

# Sub-Committee on International Activities (ABE60 (1))

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016

13.30 – 15.15

Marriott Marquis, Supreme Court, Washington DC

Minutes

## Attendance

**Ann Frye**, Co-Chair ABE60(1), Ann Frye Ltd, UK **Meeting chair**  
**Susan Clarke** Canadian  
Transportation Agency, Canada

**Eileen Lu** Eden Social Welfare  
Foundation, Taiwan

**Lalita Sen**, Texas Southern  
University, USA

**Pete Meslin** Newport Mesa United  
Schools, USA

**Arris Bahrami** Booz, Allen Hamilton,  
USA

**Joe Nien-Tsu Wang**, Eden Welfare  
Foundation, Taiwan

**Anabela Simoes**, Lusofona  
University, Portugal

**Rich Schultze**, RLS & Associates,  
USA

**Chris Plano**, Spy Pond Partners, USA

**Subash Chandra Vashishth**,  
Svayam, India

**Russell Thatcher** Thatcher  
Consulting LLC, USA

**Rex Luk** Hong Kong Society for  
Rehabilitation, Hong Kong

**Jim Marston**, UCSB, USA

**Dennis Cannon**. Synergy LLC, USA

**Ahsan Habib**, Dalhousie University,  
Canada

**Nick Legouski**, AHRC – NYC, USA

**Alan Rao**, USDOT, USA

**Joey Goldman**, Nelson Nygaard  
Associates, USA

**Peter Cosyn**, Tractebel Engineering,  
Belgium

**Judy Shanley** Easter Seals, USA

**Tom Rickert** Access Exchange  
International, USA

**Lilian Salazar Diaz**, ITESM, Mexico

**Pedro R Kanof**, Kanof Mobility  
Solutions, USA

**Sonal Chaudry**, Svayam, India

**Roger Mackett**, UCL, UK

**Abha Negi** Global Forum for  
Empowerment, India

**Richard Schultze** RLS Associates  
Inc, USA

**Rosemary Gerty**, USA

**Mary Crass** International Transport  
Forum, France

**Janett Jimenez Santos** Can Lah SC,  
Mexico

**Cynthia Lister**, Milligan & Co, USA

**Ling Suen** ICSA Inc, Canada

**LoriAnn Girvan**, GAATES, Canada

**Mahmuder Rahman Fatmi**,  
Dalhousie University, Canada

**Nazmul Aresin**, Dalhousie University,  
Canada

**Ralph Gakenheimer**, MIT, USA

**Mohammed Yousuf**, FHWA, USA

**Julie Babinard**, World Bank, USA

## **Sub-Committee on International Activities (ABE60 (1))**

The chair called the session to order and invited a tour de table

### **1. Approval of the minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 January 2015 were approved.

### **2. Matters Arising**

Update on setting up of permanent secretariat:

The permanent secretariat for Transed was now established under the kind auspices of Svayam in India. The intention was to provide an archive of papers and other records from previous Transed conferences and to support future organisers through databases and other means. This would provide a vital element of continuity between Transed events. It was noted that the first Transed for which papers are available on-line was 2007 in Montreal.

The Terms of Reference for the Secretariat were agreed.

There was discussion about the role of TRB in future Transed events. It was agreed that this needed to be kept under review and that TRB should be encouraged to take a more active and supportive role in, for example, disseminating information about the event.

Svayam raised for discussion the idea of a midterm Transed on rural areas, with a possible focus on Asia or just India for 2017. While the idea of a rural focus was warmly welcomed, there was concern that a 2017 event would cut across the preparation and promotion of the 2018 Taiwan Transed.

It was also noted that the logistics for participants of attending an event in a rural area would need to be taken on board.

One idea was that the main Transed should be held every 4 years with a more regional and focussed event mid-term. Generating sufficient resources for such a schedule would be challenging.

In spite of the challenges, it was agreed that a focus on the issues of accessibility in rural areas would be very welcome and Svayam agreed to develop proposals further.

