

Paris, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010

## Bertrand Piccard to address 2010 International Transport Forum

The **Initiator and Chairman** of Solar Impulse, who aims to circle the globe in a solar-powered plane, will be a keynote speaker at the global transport summit on innovation

Piccard will be joining Ministers of Transport, high-level experts from industry, civil society, the public sector and researchers from around the world to discuss the role of innovation in shaping transport systems of the future.

The theme of the 2010 International Transport Forum, to be held in Leipzig from 26-28 May, is "*Transport and Innovation - Unleashing the Potential*".

A prototype of Piccard's solar-powered airplane carried out its maiden flight on 7 April. Piccard is now preparing for a non-stop flight around the world autonomously, propelled only by solar energy. "We are looking forward to hearing from an inspiring man who is challenging traditional thinking in transport," said Jack Short, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum at the OECD.

"If an aircraft is able to fly day and night without fuel, propelled only by solar energy, let no one claim that it is impossible to do the same thing for motor vehicles, heating and air conditioning systems, and computers," said Piccard. "This project voices our conviction that a pioneering spirit with political vision can together change society and bring about an end to fossil fuel dependency. That is why I very much look forward to being part of the 2010 International Transport Forum."

Other world-leading speakers will include:

- **Amar Bhidé**, Kennedy School, Harvard University, author of "The Venturesome Economy: How Innovation Sustains Prosperity in a More Connected World" (2008)
- **Robin Chase**, Co-founder and former CEO of Zipcar, an innovative car-sharing service and current CEO of GoLoco.org, which brings together carpooling and social networking
- **Cyrille du Peloux**, CEO of Véolia Transport, leading private sector provider of innovative transport solutions
- **Ian Goldin**, Director of the James Martin 21st Century School at the University of Oxford, one of the foremost global centres of research on the future
- **Rüdiger Grube**, CEO of Deutsche Bahn AG, the German Railway system
- **Geraldine Knatz**, Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles
- **Henry Li**, Senior Director of Build your Dreams (ByD) Auto, the Chinese car manufacturer
- **Wolfgang Mayrhuber**, CEO of Lufthansa
- **John Micklethwait**, Editor-in-Chief, The Economist
- **Martin Winterkorn**, CEO of Volkswagen AG / Porsche Automobil Holding SE
- **Christopher Ward**, Executive Director, New York and New Jersey Port Authority
- **Katsuaki Watanabe**, Vice Chairman and Director, Toyota Motors

# PRESS RELEASE



More information about the 2010 International Transport Forum is available online at [www.internationaltransportforum.org/2010/index.html](http://www.internationaltransportforum.org/2010/index.html), including the April 2010 Preliminary Programme with a more complete list of speakers, along with details regarding registration and media accreditation.

## ***About the International Transport Forum (ITF)***

*The International Transport Forum is a strategic think tank for the transport sector. Each year, it brings together Ministers from over 50 Countries, along with leading decision-makers and thinkers from the private sector, civil society and research, to address transport issues of strategic importance.*

*An intergovernmental organisation within the OECD, the Forum's goal is to shape the transport policy agenda, and ensure that it contributes to economic growth, environmental protection, social inclusion and the preservation of human life and wellbeing. The 2010 International Transport Forum, to be held on 26-28 May in Leipzig, Germany, will focus on Transport and Innovation: Unleashing the Potential.*

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