

PRESS RELEASE

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Jaime Lerner, urban planning legend, to receive Leadership in Transport Award

“Truly outstanding achievements” to be honoured • Award ceremony at summit of Transport Ministers on 26 May

Jaime Lerner, visionary urban planner from Brazil and pioneer of globally successful public transport ideas, is the winner of the first Leadership in Transport Award. He will be presented with the award at the annual summit of transport ministers from around the globe in Leipzig, Germany, on 26 May.

The Leadership in Transport Award was created by the International Transport Forum at the OECD, an intergovernmental organisation for the transport sector that comprises 52 member countries, to honour public figures that have, through exceptional vision and leadership, made a lasting positive impact, resulting in major advances for transport.”

“There are very few people who fit this description as well as Jaime Lerner”, said Jack Short, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum, announcing the decision in Paris on Monday. “In an extraordinary career spanning many decades, Jaime Lerner, through his ideas and work, has made a real difference in the lives of people: as an architect and legendary urban planner, as a mayor of the city of Curitiba, as governor of the State of Paraná, and not least as a teacher and visionary whose ideas have inspired so many others around the globe.”

Short added: “While his achievements reach far beyond the confines of transport, Jaime Lerner has made a particularly profound and lasting contribution in this area. His brainchild, the Curitiba Bus Rapid Transit system, was a path-breaking innovation in public transport.

“It has been emulated all over the world and has provided millions of people with access to affordable, efficient transport services - and the world that this can open up: better access to education, jobs, leisure activities, family and friends.

“Not least, it has helped our big cities to become more sustainable and liveable communities. By offering affordable alternatives to car travel, it has reduced congestion and improved air quality. The International Transport Forum is proud to award the first Leadership in Transport Award to Jaime Lerner for his truly outstanding achievements.”

The award ceremony will take place during a gala dinner at the International Transport Forum's annual summit in Leipzig, Germany, on 26 May.

- ▶ **Journalists intending to cover the ceremony or other summit events should [register online for accreditation](#).**
- ▶ **Full programme at www.internationaltransportforum.org/2011**

Biographical Information:

Jaime Lerner is an architect and urban planner. *Time* magazine ranked him among the world's 25 most influential thinkers in 2010. A three-time mayor of Curitiba, Brazil, he led the urban revolution that made the city renowned for urban planning in public transportation, the environment, and social programs. He served as governor of Parana State twice and conducted an urban and rural economic and social transformation. He is a former president of the International Union of Architects and founder of the Instituto Jaime Lerner. His international awards include the highest United Nations Environmental Award (1990), Child and Peace Award from UNICEF (1996), the World Technology Award for Transportation (2001) and the Sir Robert Mathew Prize for the Improvement of Quality of Human Settlements (2002).

Links:

- ▶ **[Time magazine](#) ranks Jaime Lerner among world's top 25 thinkers**
- ▶ **[The Economist: Flash Interview with Jaime Lerner](#)**
- ▶ **[The Guardian: Jaime Lerner on what London can learn from Curitiba](#)**
- ▶ **[TED talks: Jaime Lerner sings of the city](#) (video)**

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