

PRESS RELEASE

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Transaid cements relationship with FTA as Royal Patron opens new office

HRH The Princess Royal unveiled the plaque at an opening ceremony of the Freight Transport Association's (FTA) new Leeds office this morning. HRH attended as the Patron of Transaid, an international development charity supported by the FTA, lending a special significance to the Royal opening.

The Princess Royal – herself an HGV license holder – along with the Vice-Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and the Lord Mayor of Leeds, received a tour of FTA's new premises and spoke to key staff.

Malcolm Bingham, FTA's Head of Policy for the north of England, demonstrated the FTA's traffic and weather service. June Powell, General Manager for Tachofa introduced the FTA's tachograph service, explaining the importance of compliance for FTA member companies. General Training Manager Nic Allen spoke on FTA's role in developing a Driver Certificate of Professional Competence.

HRH also met with chairmen and key members of the FTA in the north east region and was presented with a satellite navigation system and some FTA guidance notes on operating horse boxes, before giving a speech on Transaid's work in Africa. In it, HRH spoke of how the FTA's support as the leading transport trade association can help further Transaid's aims to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods through creating better transport.

FTA's Chief Executive, Theo de Pencier, said:

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"It was a great pleasure for FTA to receive Her Royal Highness and we were delighted that she took the time to open our Leeds office and say a few words thanking FTA for the work we do for Transaid. She has long taken an interest in the work of logistics and it was a pleasure taking her through some of the new developments in the sector.

"Transaid is the difference between life and death for so many men, women and children in the developing world and FTA is proud to lend its support and expertise to their team of workers."

Chris Saunders, Chief Executive of Transaid, said:

"Transaid is working in Zambia, where road deaths are the third biggest premature killer following HIV/AIDS and malaria, to develop commercial driver training to an internationally recognised standard.

"As well as the donations the FTA's members kindly contribute, the skills and knowledge contained within the FTA are of significant value to our projects and we are hugely grateful to them for coming on board and helping us find solutions for transport challenges we face in the developing world.

"Since Transaid's inception, HRH The Princess Royal has been a very active Patron and we are, as ever, incredibly proud to have such a hands on and high profile figurehead."

From December 2009, FTA members have been given the option to donate to Transaid when they make their annual FTA membership fees. For more details on Transaid projects visit www.transaid.org

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Notes for editors

Images of the Leeds office opening are available upon request to the FTA press office, contact: 01892 552255/01892 552253 or email lnorthfield@fta.co.uk/jlgridge@fta.co.uk.

Transaid (www.transaid.org) is an international development agency that aims to improve people's quality of life in the developing world by making transport more available and affordable. It was founded by Save The Children and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (UK) and works by sharing skills and knowledge with local people to enable them to put in place and manage efficient transport systems. Transaid's core work includes creating transport management systems for the public sector and assisting with the provision of professional driving qualification development and the training of driver trainers. It also assists with teaching preventive vehicle maintenance management and introducing local, low cost transport solutions including its innovative bicycle ambulance. Transaid also helps promote road safety awareness and shares its specialist knowledge with the industry and the active involvement of its Patron, HRH The Princess Royal.

FTA members will be given the option to make a £10 donation to Transaid with their annual membership fees. For more information about FTA's work with Transaid, visit <http://www.fta.co.uk/information/transaid/>

For further press information:

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