



Road
Traffic
Injuries
Research
Network

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road research

*The Newsletter of the Road Traffic Injuries
Research Network*

Voices from Middle East - MESSAGE FROM THE RTRIN BOARD

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings! It is a great pleasure to introduce this newsletter of RTIRN focusing on the Middle East. The previous thematic issues on Latin America and Africa were a great success and we still hope to cover other regions over 2009-10. So please send in your contributions from any part of the world!

The Middle East is included in the World Health Organization's "Eastern Mediterranean" region (EMRO) and in the World Bank's "Middle East and North Africa" (MENA) region. Unfortunately, irrespective of how you measure it, the rates of death, injuries and disability from road traffic injuries are very high in this region; in fact some of the highest fatality rates in the world are found in countries in this region. As a result, focusing attention on road traffic injuries in the Middle East is critical to promote investments for research and action.

On 15 June WHO and the Bloomberg Philanthropies released the Global Status Report on Road Safety in New York. The report has a wealth of data not only on road traffic deaths and injuries in each country but on laws and their enforcement as well. RTIRN congratulates WHO, especially Dr. Margie Peden (RTIRN board member from WHO), and Bloomberg on this outstanding report and encourages all partners to study and use it for their work in the country.

Thanks to the Global Road Safety Facility of the World Bank, RTIRN has the resources to strengthen capacity development in Road Traffic Injury Research around the world. Our project – Grants for Junior Researchers – is supporting 9 junior colleagues complete degrees and conduct innovative research. Another project – Fellowships for Senior Researchers – is supporting 3 senior colleagues enhance their technical skills and produce key research papers together with other colleagues. This and other information is available on our website – and I hope that you have been visiting – www.rtim.net – and especially the 'online forum' which offers the opportunity for us to discuss issues, ask questions and share our experience with colleagues from around the world.

Let us know if you are planning events and we can help you share them. Remember, key to our success is your participation, engagement and energy. Please make most use of this newsletter, our listserve, and the opportunities for better and relevant RTI research in your country.

Be safe!

Adnan A. Hyder, MD MPH PhD
Vice Chair, RTIRN

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RTIRN Regional Workshop on Motorcycle Injuries, Nairobi, Kenya



A one-day Regional Workshop on motorcycle injuries in low- and middle-income countries was held at the Sarova Stanley Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, on June 23, 2009 – sponsored by the Road Traffic Injuries Research Network (RTIRN) and hosted by Maseno University. Over 60 multisectoral stakeholders that included doctors, nurses, lecturers, senior government officials from the Ministry of Health, Transport, Traffic Police Department and representatives of non-governmental organizations attended this event. Also in attendance were nine investigators of the multi-center motorcycle

(MCS) helmet study (from China, Ghana, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam).

From left top: Kulanthayan Mani, James Yu, Nguyen Thi Van Anh, Alfredo Celis, Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah, Gururaj Gopalakrishna, Adnan Hyder, Francis Afukaar, Jawaid Shah

From Left bottom: Shafaq Ambreen, Olive Kobusingye, Maria Inclin, Nitaya Vajanapoom, Wilson Odera, Margie Peden, Robyn Norton, Adesola Sangowawa

The workshop objective was to raise awareness on the increasing burden of motorcycle crashes and injuries in low and middle-income countries and to explore strategies for preventing them – with a special emphasis in Africa. There was a rich agenda with presentations from experts from around the world. The presentations and discussions addressed



Dr. Margie Peden, WHO

key issues about the magnitude, risk factors and challenges of the increasing motorcycle injuries for Kenya, and technical details on how they can be addressed, including capacity building, research, policy, legislation on helmet use and law enforcement. The gathering provided a forum for dialogue and networking with individuals and organizations interested in road safety, with a focus on motorcycle safety. The recently released Global Status Report on Road Safety was formally presented by Dr. Margie Peden to the Minister for Public Health and Sanitation. Each participant also received a copy of the report.



