levels of the national road networks are in a very early stage of development and often do not provide adequate year-round service for rural communities. We look at the definition of basic access and the issues that are relevant to these tertiary, but vital road links.

Car runs on air!

Perhaps this is a dream come true? A car that just runs on air! A recent [article](#) in the journal [Connexion](#) reports on a French invention of a small car that runs on compressed air. The obvious advantage is the lack of pollution wherever the car runs. Is this the perfect, sustainable, low cost means of personal transport? Read the article and decide for yourself. The big question appears to be regarding how the energy for the generation of the compressed air is produced. Solar, wind, micro-hydro, bio-mass, bio-fuel or other options may offer attractive options to support this potentially low pollution vehicle. Other issues such as environmental friendliness of the manufacturing process and materials used, and whole life issues and costs also warrant consideration. To comment on this article, email rob.petts@gtkp.com with the subject: Proposed Discussion - Sustainable Propulsion.

US Army Unpaved Road and Airfield Guidelines

We are posting the guideline on Aggregate Surfaced Roads and Airfield Areas. This document may be of interest to those responsible for management of unsealed or gravel roads. However care should be taken in consideration of the document's application for Low Volume Rural Roads in developing countries. The 'client criteria' and basis of the guidelines will necessarily be somewhat different for generally well resourced military and maintenance operations, and basic design life of 25 years. The lack of reference to high rainfall areas and steep gradients (it is assumed that airfields would be fairly flat anyway), and the low expectations of periodic re-gravelling, suggest that the guidelines may need adaption for high rainfall tropical zones.

New SEACAP website

The South East Asia Community Access Programme (SEACAP) website is now accessible [here](#).

Next Month

We will focus on the topic of Low Volume Rural Road Standards and Specifications. If you have comments or contributions on this topic, or any of the Rural Transport topics, please write to Theme Champion Rob Petts on: rob.petts@gtkp.com

Social Development

In the social development theme this month we look at a critical health issue facing women in developing countries: maternal mortality, and how it is linked to transport.

Better transport could prevent the deaths of one million women a year

A new report into maternal health, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the role of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) has been published by the UK International Development Select Committee. It highlights the importance of transport in influencing women's access to appropriate care, and notes that in many regions lack of access to transport is a key barrier to use of maternal health care services. The report points out that in rural areas of the developing world, where motorised vehicles may be rare, women in labour often face an agonising

walk or stretcher ride to the nearest delivery facility. This becomes critical, and potentially life-threatening, in the case of complications. The situation is starkly described in the report by Dr Grace Kodindo, a leading expert on maternal health:

"If a woman is living in a very rural area, with no transportation, sometimes the relatives have to take them on their shoulders and walk two or three days before reaching a health facility. She may die in the meantime, or if she does not die the baby will die. If she survives she will end up with a fistula [a hole in the birth canal caused by prolonged labour without medical intervention]."

The report highlights efforts undertaken in many communities to find ways of overcoming these tragic circumstances. It showcases community initiatives to pool funds and collaborate with local transport groups that have been shown to increase the use of maternal health services. It also highlights initiatives such as the development of motorcycle ambulances and bicycle stretchers.

There are many things that communities and local and national governments and donors can do to address the barrier that transport presents to women in accessing healthcare during childbirth. Over the next few months gTKP will compile resources on some of these initiatives, and available assessments of their effectiveness. This will build upon existing work, such as the 2005 [Toolkit on Gender, Transport and Maternal Mortality](#).

Further information

The gTKP website Social Development theme has more information about the role of [transport in maternal mortality](#).

This [presentation](#) also highlights the issue.

Recommended organisation

[Transaid](#) is a UK-based NGO working in international transport and health.

Please share your knowledge of what works in reducing transport barriers to maternal care. E-mail Jeff Turner on jeff.turner@gtkp.com

Urban Transport

Urban Transport in the new gTKP website

Urban Transport is a new gTKP theme and it is now established on the revamped gTKP website. Several pages are up and running and more are being added regularly. Topics currently addressed include a new Urban Transport theme page, Demand Management, Mobility Management, Non-Motorised Transport, Pedestrians, Non-Motorised Vehicles, and Traffic Management. In addition, there is a new Glossary of Urban Transport terms and acronyms. Each page presents a short summary of policies and context, issues and actions along with useful links to key documents, presentations and websites. We welcome contributions on examples, especially from developing countries.

Help us "define" urban transport...

We welcome your comments and inputs, especially to the Glossary, which we see as a sort of "Wiki" glossary that is updated and edited by our members. Please contact Peter Midgley with your suggestions on peter.midgley@gtkp.com.

gTKP in Zambia

The gTKP Urban Transport theme was presented at the recent Southern Africa Sub-Regional Policy Dialogue on Air Pollution, held in Lusaka, Zambia, 5-6 March 2008 where some 50 delegates expressed interest in joining gTKP as well as working with gTKP to develop Africa-wide urban transport networks.

The effects of air pollution have recently featured in several news items on www.gtkp.com, including a recent Australian study which found that air pollution may reduce the size of a foetus, and a separate study finding that diesel exhaust can cause a stress response in the brain.