

International Transport Forum 2010 Leipzig, Germany, 26-28 May 2010

Transport and Innovation: Unleashing the Potential

The International Transport Forum

The International Transport Forum will be held on **26-28 May 2010**, focusing on *Innovation in Transport*. This event is being organised under the Presidency of Canada.

The **International Transport Forum**, part of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), brings together 52 countries to advance the transport policy agenda, and ensure that it contributes to sustainable development, prosperity, social inclusion and the protection of human life and well-being. Every year, Ministers meet in **Leipzig, Germany**, in an invitation-only event with decision makers and top thinkers from business, civil society, international organisations, and research.

The annual Forum includes high-level panel discussions, as well as workshops, and an exhibition. It is attended by over 800 senior-level representatives from a wide range of sectors. Past speakers have included Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany; Ray LaHood, US Secretary of Transportation; Antonio Tajani, Transport Commissioner for the European Union; and Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Nobel Prize winner.

Innovation in Transport

The solutions to today's transport challenges will increasingly depend on innovation – doing things differently, including through the application of new technologies, techniques and policies. Innovation will help the transport sector of tomorrow continue to support trade, prosperity and social inclusion, in a way that is sustainable.

New technologies are emerging in such areas as Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), power train configuration and vehicle design, scanners, navigation systems and safety mechanisms, among others. Innovative techniques and policies can include new approaches to supply chain and fleet management, transport planning and mobility management, regulation and infrastructure financing. Transport can also benefit from innovations in other areas, including wireless technology, new energy sources and smart electrical grids.

Does Transport Innovate Enough?

The pace of change in transport has been rapid. Advances in transport and information technology have made possible enormous increases in traffic volumes. Improvements in infrastructure have increased safety margins in every mode. Transport is also cleaner: emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and air pollutants per vehicle-kilometre are as low as they have ever been, as are other forms of pollution, such as noise.

But is the transport sector innovating enough, or in the right way to provide the systems that will be required for a sustainable future?

Overall GHGs from transport are increasing due to the sheer volumes of traffic that are now possible, while increasing congestion threatens to choke off future growth. Although the safety of individual vehicles is increasing, overall deaths and injuries are on the rise in many countries, as more people get access to motorcycles and cars. Transport has been a target for terrorism. Society is also demanding more from transport in terms of improving accessibility for persons with reduced mobility, including the growing elderly populations in many countries.

Addressing the Innovation Challenge

How the transport sector can innovate for a sustainable future will be the subject of the 2010 International Transport Forum.

During the 2010 Forum, Ministers and other decision makers and leading thinkers will focus on, among other themes:

- The Global Transport System of the Future
- Sustainable Transport: Is the Future Electric?
- Supply Chains: Green and More efficient?
- What is the Future of Air Transport?
- Getting to Seamless Passenger Transport
- Interconnected and Integrated: Optimising Intelligent Infrastructure
- Public Sector Leadership: New Ideas Need Innovative Public Policy
- The Wireless Revolution and the Transformation of Transport
- Overcoming Barriers to Innovation
- Disseminating Innovation: Meeting the Demands of a Changing World
- Partnerships for a More Innovative Transport System

The Forum's exhibition, including technology demonstrations, will also allow participants to directly see some of the innovations that could change the future of transport.

More Information

For more information regarding the International Transport Forum and Forum 2010, please see our web site at www.internationaltransportforum.org or write to us at itf.contact@oecd.org.