

***IFRTD experience and advice for  
strategically improving rural transport  
infrastructure and services for the  
poor in Asia***

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# What is IFRTD?

- **The IFRTD is a global network of individuals and organisations working together towards improved access, mobility and economic opportunity for poor communities in developing countries**
- **It is a decentralized network in to four regions, namely, Asia & the Pacific, Eastern & Southern Africa, Western and Central Africa and Latin America.**
- **There are 33 national networks and organisations affiliated to IFRTD. Out of this there are 8 national networks in Bangladesh, India (being re-structured), Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka from South Asia, Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines in SE Asia. IFRTD has links with Transport Development Strategic Institute in Vietnam and department of Roads in Lao PDR. Recently, IFRTD expanded its geographic area to the Pacific region but yet to get any affiliations.**



# Current Strategic issues in Rural Transport (RT)

- Rural Accessibility Planning to meet rural travel needs (Location of services, types of goods moved, trip needs etc)
- Sustainable Rural Road maintenance.
- Community participation.
- Incorporation of social aspects in to Rural Transport plans (gender, inclusive access etc)
- Improve access to link up with other services and opening up economic opportunities in other sectors by RT interventions in infrastructure and appropriate vehicles for transport services.
- Faster accessibility of markets and services “beyond village” and/or rural hubs. (Importance of inter-provincial transport links)
- RT Safety.
- Effective learning and sharing (Case studies of good practices from IFRTD network in Asia).



# Rural Accessibility Planning

- Consideration of transport needs of Rural people (existing and expected/predicted post infrastructure improvements).
- Developed methodology to get community participation during planning, execution and maintenance for sustainable interventions.
- Replicate successes of the use of IRAP (ILO methodology) in many Asian countries now.
- Improved technical and social skills and capacities at Local Government levels.



# Sustainable Rural Road maintenance

- Identified as a global issue
- Sustainable maintenance of Gravel, earth, concrete block paved roads through community participation.
- Need for a sustainable maintenance planning and management system of paved and unpaved rural roads and availability of funding mechanisms for paved roads (e.g. LGED Bangladesh).
- Dissemination and application of research outputs on low-cost paving and surfacing (SEACAP)



# Community Participation

- Utilization of participatory approaches in planning, execution and maintenance of RT infrastructures, with the involvement rural community.
- Use of local resources and management.
- Mainstreaming of CP approaches in state/local level planning by developing country specific strategies (e.g. PMGSY India).
- Create sense of ownership among the community.



# Incorporation of social aspects in to Rural Transport plans

- Gender incorporation in to RT plans at national levels by meeting the travel and transport needs of women.
- Travel rights of the People with Disabilities, elderly and the sick are considered in RT plans, designs and incorporated in national transport policies. (National level advocacy e.g. Sri Lanka & Nepal)
- Invest in RT development to minimize access difficulties to health to reduce maternal and child mortality rates and access to education to achieve higher literacy and employment rate.



## **Improve access to other services and opening up economic opportunities by improving appropriate transport services.**

- Retain the rural communities in the villages by providing good facilities in health, education, agriculture extension services through improved accessibility and mobility.
- Reduce urban migration and ensure food security by making agriculture a profitable one by opening up new markets and see the produce reach the markets without delays in transport.
- Develop Inland Water Transport sector in Asia
- RT services to be facilitated by Intermediate Means of Transport (IMT)



## **Faster accessibility of markets and services**

- Reliable and efficient functioning of transport services for rural roads to connect with rural transport hubs with better inter-provincial road networks.
- Further development of Railway (in countries with Rail tracks) for low-cost freight transport and take off burden from the Roads.
- Create awareness of rural communities of the economic and social benefits of Transport infrastructures.



# RT Safety

- Road safety in Rural areas needs to be taken care of with improved safety.
- Ensure safety standards are strictly followed in IMT designs (with provision for PwD and seniors) and boats used in river transport.
- Least impact on rural livelihoods when planning highways running through rural areas (protect animals used by rural people)



# Effective learning and sharing (Case studies on good practices from IFRTD network in Asia

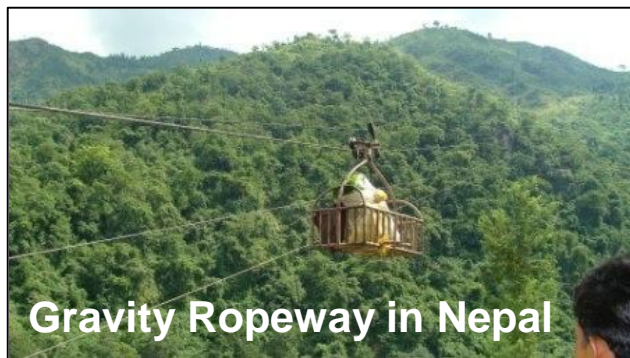
- Mobility and Health Research findings from Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Indonesia, on access to health by PwD, pregnant women, people living in “char” areas (surrounded by water).
- Community managed rural bus service in Sri Lanka.
- Gravity Ropeways, Trail and wire bridges in Nepal.
- Community participation and women empowerment project in Bangladesh.
- LGED Rural Road maintenance system in Bangladesh.
- Incorporation of Community Participation in to the PMGSY (National Rural Road project) programme in India.
- Learning and sharing between countries in South Asia
- Opportunities to learn from research trials and practice of SEACAP projects



# In pictures



Participants from Asian countries learn from SEACAP Surface Trials in Cambodia



Inauguration of the community managed bus service in Sri Lanka

# In pictures



**Access to health-Nepal**



**Specially designed cycle rickshaw for the PwD – India**  
Courtesy LCD SARO

**Disabled access friendly Footbridge-Galana River Bridge center deck - Kenya**



# RT Safety in pictures



India



Bangladesh

## Technology development for ensuring safety



A local make shift

Improved version of the make shift

