
PRESS RELEASE COP16 / 2010

From Copenhagen to Cancun - Keeping climate solutions on track – the role of partnerships, good practice and rail

(Cancun/Paris, 01/12/2010) The International Union of Railways (UIC) is pleased to announce that the international communications campaign Train to Copenhagen campaign has been shortlisted as one of the top 5 candidates from over 1400 entrants for the prestigious European Excellence Awards 2010 in the International Communications category, alongside GE, L'Oréal, Electrolux and BMC Software.

"Honouring outstanding achievement on an international scale", the award ceremony will take place on 9 December in Prague, Czech Republic. A list of highly-regarded communications specialists have been selected to be jury members, basing their evaluation on the creativity, innovation, cost-efficiency and strategy of the nominated projects.

In the meantime, UIC is honoured to be among the distinguished finalists and would like to extend its gratitude to the Train to Copenhagen team responsible for putting together the campaign, to UNEP, WWF, Jette Tosti of JE:SU for the design and to all partners worldwide who have worked hard to make it a truly global campaign.

This year, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP16) in Cancun, Mexico, UIC and UNEP have continued the cooperation and held a successful joint side event on 1 December, together with the Institution for Transport Policy Studies (ITPS), under the theme "Keeping climate solutions on track – the role of partnerships, good practice and rail".

On a global scale, transport is responsible for a quarter of CO₂ emissions. Whilst other sectors have managed to reduce their emissions, emissions in the transport sector have been consistently increasing. This joint side event aimed to draw attention to the transport emissions challenge and to present solutions scaled to the size of the challenge.

The side event, chaired by Joanna Benn, UNEP, was composed of two panels. The first panel included the presentations of the host organisations.

ITPS, represented by Deputy Director Iwao Matsuoka, presented a proposal for a funding scheme supporting the development of railways in developing countries. UIC, represented by Senior Advisor Margrethe Sagevik, highlighted rail's efforts to continuously improve the performance and commitments to sustainable mobility, supported by the Declaration on Sustainable Mobility and Transport and the recently updated global rail position paper "Keeping Climate Solution on track". UNEP, represented by Spokesperson and Head of Media Nick Nuttall, showcased climate neutral solutions for transport including the bus rapid transport system (BRTs) in Jakarta and the Climate Neutral Network initiative which brings together partners from several industries and sectors all aiming to achieve climate neutrality.

The second panel welcomed the following guest speakers: Yuki Tanaka, Director at ITPS and official of the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, who elaborated on the role of rail stations in reforming the community and society. Holger



Dalkmann, Programme Director for Climate Change and Sustainable Transport (TRL) linked the issue of sustainable transport to the ongoing negotiations, noting the interlinkages between the issues discussed by the previous speakers, including financing, technology and MRV.

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Note to the editors

The Train to Copenhagen campaign was organised in the framework of COP15 last year and aimed to support and encourage decision-makers to deliver a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, the first international effort to cut green house gas emissions. Its purpose was also to send out the message that the next-generation climate agreement and its supporting policies and procedures need to address the transport sector's growing emissions.

The International Union of Railways, its members and partners including UNEP and WWF, organised the Climate Express from Brussels to Copenhagen on 5 December, a 12-hour on-track conference about transport and climate change where the aim was to find out how the challenges posed by the transport sector with regard to global warming can be solved.

400 high level EcoPassengers, including climate change negotiators, rail business leaders, environmental activists, journalists and a group of Young Climate Champions were hosted on board the Climate Express. They were joined by the team of environmental experts, NGOs and journalist who had completed a symbolic train journey organised by the Russian Railways starting in Kyoto, during which they had the opportunity to meet the local environment authorities, experts and journalists, discover innovative railway technologies, and witness the impact of climate change on the Russian territories.