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UNECE WORKSHOP ON INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS **INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM, LEIPZIG, 26 MAY 2010**

On 26 May UNECE will host a workshop on the future deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) at the International Transport Forum, held in Leipzig from 26-28 May 2010.

The workshop will address how governments, international organizations, and UNECE in particular, can promote the deployment of ITS, and what key policies and actions are required to achieve this.

Intelligent Transport Systems are systems that integrate information and communication technology into transportation infrastructures and vehicles themselves. The future will include smart vehicles on smart roads and agent-based ITS control. Many existing transportation problems still call for ITS techniques to achieve cost-effective solutions, and emerging issues will depend even more on ITS.

Devices that assist driver to drive safely already exist. UNECE has played a crucial role in developing them. Some of these technologies (e.g. navigation systems, cruise control and systems to optimise the breaking of vehicles) are already in wide



use and have contributed to better fuel consumption and fewer accidents.

UNECE is currently working on an ITS background paper and a strategic note that will be the basis – along with the outcome of this workshop – for the UNECE Road Map on ITS. □

For further information please visit:
http://www.unece.org/trans/theme_its.html.



CLOUD COMPUTING, THE SEMANTIC WEB **AND A STATISTICAL SELF-PORTRAIT**

These were just three of the themes discussed at the recent meeting on the

Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) held in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. The meeting was organised by the UNECE Statistical Division, in cooperation with our sister organisation for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the OECD and the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat). Statistics Korea provided excellent facilities and hospitality to welcome the 60 participants from 26 countries and 9 international organizations.

The meeting also reviewed recent work in several statistical organisations to develop common high-level architectures covering the whole statistical production process, as well as the design of specific applications and systems. Several organisations have embarked on a renewal of their corporate business architectures based on a recent UNECE standard, the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).

Delegates were particularly interested in the potential for significant efficiency savings through shared software development between statistical organisations. They welcomed the recent UNECE initiative to create a Sharing Advisory Board to provide support for software sharing and joint development initiatives.

Another theme highlighted issues of concern for Asian statistical organisations and ways to increase international cooperation. The meeting offered a unique opportunity to discuss this topic, as it was the first time that it had been held in Asia. The MSIS Wiki, developed by the UNECE Statistical Division, was demonstrated. It is becoming a very useful tool for communication and information sharing, complementing the meetings of this group, and allowing a wider participation in its work. A key conclusion was that many of the issues discussed during this meeting affect both developed and developing statistical systems, highlighting the value and importance of inter-regional cooperation. □

All papers and presentations from the meeting are available at:
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.04.msis.htm>.
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INTERSECTORAL WORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS IN UNECE

Environmental indicators are a key tool for environmental assessment, reporting and policymaking. They help to keep track of trends in the state of the environment and measure progress towards sustainable development. They also help in setting priorities, evaluating environmental policy implementation and assessing compliance with international commitments.

In 2009, a Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators was established by two UNECE Sectoral Committees - the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians. The UN Statistics Division in New York and the European Environment Agency are actively contributing to the work of the Task Force.

The main goal of this joint activity is to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of environmental statistics in the countries of South-Eastern Europe and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The Task Force is reviewing and producing selected indicators presented in the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, endorsed by the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference in 2007. More importantly, this work is bringing together environmental experts and statisticians, a cooperation that has proved successful and already led to concrete outcomes in improved methodologies and better time series data.

The Task Force held its second meeting in Geneva on 3-4 May 2010 to discuss and review environmental indicators in key areas, such as clean air, energy, drinking water, waste, transport demand, land uptake (by transport infrastructure, urban development, etc.), freshwater resources and

protected areas. An interesting discussion took place on the indicator on the share of protected area in the total area of the country. The share varies significantly across countries, ranging from 2% in Bosnia and Herzegovina to 24% in Uzbekistan, as shown in the chart. Different approaches in the evaluation of this indicator and methodological discrepancies were discussed.

The work will continue with producing indicators of reuse and recycling of freshwater, polluted (non-treated) wastewaters, forest and other wooded land, energy intensity and composition of road motor vehicle fleet by fuel type. The next meeting of the Task Force will take place in early September 2010 back to back with the meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. □

Proportion of the total area of the country that is protected, in 2008



Source: Countries' responses to the second national review of the application of environmental indicators

Meeting documentation is available at:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.05.envIRON.htm>

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Off the Press

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE MOBILIZATION OF WOOD IN EUROPE



This publication, produced jointly by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, FOREST EUROPE and the European Commission's Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development, presents an overview of the measures that countries can take to mobilize their wood resources.

It shows that if Europe is to achieve its renewable energy objective of 20% by 2020, it must step up the supply of wood from its sustainably managed forests. In the European Union today, over 50% of renewable energy sources come from wood. But there is room for growth as in Europe, only 60% of the annual natural growth of the forests is currently being harvested.

The Guidance presents a selection of eight mobilization areas, together with concrete measures and examples of good practice, which policy-makers and practitioners can take into account when developing wood mobilization strategies

and practices for their own region. The guidance is intended for decision makers in administrations and industry, as well as forestry practitioners.

It sets out general principles to be applied in wood mobilization, such as avoiding the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and making a maximum amount of market information available to all the stakeholders. □

The publication is available at:

http://timber.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/wood-mobilization-good_practice-guidance.pdf

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