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Editorial

First African Union Conference of Transporters' Ministers

The first African Union conference of transporters' ministers took place in Algiers on April 21st - 25th 2008

The department of infrastructure and energy of the African Union commission (created in 2003) was in charge of the organisation of this event which aims at promoting, in a continental dimension, transport, which is a vehicle of both integration and sustainable development.

The preparation of an integrated master plan for transport infrastructure in Africa is an important point of this event.

Participants insisted on security, safety, environmental issues and on the competence reinforcement

The partnership with European Union, launched in October 2007, had a significant impact and role in this approach since it will supply it with substantial resources for the development of African infrastructures.

In the frame work of this conference, occurred the fourth regional assembly of the International Union of railways (UIC Africa).

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Programmes and activities

Launch of Era-Net Transport II

A Management Group Meeting was held on 29th- 30th May, 2008 in Solothurn – Switzerland- in order to launch the Era-Net Transport II and consider the lessons from the experience of Era-Net Transport I, running since 2004:

- A "High Level Group" will gather once a year the decision-makers of transport-researches in Europe in order to promote the trans-national cooperation

- Era-Net Transport II will contribute to make the network actors of transport-researches in Europe more coherent

- France will reduce its trans-national actions in order to concentrate its efforts and financing and will adopt a very proactive approach in promoting researches priority.

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Railways Transporters in Bosnia

On the occasion of the end of the twinning "railways transporters", a press conference was organized on March 26th 2008 in Sarajevo. Were present to this event: the Bosnian Ministry of transport and communications, the representatives of the European Union delegation, the French Embassy as well as the two leaders of the project (French and Bosnian ones) and the local twinning advisor.

It was an opportunity to assess this 21-month long project which had mobilized more than forty French and Estonian experts, enabled the organization of study tours, workshops and seminars (France, Estonia and Bosnia).

The specific objectives of this Twinning Project, successfully accomplished, were to provide targeted assistance to the Bosnian Ministry of Communications and Transport to implement the Law on Railways and to identify, adopt, and implement the *Acquis* provisions related to the railway sub-sector.

The adhesion of responsible from both the ministries and partners from other concerned structures contributed highly to the success of this twinning.

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Internet: www.isted.com/programmes/jumelages/index_fr.htm

Transport and sustainable development

Isted has coordinated the redaction of a note regarding the theme "transport and sustainable development".

This document was prepared as a response to the request of the French Agency for Development (AFD) in the framework of its strategic transport intervention (CIS is one of the elements used by the agency to define its interventions in accurate sector).

It points out the importance of transport development in coming decades.

Worldwide Air and Maritime traffic will be multiplied by three by 2025, the same increase for the Automobile Park and transportation of goods by 2050.

Five recommendations have been set: improving transport run, facilitating the procedures before funding new infrastructures, considering underprivileged populations' needs, advising emerging countries when choosing their transport policies in accordance with the climate change and the fight against road security as well as restarting transport researches for emerging countries.

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Study on International Geographic information Market

The first step of the study, financed by DRAST and DAEI from MEEDDAT, was exposed during a seminar held on April 3rd 2008 at La Défense (Paris). Many of the professionals who participated to interviews attended this event, among them, about forty administrators and consultancy firms.

This presentation enabled the definition of the areas covered by geomatics, in other word, collecting geographic databases, data-information processing, disseminating geographic information and putting in place required elements to put in place a geomatics department in both public and private sectors.

During this first phase, a list of occupations has been presented as well as the importance of training actions, researches and development. The second phase of the survey, which is under process, aims at improving the efficiencies of the Worldwide French Interventions by 2009.

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World Development Report on Middle-East and North Africa consultancy

The KNA-MENA, technical office of the world bank, organised on May 5th-6th ,2008 in Marseilles a regional consultancy about the global development report project for 2009, the topic was "reorganising geographic development".

M. Indermit Gill, Director of the World Development Report honoured this event by his presence and around him, a large attendance: representatives of WB, representatives of regional and local authorities from 12 countries of the Mena. Experts also participated as observers.

The World Bank received congratulations for the choice of this topic and the quality of its presentation. Three topics were particularly appreciated: general division between States, distance inside a country and density of urban traffic.

The provisional version of the report could be enriched by the following suggestion: integrating the recent changes in the long-term vision (climate, food crisis, new technologies), considering thoroughly the migration issue, adjusting recommendations to local contexts (social and environmental stakes, cities' size, decentralisation impact), considering the impact of both security and disparities in the urban sector, improving regional integration through commercial agreements and investment in major infrastructures.

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Current events

Internet

• Bulletin *Villes en développement* n°79, March 2008 "The cities of Mediterranean and Middle East: the space for a new type of cooperation"

www.isted.com/periodiques/villes-developpement/bulletin_pdf/issue.pdf

Villes en développement

• New acquisitions

Vies citadines – E. Dorier-Apprill, P. Gervais-Lambony (coord.) – Paris: Belin, 2007

This book is the result of a workgroup in various areas from the North to the South, analysing through depth sights to urban life, the contemporary interactions between spatial and urban social reconstitutions.

Coopération décentralisée et développement durable – n°77, 4th quarter 2007 – Liaison énergie francophonie

Based on this thematic, the special issue gives the floor to the actors for territorial policy and to the collective reflection on the territorial dynamic for the sustainable development.

Villes internationales. Entre tensions et réactions des habitants – Supervised by Isabelle Berry-Chikhaoui, Agnès Deboulet, Laurence Roulleau-Berger – Paris: La Découverte, 2007

Results of economic globalisation and cities internationalisation through some examples: Beirut, East-Jerusalem, Tunis, Istanbul, Marseilles, Barcelona, Naples, Lisbon, Tokyo, Shanghai, Mumbai, Caracas...

Financing Cities: Fiscal Responsibility and Urban Infrastructure in Brazil, China, India, Poland and South Africa – Edited by George E. Peterson and Patricia Clarke Annez – New Delhi: Sage Publications, 2007

This book brings out how accountability for urban infrastructure outcomes and financing has been built into different countries institutions, and assesses from each country's own perspective how well this aspect of the intergovernmental system is working within the overall fiscal framework.

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The logo for Isted features the word "ISTED" in a blue, serif font. Below the letters, there is a horizontal line with a green and blue gradient, and a thin green line curves upwards from the left side of the line.

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