Dr. Robyn Norton, Chair – RTIRN Board

3rd Workshop on Multi Centre Study Non Standard Helmet in Nairobi

The Multi Centre Study on Non-Standard Helmet had its 3rd workshop in Nairobi, Kenya on June 22nd 2009. All nine participating centers were represented by their PI or Co-PI. They were joined together by the RTIRN Board Members. There were a total of 17 participants for the 1- day workshop. The aim of this workshop was to discuss, with all participating centers, findings of the MCS.

From left: Kulanthayan Mani, Nitaya Vajanapoom, Francis Afukaar, Nguyen Thi Van Anh, Adesola Sangowawa, James Yu, Jawaid Shah, Shafaq Ambreen, Robyn Norton



There were three sessions planned to discuss the three study outputs namely: Study I – Prevalence of Non-Standard Motorcycle Helmet Use, Study II - Market Survey on Non Standard Motorcycle Helmet and lastly Study III - Document Review on Legislation on Non Standard Motorcycle Helmet. All the findings were prepared and presented by the Coordinating Centre of the Study from University Putra Malaysia.

The workshop ended with a positive outlook on successfully carrying out a MCS study in 9 countries on a pertinent and vital issue.

Aga Khan University and Johns Hopkins University's Fogarty International Collaborative Trauma and Injury Research Training Program

Dr. Junaid Razzak

The Fogarty International Collaborative Trauma and Injury Research Training Program (ICTIRT) is a partnership between the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) and the Aga Khan University (AKU), supported by a grant from the John E Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health, USA. The program in its fifth year of inception has supported short and long-term research training in the area of injury prevention and control in Pakistan. Three fellows completed their training at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, while two are in the process of finishing their training. Besides, the grants has supported annual capacity building workshops and conferences training scores of students, public health professionals, clinicians and practitioners over the grant period. These activities have led to policy level discussion on road traffic injury prevention and treatment strategies. As a direct result of increase research capacity funded through the ICTIRT, the Section of Emergency Medicine at AKU was awarded the status of a full academic department. This is the first such department in Pakistan and amongst very few in the region.

The RTIRN would like to acknowledge the support of the World Bank Global Road Safety Facility, which makes these projects possible. For more details, visit www.rtirn.net

Poor Scientific evidence on road traffic injuries in Eastern Mediterranean Region



Hamid Soori - Epidemiology, Safety Promotion & Injury Prevention Research Center, Tehran, Iran



Search conducted in different scientific databanks shows that there are only 138 published papers on road traffic injuries from Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) countries in international scientific journals. It is about 19% of all papers published on different types of intentional and unintentional injuries in this region. The study includes papers from 1966 to September 2008. There are 22 countries in EMR including Afghanistan (1), Bahrain (4), Djibouti (none), Egypt (1), Iran (23), Iraq (2), Jordan (None), Kuwait (11), Lebanon (1), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (3), Morocco (2), Oman (1), Pakistan (26), Palestine (none), Qatar (7), Saudi Arabia (31), Somalia (none), Sudan (1), Syria (2), Tunisia (2), United Arab Emirates (18), Yemen (2). Four countries experienced no study on road traffic injuries and countries with reasonable published papers are Saudi

Arabia, Pakistan and Iran. Road traffic injuries in EMR is a serious problem with one of the highest fatality rates in the world. More considerations are recommended to researchers in this region to study the scope of problem, risk factors, interventions and evaluation of road traffic injuries in their own countries as well as the region.

For further information please write to Dr. Hamid Soori at hsoori@yahoo.com

Road safety awareness campaign in Oman



Bernadette Bhacker, Oman

Al Mustadaama (Sustainability) LLC, an Omani social entrepreneurship company, is the developer of a pioneer Arabic/English child occupant safety campaign Salim and Salimah, Safe and Sound! قملاس و قملاس عم قملاس، launched in May 2005 by the Sultanate of Oman. This is a film and web-based public awareness campaign focusing road safety, with the goal of reducing the number of deaths and injuries especially among children and young people in road traffic crashes.



It is a unique, free knowledge-sharing tool for researchers, university students and organisations involved in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) road safety. The website comprises of all published Oman crash statistics from 1999 to 2008.

