



Regional Commissions Coordinate for SAFER ROADS

UN experts considered political will and commitment as key elements in improving road safety and securing funds to address it properly. Four of the five UN Regional Commissions had met at a seminar in the Russian city of Minsk on “Improving Global Road Safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction target”. They discussed actions taken in the context of the UN Development Account (UNDA) project, ways to strengthen road safety cooperation, and harmonizing preparation for the upcoming Global Ministerial Conference in Moscow, among other matters.

High Toll

According to the World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention, published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank in 2004, road traffic crashes claim the lives of more than 1.2 million people every year throughout the world and are responsible for about 40 million injuries. They disproportionately affect low and middle income countries. The costs of road crashes are estimated at between \$65 billion and \$100 billion. The 14-



member ESCWA region denotes an insufficient number of traffic crash reporters to provide accurate information about all accidents. Therefore, the existing statistics and figures are not accurate. However, 30 per cent of public hospital beds are engaged with traffic accidents injuries.

The UNDA project has an overarching objective of assisting low and middle income countries to develop regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets and providing them with examples of good road safety practice that could help them to achieve the targets selected by 2015.

Safety Measures

ESCWA, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Com-

mission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the host, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) recommended extending the lessons learnt to concerned ministries and authorities in participating countries to help Governments in setting and achieve road safety targets at relatively low cost and within a short time frame. Participants also considered that

ESCWA will convene a regional workshop on Setting Regional and National Road Traffic Causality Reduction Targets in the ESCWA Region, in collaboration with the National Transport Authority (NTA), on 16-17 June 2009, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

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Business Continuity at the UN

ESCWA held a 2 day-workshop to train critical staff on the business continuity plan: maintenance, exercise and testing (BCP: ME and T). Delivered by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) trainers from UN Headquarters, the workshop was designed in the spirit of inter-agency collaboration with attendance from ESCWA, the UN Development Program (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF.

According to the training, delegation of authority and clear communication are key elements to ensure the success of the BCP. The workshop addressed several issues, explaining how to ensure a smooth and accurate workflow under the BCP even in times of



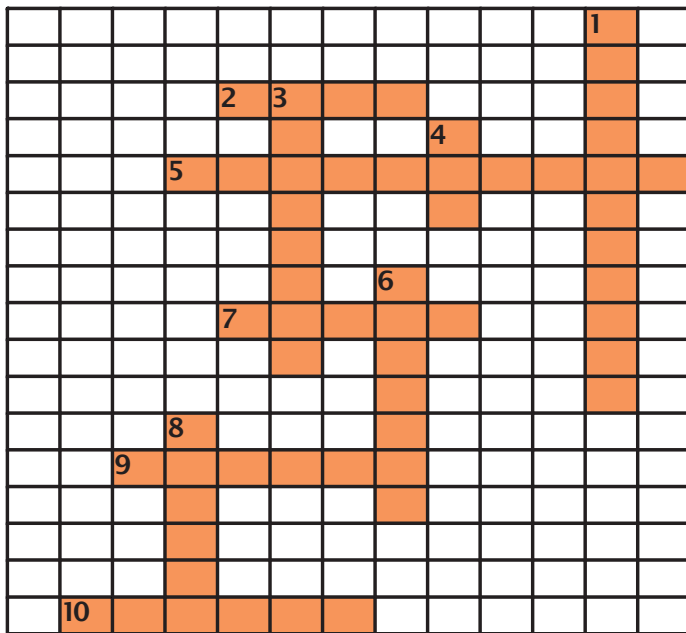
Regional Commissions Coordinate for SAFER ROADS (Cont.)

countries should adopt, or improve, the methodology for data collection and set-up, or improve the existing national computerised databases on road crashes. Also, advisory missions are to be conducted to assess countries' road safety problems and help them develop targets in a bilateral setting to strengthen international cooperation and knowledge-sharing in road safety. ■

Business Continuity at the UN (Cont.)

emergency, and the role of each individual in such an instance. Staff worked on 4 modules, focusing on training and awareness, alert and notification, decision-making and business process recovery. ■

WSIS Crossword Puzzle



Print the puzzle out and solve it, then scan it and send it by email to webmaster-escwa@un.org

The first winner gets two tickets to Naseer Shamma concert, organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on 26 June in UNESCO Palace, Beirut. For international users, the winner receives a CD by Naseer Shamma.

The winner will be chosen according to the speed of reply and correctness of answers.

UN staff are not allowed to participate in this game.



- 1 The last of the MDGs, this goal aims to 'develop a global ____ for development'
- 2 This acronym refers to a set of 8 goals enshrined in the Millennium Declaration and targeted for achievement by 2015
- 3 The upcoming 'Regional Follow-up to the Outcomes of the WSIS' is being held in this city over the period 16-18 June 2009
- 4 This international organization had the lead role in organizing the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)
- 5 This WSIS document, the "Tunis ____" is the political capstone of the Tunis Outcome documents, emphasizing support for the outcomes of the Geneva phase

- 6 This 'divide' separates those who have access to information and communication technologies and those who do not
- 7 The second phase of the WSIS was held in this city over the period 10-12 November 2005
- 8 The first regional preparatory conference on WSIS for the ESCWA region was held in this city over the period 4-6 February 2003
- 9 The first phase of the WSIS was held in this city over the period 10-12 December 2003
- 10 One of the two main outputs of the first phase of the WSIS, the 'Geneva Plan of ____' sets time-bound targets to turn the vision of the Information Society into reality

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