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## **PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING CENTRE RECEIVES NEW VEHICLES**

The Industrial Training Centre Trust (ITCT) in Lusaka was officially presented with several professional driver training vehicles from Transaid, a UK charitable organisation on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The official handover took place between 08:30 – 09:30 in the presence of the Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Vocational Training.

The ceremony was also attended by representatives from Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Authority (TEVETA), the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA), the Ministry of Communication and Transport (MCT), and a number of key stakeholders from the transport and logistics sector.

Three trucks, two trailers and a car (kindly donated by MAN Truck and Bus and Britcom through Transaid) were officially presented to the Honorable Minister of Science, Technology and Vocational Training. The Honorable Minister gave a speech thanking Transaid for the donation, outlining the importance of professional driver training to improving road safety, and closed with an appeal to stakeholders to support this initiative and send their drivers for professional truck driver training at the ITCT.

Whilst today marks the official handover of the equipment, Transaid and the ITCT have been working together since 2002 to improve professional driver training standards and as a formal partnership since August 2008. Driver trainers from leading companies within the transport industry in Europe have visited the centre to

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share best practice and new training techniques with the ITCT driver trainers. Experts in fields such as tyre safety and management and health and safety have also had practical inputs into the project to provide valuable expertise and materials.

Transaid and the ITCT will continue to actively drive this partnership in driver training forward over the next 12- 18 months. Transaid believe that by working with the ITCT at a local level to build capacity there is potential for a truly national impact. The donation of vehicles given today means more trainees will be able to gain practical experience of safe and efficient driving techniques and how to couple and uncouple a trailer and secure a load.

Transaid's Zambia Programme Manager, Caroline Barber says,

'With support from the European consortium and the technical inputs, Transaid and the ITCT can help to make Zambia's professional drivers safer, teaching them beyond basic vehicle manoeuvring knowledge and skill, towards a greater understanding of risks, risk reduction and self-awareness. This in turn, will help to reduce the number of fatalities on Zambia's roads.'

Des Evans from MAN Truck & Bus comments,

'MAN has supported Transaid over several years and the integration of MAN, our skills and products into the Zambian project is arguably the most exciting so far. We are very pleased to offer help with both the driver training and the general development of the African Transport industry and hope this project will lead to a bigger and better future for all those involved.'

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Chris Urwin and Paul Mercer, joint Managing Director's of Britcom:

'Britcom puts great emphasis on training and after sales support and are committed to the continued improvement of transport and logistics through the developing world', says Chris.

Paul added 'We are delighted to be able to provide these trailers to support the excellent work that Transaid does within Africa, and urge more people in the industry to get involved to help make a difference to the lives of families across Africa.'

Senior Sales Executive Blakey Jones from Britcom International visited the ITCT on the 27<sup>th</sup> January whilst on a business trip to Zambia.

Directors from the European consortium (made up from key players in the Transport and Logistics industry) whose support has made it possible for Transaid to implement this project will visit the ITCT in May 2009 to see the work on the ground and how their support is helping to make Zambia's roads safer.

**- Ends -**

## **Contact details**

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## The background

Road crashes are responsible for 1.3 million deaths and 50 million injuries per year globally\*. Tragically it is the lower income families who are most affected and families are being driven deeper into poverty by the loss of breadwinners and the added burden of caring for members disabled by road traffic injuries. In addition to this human suffering, the Zambian Road Transport Safety Agency (RTSA) has estimated that road crashes are costing the country 1.3 trillion kwacha each year.

There is also a severe shortage of trained HGV drivers in landlocked Zambia and its neighbouring countries. The Transport industry is desperate for trained drivers but lacks a facility to provide this scale of quality professionally trained drivers.

To bridge this gap in professional driver training Transaid are implementing a programme to build the capacity of the ITCT, a quasi-government facility in Lusaka and develop the professional driver-training offering.

Transaid is a UK transport development charity aimed at tackling poverty and disadvantage by building transport skills and knowledge in the developing world. Transaid has been working in the South African Development Community (SADC) region since 1998. Transaid have worked with Ministries of Health, including Zambia, on transport management systems to improve efficiency and service delivery and reduce costs. Transaid has also implemented a bicycle ambulance project in Zambia in 2008.

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Specifically in this project Transaid's aim is to reduce the number of road crashes in Zambia. A consortium of European Industry supporters including MAN Truck & Bus, Wincanton, CEVA Logistics, Michelin, Britcom, Norbert Dentressangle Logistics (UK), Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics, Hoyer, Jaguar and Landrover, DHL and Stagecoach are providing the vehicles, trailers, funding and technical support required to implement this project. Transaid have also provided a project manager, Caroline Barber for two years to support with the implementation of the project.

For any questions relating to this project or to inquire about enrolling either yourself or your drivers on a driver-training course in 2009 please contact the ITCT.

For more information about Transaid please see [www.transaid.org](http://www.transaid.org)

(\*WHO (2004), *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*, ISBN 02 4 156260 9, World Health Organization, Geneva.

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