### **3. Knowledge Exchange: recent developments around the world.**

A number of participants reported on projects and developments. These included:

- **Russell Thatcher** noted that in 2015 the Federal Transit Administration in the U.S. completed and released a new Program Circular on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The Circular describes in non-regulatory language all of the requirements for public transit agencies. The Circular also addresses implementation and operational issues

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related to the requirements. Mr. Thatcher noted that it is the most complete description of ADA requirements for public transit agencies that has been developed. The Circular is posted on FTA's website at [http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/Final\\_FTA\\_ADA\\_Circular\\_C\\_4710.1.pdf](http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/Final_FTA_ADA_Circular_C_4710.1.pdf).

- **Ling Suen** recently attended the 2015 UNDESA/DSPD Forum on Disability and Development with Disability Inclusion and Accessible Urban Development as its theme [www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=15&pid=1641](http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=15&pid=1641).

This 3-day Forum on Oct. 28-30 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya focused on disability inclusion in community life and made recommendations on how to further accessible and inclusive urban development, including ICT (Information & Communication Technology). The findings would contribute to the 3rd UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III), Quito, Ecuador in October 2016 to develop a New Urban Agenda to guide global urban development for the next two decades. Several ABE0 Members and friends were invited to be presenters: Ann Frye (via Skype), Mukhtar Al Shabini, Joseph Kwan (via Skype), Judith Heumann, Eric Guozhong Zhang and Ling Suen.

- In its recommendations on Advancing Disability Inclusion and Accessible Urban development, the following are the salient points:
  - 1. Accessible housing is a key element of inclusive cities.
  - 2. Integrated urban policy and plans must identify and address gaps in transport accessibility in public spaces and from one built environment to another.
  - 3. Accessible Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are pre-requisites for building inclusive, resilient smart cities.
- **Susan Clarke** mentioned the appointment in Canada of a Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities. The mandate letter to the Minister sets out the goal of ensuring greater accessibility and opportunities for Canadians with disabilities. The Minister is expected to lead an engagement process with provinces, territories, municipalities, and stakeholders that will lead to the passage of a Canadians with Disabilities Act. The mandate letter can be seen at: <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/minister-sport-and-persons-disabilities-mandate-letter>.
- **Roger Mackett** mentioned that he is a member of DPTAC (The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee) which advises the British Government about issues involving travel by disabled people. He chairs its Research and Evidence Group. That group is looking for evidence on

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the effectiveness of interventions, particularly in terms of the economic benefits of accessibility improvements. Also, he is writing a report on the effects of mental impairments on travel and how the issues can be addressed in order to identify the research that is required in this area. Please contact Roger if you have any information to contribute to this topic. [rmackett@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:rmackett@ucl.ac.uk)

- **Subhash Chandra Vashishth** gave an update on the work of Svayam, India. Details can be found is:
  - [Report on Svayam Accessibility Awards 2015 & Secretariat Update](#)
  - [Report on Svayam Initiatives & Activities](#)
- **Janett Jimenez** reported on a number of developments in Mexico:
  - The construction of line 6 of the Bus Rapid Transit in Mexico City is about to finish. Accessibility features were introduced from the experience of the previous lines. Some features were improved, however there is more work to do, for example on the tactile signage. It is planned that Line 7 will begin building work this year.
  - A consumer association made a study on several aspects of accessibility in all the Bus Rapid Transit lines around Mexico. The study will be published soon.
  - A roundtable was held in March 2015 with different stakeholders about the ramped taxis in Mexico City in order to improve the service and have solutions for current problems that people with disabilities have to use the service. Tom Rickert was invited as an international speaker. In September, the paratransit broker of San Francisco, USA was invited to Mexico City to talk with the key people that could solve one of the biggest problems, which is the lack of a business model to run ramped taxis in Mexico City.
  - A University in Mexico City, through their product design department, after one year of research, they are working on building a prototype for a ramped moto-taxi. The aim is to make a sustainable product, not only the vehicle itself but addressing the economic and social impact of the project.
  - Uber is now legal in Mexico City, after a lot of discussions. It seems they are looking at the possibility of including ramped vehicles in their App service.
  - In September there was a Forum for Inclusive Cities at a University in Mexico City. A variety of topics were presented and accessible transportation was one of them. The largest association for transport attended, which was considered as a good sign.
  - Case studies have been done to address accessible transport to schools for children with disabilities. These will be included in the

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Guide that Tom Rickert is leading.

