

Sub-Committee ABE60 (1)
Sub Committee on International Activities
Monday January 14th 2008
10.15 – 12.00
Hamilton Room, Hilton Hotel, Washington DC
Minutes

Attendance

Ann Frye, Ann Frye Ltd, Co-Chair ABE (60)1, UK
Tom Rickert, Co-Chair ABE (60) 1, Access Exchange International, USA
Kate Hunter-Zaworski, National Centre for Accessible Transportation, Oregon State University, (Co-Chair ABE60) USA
Kit Mitchell, Institute of Highways and Transportation, (Co-Chair ABE 60), UK
Campbell McKee, C N Unwin Ltd, UK
Betsy Buxer, Easter Seals Arizona, USA
Akihiro Mihoshi, Kinki University, Japan
Bill Crandall, Smith-Kettlewell Foundation, USA
Murielle Fong, Transport Canada,
Barbara Nelson, Transport Canada
Dan Blais, Transport Canada
Lalita Sen, Texas Southern University, USA
Christopher Hart, Adaptive Environments, USA
John Schoon, University of Southampton, UK
Susan Rickert, Access Exchange International, USA
Gerhard Menckhoff, World Bank (consultant)
Harry P Wolfe, Consultant, USA
Uwe Rutenberg, Rutenberg Design Inc, Canada
Mabel Chau, Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, Hong Kong
Rex Luk, Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, Hong Kong
Benny Cheung, Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, Hong Kong
Brian Masson, Multi Modal Transport Solutions, UK
Jani Nayar, SATH, USA
James McLary, McLary Management, USA
Annette Williams, MTA San Francisco, USA
Yinyi Ma, Delft University, Canada

The Sub-Committee sent their best wishes to Maryvonne Dejeammes who had been injured in a road traffic accident just before leaving France to travel to TRB.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on January 22nd 2007 were approved.

There was one matter arising: corporate and institutional support from TRB for participants from developing countries to attend TRB Annual Meeting and TRANSED conferences.

This issue had been pursued with TRB for several years and it seemed unlikely that there would be a change of direction on it.

It was agreed that it would be more productive to look for commercial sponsorship. In discussion a number of suggestions were made:

- The same issue had been raised by the Sub-Committee on Transport in Developing Countries and it would be sensible to join forces with them;
- The World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Eno Foundation, APTA, CTAA or other agencies could not fund individuals but could support projects which might enable individuals to attend meetings and conferences coinciding with the TRB annual meeting, for example within the framework of a project on developing networks;
- Contributions in the order of \$1500 to enable someone to come to TRB or \$2000 to attend Transed in Hong Kong were suggested.

Action point: Gerhard, Tom and Kit would work together to pursue these options and would report back, by e-mail by the end of February 2008.

Report on 11th Transed

Murielle Fong of Transport Canada gave a comprehensive report on the 11th Transed which had taken place in Montreal in June 2007.

She highlighted the following details:

- 730 registered, 669 delegates and exhibitors from 36 countries arrived on site;
- 66 on site delegates reported having a disability:
 - 53 Mobility impairment (21 manual wheelchairs, 21 power chairs);
 - 2 hard of hearing or deaf;

- 9 visual impairment;
 - 1 cross disability (mobility and visual);
- 270 abstracts received; 257 for papers, 13 for posters;
- 187 abstracts were accepted for paper presentation, 83 for poster presentation, 18 were rejected; 145 were published;
- 4 pre-conference tutorials (195 participants);
- 2 pre-conference social tours (113 participants);
- Welcoming reception (327 participants) ;
- Gala dinner (370 participants) ;
- Two day exhibition open to the public ; 39 exhibits (1,400 visitors including repeat visits);
- Choice of 4 technical visits to accessible transportation facilities during one and a half days (327 participants);
- 3 days of technical/plenary sessions (562 participants);
 - 3 plenary sessions and 5 parallel tracks of 44 technical sessions (total 158 presentations);
 - Poster presentations over 2 days (44 posters);
- 8 travel scholarships awarded to presenters.

The full conference proceedings were available at www.tc.gc.ca/transed2007/. This would be available at least until 2010.

Murielle also circulated copies of the final report of Transed 2007 which contained a comprehensive record of the event including lessons learnt which could be passed on to future Transed organisers. She also showed a video giving highlights of the event.

The Sub-Committee congratulated Transport Canada on an outstanding conference, superb organisation and very helpful follow up and documentation to help the next Transed organisers.

