Transport-Links is a new initiative supported by the UK Department for International Development to broaden the range of ways in which transport information for development can be accessed. The Transport-Links initiative aims to provide easy access to ongoing research and published outputs in order to maximise the benefits derived from transport-related research in developing countries.

Transport-Links is built around a web site, www.Transport-Links.org, which is dedicated to transport sector information aimed towards development. The web site has been introduced to keep transport professionals, as well as those engaged in other fields of development, aware of innovations and information on all aspects of transport in developing countries.

One of the main features of the web site is a ‘Knowledge and Research’ section, by which visitors can follow the progress of ongoing transport research projects. The web site includes sections on news and events relating to transport in development, as well as the publications on this CD-ROM.

The Transport-Links web site is handled by TRL Limited (Transport Research Laboratory), DFID’s resource centre for transport services. The address of TRL Limited and the other IUDD sector resource centres and their web sites are given in the “Transport” Newsletter section, or can be found from the DFID web site.

In parallel with the web site, a series of CD-ROMs is planned of which this is the first. (The precise content of those that are to follow is currently under discussion). This CD-ROM contains manuals and guidelines on road engineering for developing countries. These publications are concerned with the design, maintenance and operation of roads, and road safety. The documents are those published or distributed by TRL Limited (formerly the Transport Research Laboratory) in the UK, as outputs from DFID’s research programme. TRL has more than 40 years experience in transport related research for developing countries. Recently, however, many more organisations have become involved in transport for development, and future issues of the CD-ROM will include reports from these organisations also.

The web site and the CD-ROM series are under development. DFID and TRL are very interested to know readers’ opinions of these outputs, and comments on any aspect of both are actively sought. We would like to know whether you find this CD-ROM useful, whether the presentation is clear, what other kinds of material might be included and how the provision of transport information related to development could be improved in order to meet your needs. This will help us to decide upon the format of following issues. Comments can be sent to TRL’s email address (international_enquiries@trl.co.uk) or, from mid-2001, to the Transport-Links web site.