- **Pete Meslin** reported that Newport-Mesa Unified School District has developed a full spiraled curriculum for teaching transportation-related life skills to elementary and secondary students. The Bus in the Classroom brings school bus drivers and transportation office staff into the classroom for 5 one hour weekly sessions. At the end of each lesson students practice the skills they've learned on the actual school bus. Assessments show that the curriculum is extremely successful in improving measurable student safety skills. In addition to building safer and more independent students, the program has numerous benefits for both transporters and special educators.

Depending on the unique international circumstances, this curriculum and methodology can be adapted to allow transporters to educate students and increase both their safety and independence.

Thanks to vendor donations, this program is being offered absolutely free and includes the curriculum, training materials, and all supplemental materials. Please contact Pete Meslin 001 (714) 424-5080  
[pmeslin@nmusd.us](mailto:pmeslin@nmusd.us)

- **Sally Swanson** provided the following links to her work on accessibility at British Columbia Parks in Canada.
  - <http://naikoonpark.com/>
  - [www.facebook.com/YourBCParks](http://www.facebook.com/YourBCParks)
  - <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sally-swanson/its-an-accessible-life-my-5-b-6256434.html>

She is happy to provide further details. Contact:  
[SSwanson@swanarch.com](mailto:SSwanson@swanarch.com)

- **Rex Luk** reported that:
  - In 2017, 99% of the public buses in Hong Kong would be low-floor (now 85%)
  - MTR (rails and underground) in Hong Kong is improving the accessibility of stations by retrofitting lifts from street level to concourse. Now, 81 of 87 MTR stations are located at street level or equipped with external lift connecting street level and station concourse.
  - At present, there are about 80 accessible taxis running in Hong Kong. It would expand to 200 at the end of 2016.
  - Macau Government has completed a Study on development of Rehabus Service.

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- UberAssist and UberWAV are planning to introduce to Hong Kong and Macau
- "Design Manual 2008" sets the guideline of accessibility for building and environment in Hong Kong. PwD requests the Government to review and update it.
- **Abha Negi** have the following update: Responding to the urgent need of safety and accessibility in the transport infrastructure segment Lalita Sen and Abha Negi reached out to various stake holders and for the First time since its inception the Conference of Transportation Research Group of India ( CTRG) hosted a day long workshop ' Improving Road Safety and Accessibility' at Kolkota. The workshop was attended by over 65 people. About 60% of them were from industry such as the State transport departments, and town planning, State PWDs of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and West Bengal. The furious pace at which public infrastructure including transport are being developed across the Length and breadth of the nation it is imperative that all care is taken to ensure that safety and accessibility are not compromised while making way for uninterrupted high speed mobility while constructing high ways or arterial roads in the metros. Experts from four different continents covered a wide range of topics on Accessibility, mobility and safety and stressed on the fact that these are not mutually exclusive. Dr Lalita Sen represented the American continent while Mark marked Australia, Claire Niclause Europe and Sudeshna Mitra and Abha Negi represented Asia.
- **Ann Frye** reported on the winners of the annual Access City Awards organised by the European Commission. The 2016 top award went to Milan in Italy. The second prize went to Wiesbaden in Germany. Third prize, and a special mention for using "smart" technology to help people with disabilities went to Toulouse in France. Vaasa in Finland got a "special mention" for its commitment to improving the working environment for people with disabilities and Kaposvár in Hungary received a "special mention" for its commitment to making access improvements. More details about the awards can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1141&newsId=2410&furtherNews=yes>

#### 4. Report on the work of Access Exchange International

Tom Rickert gave a report of recent developments at Access Exchange International. Details are in Tom's latest newsletter at:

<http://www.globalride-sf.org/newsletters/1601.pdf>

## **Sub-Committee on International Activities (ABE60 (1))**

### **1. Future role of the sub-committee**

Ann Frye announced that she was stepping down as co-chair and that her co-chair, Nina Frid from Canada had now moved on to other roles.

This gave the sub-committee the opportunity to review the structure and function of this and the Transed sub-committee and to consider whether some re-shaping would be helpful. ABE (60) co-chairs, Joey Goldman and Julie Babinard would be in touch with ideas on this topic.