Preparations for Transed 2010, Hong Kong

Mabel Chau and Benny Cheung gave a presentation on preparations for the 2010 Transed to be held on Hong Kong. She made the following key points:

- The Conference would be held from June 14th – 20th 2010;
- The theme would be sustainable transport and travel for all and there would be four main topics:
 - Economics of accessibility (including affordability)
 - Environmental concerns and new technology;
 - Accessibility concerns and solutions for people with cognitive and sensory impairments;
 - Accessible tourism.
- Speakers would be invited for the key plenary topics; Sub-committee members were invited to suggest speakers;
- The registration fees would be kept at a reasonable level (below that of Transed 2007) to meet the needs of delegates from Asia;
- They would aim for 800 participants and 80 exhibitors;
- It was intended to have four plenary sessions and 40 parallel sessions;
- The goal would be to accept 300 abstracts;
- There would be pre-conference workshops which would deliver hands on training on a arrange of topics;
- There would be a pre-conference tour of accessible transport facilities in Hong Kong;
- There would be post-conference tours, including options of visiting Beijing and Macau;
- There would be a parallel exhibition;
- The event would be held in English and Chinese but large delegations would be invited to contribute to the cost of providing additional language interpretation (for example Japanese);
- 10 travel scholarships would be awarded;
- The first Announcement and Call for Papers would be in April 2008;
- Event sponsors would be sought and the sub-committee were invited to help identify potential sponsors.

The Sub-Committee congratulated the Hong Kong delegation on their excellent preparations for the 2010 event. In discussion a number of points were made including:

- The need to ask participants for permission to put papers on the website and to pass on their contact details (Transport Canada had not been able to secure agreement on the latter point);
- The key dates/deadlines for submission of abstracts etc needed some revision to take account of academic timetables and to allow sufficient time for assessment;
- Chinese students at US and European universities could be asked to help with assessment of Chinese language abstracts to reduce costs;
- It would be helpful if the workshops and the conference could be accredited for CEU/CPD points to enable students and professionals to make a case for participating;
- It would be helpful to draw up a sponsorship menu so that potential sponsors could see what the options were and what they would get in return for their support, The idea of platinum, gold and silver level sponsors was suggested.

Action points: Mabel and colleagues to take account of comments and circulate revised timetable for submission of abstracts etc and to draw up sponsorship menu;

Sub-committee members to suggest possible speakers, chairs, moderators and rapporteurs.

Options for Transed 2013

To date there were no potential bids for Transed 2013 and it would be helpful to start the process of identifying candidates so that a firm bid was in place for handover at the end of Transed 2010.

Participants mentioned that India, Brazil, South Africa, or the Middle East, along with a return to a European venue, were all possible sites for the 2013 TRANSED.

Action point: all to consider options for 2013 Transed and e-mail Tom and Ann.

Report on the work of Access Exchange International

Tom Rickert gave a brief report highlighting the work of AEI over the past year (attached).

In particular he drew attention to encouraging progress in China, Brazil and India and to the continued growth of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

He also reported on the successful session that had been held at TRB the previous day.

Tom asked for material/news stories from those present to his newsletters. The deadline for the June newsletter was end April and for December it would be end October. He would like to continue the run of articles in recent editions in which he had featured "bottom up" success stories. He also particularly welcomed photographs for inclusion.

In discussion, Tom was warmly congratulated on the excellent presentation he had given at the TRB session on criteria for success in promoting accessibility on less developed countries. It was suggested that a session for TRB 2009 could focus on this issue and could include Tom's perspective on less developed countries and a parallel view from Ann and Maryvonne from a European project which was also focussing on criteria for success and transferability.

Action point: All to let Tom have relevant material for his newsletter (see deadlines above).

Kit/Kate: to take forward idea of session on success criteria in accessible transport (to fit under the "sustainability" heading already identified by TRB for next year).

Ann: to send Tom information on driver training modules available in the UK.

Knowledge Exchange: recent developments around the world

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A number of interesting developments were reported:

- Jim talked about the development of taxi driver training;

- Jani noted that SATH were working on accreditation for training;
- Annette reported on the introduction of push button real time information at bus stops in San Francisco;
- Chris noted that Project ACTION was focussing strongly on transportation for seniors;
- Harry drew attention to the website www.Ecuadorforall.com as a resource for accessible tourism, noting his recent meetings in Cuenca, Ecuador;
- Uwe mentioned the recent Canadian Transportation Agency ruling on one person one fare which included the right of an obese person only to pay for one seat even if they occupied two. This would apply initially on domestic flights only and airlines had an opportunity to react to the ruling;
- Campbell and others noted the trend towards heavier and larger wheelchairs and the impact this would have on restraint systems, lifts and ramps as well as on space inside vehicles; and both Kit and Kate noted data supporting these trends;
- David mentioned the US Architectural regulations soon to be published which would set new accessibility standards across a range of areas including children's playgrounds;
- Brian gave brief details for 4 European projects in which he was involved on demand responsive transport and the development of best practice;
- John noted that the University of Southampton in the UK now included accessibility as a core part of its masters degree;
- Ann reported on new guidance, soon to be published, from the International Transport Forum (formerly the ECMT) on transport issues for people with cognitive impairments and mental health problems and on the final report of the COST 349 project on access to long distance buses and coaches. Details of how to obtain both would be circulated.