Dr. Bernadette Bhacker

Al Mustadaama is focused on raising the profile of the scale and causes of the escalating death and injury toll from crashes through collaboration with Gulf media on a range of articles. In May a workshop was conducted on the use of the media in road safety campaigns at the first global meeting for NGOs advocating for road safety hosted by WHO in Brussels.

http://www.who.int/roadsafety/nongovernmental_network/participants/oman_bhacker_communicatingtheme ssage.ppt

Periodic news alerts from Al Mustadaama continue to advocate the adoption of a national road safety plan and organisation along with the other recommendations of the World report on road traffic injury prevention 2004.

For any further information please write to Bernadette Bhacker at almustadaama@EcologyFund.net or visit www.salimandsalimah.org

Implementation of a new law for road safety in Egypt



Hisham El-Sayed – Suez Canal University, Egypt

The Egyptian Ministry of Interior and the Traffic Police in Egypt have started enforcing a new, more stringent, road traffic law since August 2008. This law was approved last year by the Egyptian Parliament. The new traffic law increased traffic violation punishments enormously, including imprisonment for some contraventions. The law also puts more strict regulations for heavy traffic on the roads with major fines and detention for driving under influence of alcohol or narcotics use. The impact of the new law is not yet felt by the public. There is an increasing



pressure from the public and media, to strengthen the enforcement especially in Upper Egypt and Sinai Peninsula regions. Civil society through NGOs are also raising concerns on improving road conditions, controlling trucks movement on the roads, and improving regulations in issuing driving licenses.

For further information please write to Hesham El-Sayed at heshamfatheyelsayed@gmail.com



Road Traffic Safety situation in Iran

Hasan Abdoos – Road Safety and Traffic Department, Iran

The Road Safety and Traffic Department (RSTD) is supported by Ministry of Road and Transportation (MRT) of IRAN. Activities undertaken in RSTD are planning, monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes on road safety in order to prevent crashes and road traffic casualties.



Installed speed cameras on the road of Iran

Unintentional traffic injuries are the second leading cause of deaths in Iran. The rate of fatal injuries is about 32.2 per 100,000 inhabitants. About 23,300 people died in road crashes in 2008; a number still quite short of the figure of 14,000 targeted for 2010. The average annual reduction since 2005 has been only 5.3% instead of 10% needed. This could delay the time to reach the target until 2017. It is also indicated that the high vehicle fleet growth rate underpinning this public health crisis is projected to continue in the longer-term and PTWs drivers and Pedestrians are particularly vulnerable.

Among many initiatives, mandatory seatbelt fastening, development of speed cameras, more intensive enforcement aiming dangerous behaviors, implementation of new techniques and safety equipments onto roads, and other road safety campaigns are the most predominant actions led to road traffic casualties reduction.

For further information please write to Hasan Abdoos at hasanabdoos@yahoo.com

Introducing Our New Board Member

Dr Olive Kobusingye

Dr. Kobusingye is Ugandan and is based in Kampala, Uganda. She is working as a consultant mainly on road safety related projects. Until December 2008 she was the regional advisor on violence and injury prevention at the WHO's regional office for Africa.



Dr. Kobusingye is a surgeon and injury epidemiologist with considerable experience in the prevention and control of injuries. She spent six years working as an accident & emergency surgeon at the Mulago Hospital, the largest referral hospital in Uganda. Here, she was most concerned with the delivery of appropriate immediate care to the injured, the majority of them being from road traffic crashes. She was actively involved in the training and supervision of trauma care teams, and she has co-authored training manuals for clinicians, and for injury surveillance teams in health facilities.

As an injury epidemiologist, Dr. Kobusingye's main interest has been in developing and maintaining injury surveillance systems. While at WHO her work with Member States' governments and their partners focused on preventing injuries and disabilities by; advocating for the integration of prevention of injuries, violence, and disability in health policies and programs, promoting the development of policies for the prevention of injuries, engaging multiple sectors to achieve injury prevention, and supporting the implementation of policies and initiatives for the prevention of both intentional and unintentional injuries.

