

Daniela Gressani's visit to Morocco January 21-24, 2008

Briefing Note on Urban Transport

International Conference on Urban Transport in Skhirat – January 22-23, 2008

The conference is a Bank initiative to which the Government of Morocco (in particular the Ministry of Interior) has given its full support. The Bank's objectives for the conference are to: (i) provide an opportunity to decision makers and experts in MNA countries to gain information and exchange views on appropriate solutions and international best practices in the field of urban transport; and (ii) initiate the establishment of a network of urban transport specialists in Mediterranean countries north and south. Central to these objectives is the recognition that the understanding of urban transport issues is very limited at all levels in the region's middle income countries and that networks of experts as well as exchanges of experience are almost non-existent. The objectives of the Moroccan Government parallel the Bank's at the country level. The government gives high priority to progress in urban transport and wants to give impetus to a process of sectoral change in Moroccan cities as well as in the Central Government's role, which is only now gaining momentum.

Quite a large number of international partners have joined the Bank in the organization of the conference: (i) CODATU, an international organization funded in part by the French Government, which promotes exchanges on transport and urban development between developing and industrialized countries, (ii) Plan Bleu, which is associated with the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and leads studies of environmental issues around the Mediterranean, (iii) the French Government and Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD), (iv) the city of Marseille, and (v) Med-Cities, a major network of Mediterranean cities. All these partners have contributed funds as well as staff for the conference. The organization of the conference and the coordination of all the partners, a considerable task, has been led by the Bank office in Marseille (KNA-MNA).

As agreed with the Moroccan Government, the conference is organized around four thematic workshops on: (i) institutional issues; (ii) a review of the main modes of mass transport appropriate for Mediterranean cities; (iii) financial systems and public private partnerships; and (iv) traffic management. During the introductory plenary sessions, overarching issues will be discussed (Jamal Saghir will make a key presentation on the Bank diagnostic and experience throughout various regions of the world). Final discussions will be held to highlight the key avenues for change in the region and the support that international agencies can provide to help bring about such change. The program of the conference is attached.

The Bank technical delegation will include Jamal Saghir, Director, EWT, Sam Zimmerman, Urban Transport Adviser, Jean-Charles Crochet, Transport Economist, and Gilles Pipien, Senior Urban Specialist and the organizer of the conference. In addition, Sam Zimmerman, Gregoire Gauthier, Transport Specialist, and Brian McCollom, Consultant, will deliver a two-day training course on public transport financed by PPIAF.

We expect that the Minister of Interior, Mr. Chakib Benmoussa, will open the conference although it has been mentioned that the Prime Minister may do so if this can be accommodated in his schedule. Mr. Benmoussa is likely to emphasize the growing importance of urban transport for Moroccan cities, and stress that local governments (and especially municipalities) should play the leading role in organizing and funding urban transport. The Central Government's role would be to guide and support their efforts. In coherence with this, a substantial part of the Bank's

assistance in the past two years has been to develop the capabilities of local governments and define the support role of the Central Government.

There will also be opening speeches by some of our international partners, Plan Bleu, CODATU, and AFD. We expect these to be very short.

Information on Bank Involvement in Urban Transport in Morocco

- No activity until 2006 (however, the formulation by the Government of an urban transport strategy is an objective of the CAS)
- Request for analytical support by the Ministry of Interior – January 2006
- Delivery of Pre-diagnostic report (May 2006)
- Delivery of diagnostic reports on urban transport issues in Morocco and workshops (November 2006)
- Support to the preparation of a draft urban transport law (spring 2007)
- Delivery of Urban Transport Strategy Note (June 2007)
- Delivery of special study of financing systems (June 2007)
- Organization of two visits to France and Tunisia for Moroccan urban transport staff (spring and fall 2007)
- Participation in national conferences and seminars organized by the Ministry of Interior (January 2007, November 2007)
- Preparation of training plan to be financed by French aid (Fall 2007)
- Visit to Washington of Bouregreg Valley Development Agency (the Bouregreg project is one of the largest infrastructure and urban development projects in Morocco; it includes the creation of a tramway between Rabat and Sale) (November 2007)
- International Conference on Urban Transport in the Mediterranean (January 2008)

Bank Activities in Urban Transport in the MENA Region

With almost 60 percent of its population living in cities, the MNA region is far more urbanized than East Asia and South Asia. Yet the development of urban transport systems, and particularly public transport, has lagged. As a result, many of the region's large urban areas, where the bulk of GDP is produced, face increasingly difficult transport problems with a high degree of traffic congestion, reduced mobility, and deteriorating air quality. Most larger cities have experienced rapid growth in transport demand, but, because public transport services have not kept pace with demand, there is excessive reliance on private automobiles. This exacerbates congestion and air pollution, increases overall transport costs, and reduces opportunities and quality of life, while affecting cities' competitiveness and economic growth. To address these issues, the Bank has been working with governments on (i) institutional and human resources development ; (ii) agreement at city level on integrated multimodal urban transport strategies that give priority to public transport ; (iii) better traffic and transport demand management ; and (iv) the establishment of appropriate financing systems with the central government taking a major role in the financing of key transport infrastructure.

