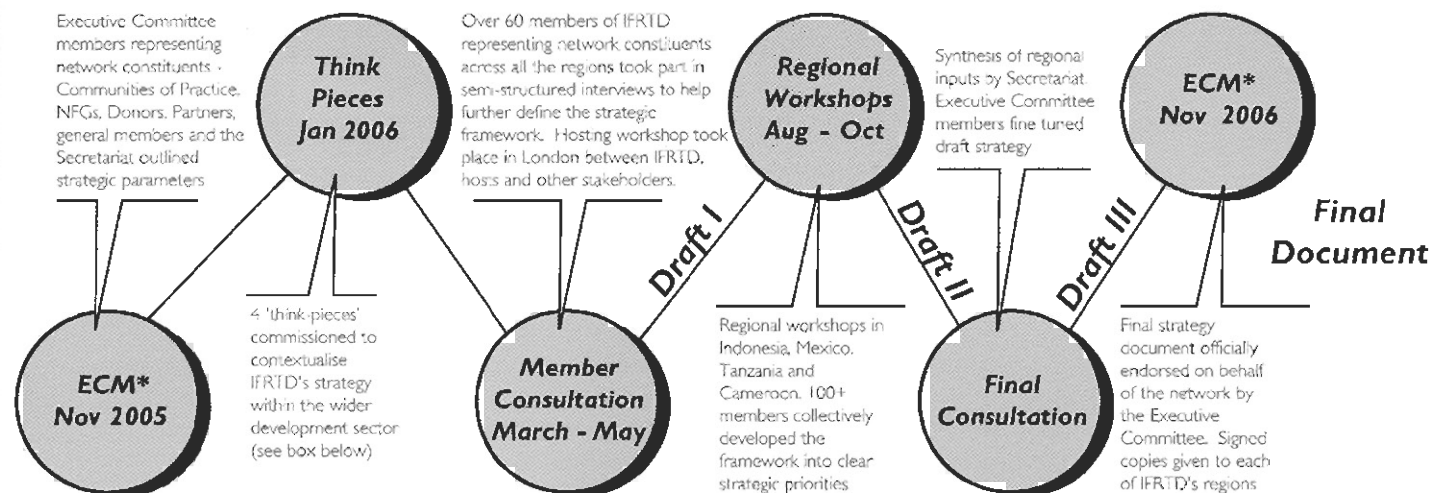


Developing the IFRTD Strategy - an International Participatory Process:



Devising and implementing a participatory strategy development process for a global organisation is recognised as a considerable challenge, doing so for a global network is doubly so. IFRTD's strategy was developed during an intensive year long consultation and the same principles contained in the document of non-hierarchical, democratic and participatory networking were applied to the process itself. Successive rounds of consultation and synthesis helped to hone the initial sketches of IFRTD's future strategy into 18 concise strategic priorities grouped

under six key focus areas. Through an extensive consultation, four regional workshops, a hosting workshop, a Secretariat workshop, two ECMs, a website survey, a literature review and four think-pieces IFRTD was able to gather a wealth of information from over 200 stakeholders worldwide to ensure the strategy represents the diversity of network members and constituents (Contact us for more information - See page 1).

*Executive Committee Meeting

What It Means For Our Members:

How can members get involved in the Forum? There are some members who simply subscribe to IFRTD's free publications: Forum News, the E-newsletter and Updates such as this, some are also active with NFGs and Communities of Practice, whilst others participate in IFRTD networked research programmes. It is the diversity of these networking functions that characterises IFRTD's dynamism - a key aim of the strategy is to enable members to engage with these groups at the local, national, regional and/or international level. IFRTD will continue to create new spaces for networking while building on past successes such as The Lanka Forum or Rural Transport and Development which receives its own funding to promote rural transport issues in Sri Lanka, IFRTDAL (the Latin America Listserv) that continues to host regular and lively regional debate, and international networked research programmes (such as the current Mobility and Health programme) that bring together Southern researchers from across the globe to design and implement locally relevant research.

The strategy emphasises the need for IFRTD to continue to promote the networking and advocacy potential of these decentralised network constituents and empower members to have a real impact on local, national and international policies and practices. For example:

- Increasing the advocacy profile of IFRTD with regional, national and local level bodies
- Establishing more cross-sectoral and thematic partnerships

- Developing and improving the NFG model to act as a national hub for members in their country
- Producing locally relevant information products and communication strategies
- Understanding IFRTD membership better through increased information flows between Secretariat, network constituents and general members.

Setting the Scene:

The changing nature of the transport and development sector poses both opportunities and challenges for the Forum. What significant developments can we expect over the next 5 years and how should we respond? IFRTD commissioned 4 'think-pieces' to help map this changing landscape and provide some of the answers. Written by leading experts in their field they helped to ground the strategy development process and also make insightful reading for those interested in the changing nature of the transport and development sector:

- Trends in the development sector
- Trends in the rural transport sector
- Trends in donor activities
- The rewards and challenges for international networks

Download the think-pieces: www.ifrtd.org/new/about/strat.php or see contact details (page 1).