Dr. Kobusingye has published papers mainly on injury surveillance and the prevention of injuries in low income countries.

We welcome Dr. Olive Kobusingye as a new Board member to the RTIRN

An update on Second National Road Safety Conference

Ameer Hussain - Road Traffic Research Centre, Karachi, Pakistan

Indus Motor Company (IMC) and Shell Pakistan in collaboration with The Aga Khan University, Sindh Education Foundation and the Road Traffic Injury Research & Prevention Center (RTIR & PC) (Ministry of Health) organized the Second National Road Safety Conference on 7th July 2009 at the Aga Khan University Auditorium Karachi, Pakistan.

The conference was a continuation of the first National road safety conference that was held way back in April 2007. The basic purpose of organizing this event was to share the severity and gravity of the road traffic accidents in the light of the RTIR&PC results for the year 2008. The stake holders from different sectors attended the conference.

The conference was focused on the vulnerability of the Motorcycle riders /pillions and intervention strategies were suggested to reduce the number of crashes. Speakers from various sectors highlighted the challenges of enforcement for motorcycle riders, their injury pattern, vehicles and engineering standards.

The RTIR&PC also shared its first publication "A journey from injury towards intervention" which comprises the road casualties report 2008 as well as the road safety immediate concerns.

The chief guest, Dr Arbab Alamgir Khan, Federal Minister of Communication, acknowledged the efforts of Indus Motors and Shell Pakistan for bringing the road safety issue to a national forum and mentioned that the Ministry of Communication endorsed the 'National Road Safety Forum', which can become an effective platform for various stakeholders to come together for making our roads safer. He highlighted that a national road safety policy needed to be developed with focus on motorcycles and heavy vehicles traffic safety.

List of Latest publications:

Ardalan, A., Masoomi, G. R., Goya, M. M., Sarvar, M. R., Haddadi, M., Miadfar, J., Rezvani, F. and Shahmoradi, M., (2009), Road Traffic Injuries: A Challenge for Iran's Health System, Iranian Journal of Public Health, Vol. 38 No. 1, pp. 98-101.

Bhalla, K., Naghavi, M., Shahraz, S., Bartels, D. and Murray, C. J. L., (2009), Building national estimates of the burden of road traffic injuries in developing countries from all available data sources: Iran, British Medical Journal, Vol. 15 No. 3, pp. 150.

Khorasani-Zavareh, D., Khankeh, H. R., Mohammadi, R., Laflamme, L., Bikmoraki, A. and Haglund, B. J. A., (2009), Post-crash management of road traffic injury victims in Iran. Stakeholders' views on current barriers and potential facilitators, BMC Emergency Medicine, Vol. 9 No. 1, pp. 8.

Mohammadi, G., (2009a), The pattern of fatalities by age, seat belt usage and time of day on road accidents, International Journal of Injury Control and Safety Promotion, Vol. 16 No. 1, pp. 27-33.

Mohammadi, G., (2009b), Road traffic fatalitites among pedestraints, bicyclists and motor vehicle occupants in Sirjan, Kerman, Iran., Chinese Journal of Traumatology, Vol. 12 No. 4, pp. 200-2.

Naghavi, M., Shahraz, S., Bhalla, K., Jafari, N., Pourmalek, F., Bartels, D., Puthenpurakal, J. A. and Motlagh, M. E., (2009), Adverse Health Outcomes of Road Traffic Injuries in Iran after Rapid Motorization, Archives of Iranian Medicine, Vol. 12 No. 3, pp. 284-294.

Soori, H., Royanian, M., Zali, A. R. and Movahedinejad, A., (2009), Road Traffic Injuries in Iran: The Role of Interventions Implemented by Traffic Police, Traffic Injury Prevention, Vol. 10 No. 4, pp. 375-378.