On-going operations

- Beirut Urban Transport Project
- Tunisia Transport APL (which includes a main component for the improvement of bus services)
- Amman Ring Road Project

Recent and on-going ESW activities

- Egypt – Cairo Urban Transport Strategy (November 2006)
- Morocco – Urban Transport Strategy Note (June 2007)
- Lebanon – Beirut Public Transport Action Plan (informal report - June 2007)
- Tunisia – Improvement of Funding Systems for Urban Transport
- Iran – Traffic Management and Public Transport Improvements in Tehran, Mashad, and Isfahan (informal reports – November 2005 - followed by reports funded under consultants trust funds – June 2007)
- West Bank and Gaza – Transport Sector Strategy Note (October 2007), and Technical assistance (on-going)

Program of the conference

AGENDA

International Seminar on Urban Transport in the Mediterranean Region
Quality of life and competitiveness of cities: a challenge for the authorities

January, 22-23 2008 – Skhirat, Morocco
International Conference Center

JANUARY, 21ST 2008 (optional)
2:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Technical visit of the project of development of the Bouregreg valley

This project envisages the restructuring of the Bouregreg valley with the construction of the Oudayas tunnel, a marina at the estuary, and a tramline between Rabat and Salé.

JANUARY, 22ND 2008

08:00 am Registration of participants – Welcome coffee

09:00 am Official Opening – Opening Speech

- Ministry of Interior – Morocco
- World Bank
- Plan Bleu
- CODATU
- AFD

10:30 am Coffee Break

11:00 am Speeches providing overviews and concepts of urban transport

- Innovating experiences in developing countries *The World Bank*
- Urban transport in Mediterranean countries *CODATU*
- Urban transport and sustainable development *Plan Bleu*
- Moroccan policy of urban transport *Moroccan Ministry of Interior*

01:00 pm Lunch hosted by the World Bank

03:00 pm Thematic workshops

Workshop 1: Institutional organization, planning...

Chairman: a representative from Morocco

Discutant: Mrs. Varnaison, CERTU

Rapporteurs: Mrs. Scalisi, MEDAD - Mr. Ameur, M. Interior (DGCL)

Presentations

- Ile de France, Mr. Mery, Vice president STIF
- Istanbul, Mr. Gerçek, Istanbul Technical University
- Barcelona, Mr. Lopez, City of Barcelona

Panel

- Mr. Descours, Federation of Mixed Economy Society (France)

- Mr. Cascetta, in charge of transport, Campanie region (Italy)
- Mr. Baltagi, Consultant (Tunisia)
- Mrs Avril, general secretary of EMTA (Europe)

Workshop 2: Transport modes

Chairman: a representative from Morocco

Discutant: Mr. Zimmerman, World Bank

Rapporteurs: Mr. Crouzier, City of Toulon – Mrs. Boutaleb, Agency for the Development of the Bouregreg Valley

Presentations

- Bogota, Mrs. Castro, Transmilenio Director
- Cairo, Mr Huzayyin, Director of DRTPC, Cairo University
- Tunisia, Mr. Miladi, DGPE, Ministry of Transport (to be confirmed)
- Lyon, Mr. Rivalta, President of SYTRAL

Panel

- Mr. Salhi, Director of urban transport (Algeria)
- Mr. Demihram, Bosphorus Development Manager (Turkey)
- Mr. Belajouza, in charge of urban mobility, City of Sousse (Tunisia)

07:00 pm End of Session

08:00 pm Diner hosted by the Moroccan Ministry of Interior

JANUARY, 23RD 2008

09:00 pm Thematic Workshops

Workshop 3: Cost, fare subsidies, public and private financing

Chairman: a representative from Morocco

Discutant: Mr. Crochet, World Bank

Rapporteurs: Mr. Gauthier, ENPC - Mr. Brirchi, EHTP

Presentations

- UITP, Mr. Mezghani, Director of North Africa and Middle East
- USA, Mr. Zimmerman, World Bank
- France, Mrs. Varnaison, CERTU
- Mixed Economy Society in Montpellier, Mr. Le Tourneur, Director of TAM (France)

Panel

- Mrs Di Ciommo, ETSI, Caminos, Canales y Puertos
- Mrs Avril, general secretary of EMTA (Europe)

Workshop 4: Traffic management and parking policy

Chairman: a representative from Morocco

Discutant: Mr. Jodar, MedCities consultant

Rapporteur: Mr. Kaitouni, High School of Mohammaedia - Mr. Janatri Idrissi, Moroccan Ministry of Equipement and Transport

Presentations

- Tehran, Mr. Hajlasrollahi, Director General of Transport, Ministry of Transport (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Paris, Mr. Garaud, City of Paris
- Beirut, Mr. Helou, Project manager of urban transport development project (Lebanon)

Panel

- Mr. Belajouza, in charge of urban mobility, City of Sousse (Tunisia)

- Mr. Stucki, Consultant (Morocco)
- Mr. Rivalta, President of SYTRAL, Lyon (France)
- Mr. Séhier, Urban Community of Lille (France)

12:30 pm Lunch hosted by Moroccan Ministry of Interior

02:30 pm Plenary Session

- 02:30 pm* · Brief synthesis of the workshops
- 03:00 pm* · Round Table on International Cooperation
Animated par Mr. ZIV, general secretary of CODATU
 - *The World Bank*
 - *EIB*
 - *AFD*
 - *others*
- 04:00 pm* · Debates and overall conclusions
Animated by X. Godard, INRETS and with the scientific committee

05:30 pm Overall conclusions and recommendations

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