What participants said about the

Transport and Climate Change Week

Focus 2017: Urban Mobility

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www.changing-transport.org

Deena Musa Kisbi (Director of Climate Change Directorate, Ministry of the Environment, Jordan)

The best part of this conference is coming from different countries, from different perspectives, yet sharing the same problems. The beauty of this event is that we share the same issues, but get to know that the effectiveness of us dealing with these issues differs. This shared knowledge is such a gain. We have so many similar situations, so it makes a lot of sense to learn from our different experiences.

Thomas M. Orbos (Vice Minister, Ministry of Transportation, Philippines)

It appears we have common problems when addressing transport as well as addressing environmental concerns. There is not a single bullet on how this common problem is to be addressed. We simply cannot say one solution in one country applies to the other. It is quite a unique opportunity to be here, because we learn a lot from each other. The workshop we attended on Bus Technologies, which also addressed BRT, is quite interesting for us because we are still in the process of embarking on the BRT system in our country. So, the event is very very helpful in helping us to learn from the experiences of other countries which already have BRT systems.

David Rubia (Programme Officer, United Nations Environment Programme, Kenya)

I am supporting the transition to electric mobility at UN Environment Programme, working in developing transitional countries. I have learnt a lot about the issues regarding how you generate your power. The event has been very eye opening for that. It is a really good thing that has been started here.

Kurt Inglis (Public Utilities and Energy Officer, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour, St. Lucia)

This conference has been a very good eye-opener for me. I have come face to face with a lot of technologies that we are trying to implement in St. Lucia, especially in the field of electric mobility. It is something that we are going to implement, but have not come into contact with before. To see those technologies up close and personally here, has been really beneficial. To see the city of Berlin - how clean it is, how easy it is to move - has given me a revitalized look for the city of Castries (which is the capital of St. Lucia) and it has really opened my eyes to see how Castries can be and what it really should be like. So, I have a lot of new ideas for public transport in Castries and how we can make it better based on what I have seen in Berlin and during this conference.

Martin Delgra (Chairman of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Philippines)

The good thing is really learning from each other. Learning from different countries and having similarities and knowing their solutions, helps a lot. Knowing that each country has its own uniqueness, but we all have common goals. Therefore, working together in such an environment is something we benefit from.

Dr. Guillermo Alfonso Jaramillo Martinez (Mayor of Ibagué, Colombia)

We have an oil-based fleet, but want to change it for a new one. We also want to begin with a few electric buses and use more bicycles.

That is something we are working on very hard. In this event, you think at first, you are very far away [from the others]. But when you hear the experience from other countries during this conference, you notice: we are not so far from each other. We are able to gain from experiences for example from Europe where these issues are addressed for quite a long time, By having the opportunity to talk with Asians, Africans and Americans and get to know a lot of different opinions, you can chose from these opinions which might be best for your own town.

Clarence Rupingena (Strategic Advisor Smart Cities and Transport, City of Windhoek, Namibia)

I am happy to be here with my colleague from the national government and to say that urban mobility is not only a responsibility of local authorities but also of the national authorities. It is a shared responsibility. There is a need to set the rules for local authorities, which need to be followed. I hope we can come back and share the experiences with implementation.

Thus, for me this conference has come a few years too late because we have done Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs), which have not been preceded by a National Urban Mobility Plan (NUMP). We have done this urban mobility plans on a local level, but I would love to have started on the national level. There is no dedicated funding for that in Namibia. NUMP is giving us an opportunity to then create SUMPs at local level. That is what I want to take back to my country from this conference.

Paulo Franca (Architect, Institute of Research and Urban Planning of Cuiabá, Brasil)

For me the best thing about this week and the activities was sharing knowledge. We have experts, we have very different experiences and when you start to combine them and see what relations we have, we see what can work better and we can tell another one. This is something that everyone gains from and can improve from it. This is the core of this event and I am very pleased to have been there. The professors were very clear and information was very well passed to us. Now I know from the workshop, which is the best option of vehicle to implement in my city. I will try to push a plan to change from diesel busses to hybrid.

Haiming Zhu (Senior Engineer, Tianjin Academy of Urban Planning and Design, China)

I think this is a very good event. I learned from Indonesia, the Philippines, Colombia and we match problems. I got some new ideas from the other countries and when I am back to China, I think we must do some new things to improve our bus services and remodel transportation of our urban system. I think this way our transportation can be much better next year.