Zamani-Alavijeh, F., Niknami, S., Bazargan, M., Mohammadi, E., Montazeri, A., Ahmadi, F. and Ghofranipour, F., (2009), Accident-Related Risk Behaviors Associated with Motivations for Motorcycle Use in Iran: A Country with Very High Traffic Deaths, Traffic Injury Prevention, Vol. 10 No. 3, pp. 237-242.

New RTIRN Partners!

We welcome the new partners who have recently joined RTIRN:

Ghana: Henry Nagai

India: Ravishankar Rajaraman

Iran: Nastaran keshavarz Mohammadi, Hasan Abdoos

Kenya: Japheths Ogendi, Casey Marengue, Margaret A. Atelu, Ouko V. D, Charles Walekhwa, Samuel Siro Mikae, Victor Ouma, Abdalla R.O., Ann Waikwa, David Koech, Ernest Mutua, Sylvia Nthiga, Lelei, L.K, Charles Mutinda Muli, Muhammed Musa, Gachathi Wanjema, Owuor James, Lutomia M. Lumbasi, Grace W. Mjoroge, P. Okinda Owuor, Rosemary Obara, Irungu Macharia, Dominic W. Makawiti, K. Odhiambo, Patrick O. Alila, Joyce Nato, James Mburu, Walter Odhiambo, Bright Oywaya, Fred Otieno, Stanley Marengue, Daniel Wako, Lucy Marengue, Mushtaq Ahmed, Casey Marengue, Channa Commanday, El-Samma Naegwa, Wilfred Mwai Githinji, Fred Otsyeno, Musa Imamai Omari, Eric Osoro, P. Kamau Njoroge, Enos Ngungu Muguku

Nigeria: Azemobor Ehimen Samson, Mariam Temitope Labinjo

Pakistan: Nukhba Zia

Spain: Jaime Sanmartin

Uganda: Olive Kobusingye

UK: Joanne Hill, Elizabeth Anne Dodson

Have you registered for the New RTIRN Online Forum?

The new forum enables RTIRN Partners to communicate more effectively, participate in online discussions and stay updated with current network activities.

Please visit www.rtirn.net/forum to register today!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for applications for RTIRN Secretariat

We are glad to announce the call for a new secretariat.

Applications and proposals deadline: October 15, 2009

For further details please visit: www.rtirn.net

Call for Board membership

The RTIRN is currently receiving nominations for positions available on the network Board.

Nomination deadline: September 30, 2009

For further details and nomination guidelines, please visit the website, www.rtirn.net

Themes for future RTIRN newsletters

RTIRN welcomes all partners to send in their suggestions regarding themes for future issues of the RTIRN newsletter, all suggestions should send to administrator@rtirn.net

Support for the RTIRN made Possible by:
The Global Forum for Health Research
The World Health Organization
The World Bank

Make the RTIRN newsletter your own!!

- Have news of road traffic injuries research in your region?
- Intervention projects?
- Upcoming events or new publications?

Share it with us at the following address: administrator@rtirn.net

Save the dates!!

October 14, 2009
London, UK.
Beyond 2010: The Challenges Ahead - road safety conference
at the Royal Society of Arts <http://www.pacts.org.uk/events.php?id=12>

October 14 - 15, 2009
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
TransOman: Transportation Innovation and Challenges Conference.

October 26 - 28, 2009
Singapore
2nd World Roads Conference,
<http://www.irfnet.org/eventdetail.php?catid=2&id=127&title=2nd%20World%20Roads%20Conference>

October 27-29, 2009
Kuwait
13th Gulf Engineering Forum - Traffic and Transportation - Challenge and Opportunity

November 11-13, 2009
Sydney, Australia
The 2009 Australasian Road Safety Conference
Research, Policing and Education Conference, www.roadssafetyconference2009.com.au

November 19-20, 2009
Moscow
First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety

December 01, 2009
London, UK.
20th Westminster Lecture on Transport Safety
Putting People at the Centre: How to Enhance Road Safety in the 21st Century
<http://www.pacts.org.uk/events.php?id=13>

For the latest information about RTIRN, updates on RTIRN events, announcements for upcoming RTIRN activities and to become a partner of the network, please visit our website at www.rtirn.net

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