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For Immediate Release

INAUGURAL WORLD URBAN TRANSPORT LEADERS SUMMIT 2008
Transforming Urban Transport for Liveability and Sustainability

1. Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Raymond Lim, opened the inaugural World Urban Transport Leaders Summit (WUTLS) this morning at the Land Transport Authority's (LTA) Hampshire Road office.
2. Mr Yam Ah Mee, Chief Executive, LTA, said: "The World Urban Transport Leaders Summit serves as a platform for senior government officials, leading professionals and academics to discuss and exchange views on urban transport policies and strategies. Through such activities, the LTA aims to share our experience and knowledge with other world transport professionals and play a part in contributing towards the improvement of urban transport."
3. Held from 4 to 6 November 2008, the highlights of the Summit are the four plenary forums and policy dialogue chaired by LTA's International Advisory Panel (IAP) Members. These will cover the following topics:
 - Good Governance, Sustainable Transport; Professor Tony Ridley
 - Transforming Public Transport; Professor David Hensher
 - Managing Congestion; Professor Kim Kwang Sik
 - Strategies for Emerging Cities; Professor Shigeru Morichi
 - The Way Forward to Transforming Urban Transport; Professor Vukan Vuchic
4. The WUTLS, organised by the LTA Academy, is set to be a premier, biennial event. Participation is by invitation only. The inaugural event has attracted about 100 high-level overseas and local officials / professionals from 30 countries including Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, China, India, Middle East, South Africa, the United States, the United Kingdom and Asean.

Official Opening of the LTA Academy Premises

5 Minister Lim also officially opened the LTA Academy's new premises at the LTA Hampshire Road office.

6 The LTA Academy was established in 2006 to share Singapore's experience and expertise in land transport and to promote the research and exchange of best practices within the global land transport community.

7 To date, the Academy has designed, conducted or hosted more than 150 professional programmes for about 5,000 overseas and local senior officials and professionals. High-level officials from 70 countries around the world have attended its programmes.

LTA Academy Advisory Board

9 The LTA Academy has also formed an Advisory Board, which will provide high-level advice on the strategic directions and major initiatives of the Academy to establish itself as a leading land transport institution in the world. The Advisory Board, comprising nine distinguished members, is led by Professor Cham Tao Soon, Chancellor and Chairman of SIM University and former LTA Board Member and former President of the Nanyang Technological University. Please refer to Annex A for the list of the LTA Academy Advisory Board members.

“Journeys” - A Professional Journal by LTA Academy

11 In conjunction with its official opening, the LTA Academy also launched “Journeys”, an industry journal covering urban transport trends, policies, strategies, technologies and its related challenges. Contributors of these articles may include renowned professionals in the urban transport field, academics and practitioners in government and industrial sectors.

12 “Journeys” will be published twice a year.

Memorandum of Cooperation

13 The Academy actively engages universities and institutes to develop joint programmes and research. In March 2008, the Academy signed its first international Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) to develop and promote capacity development programmes, and joint conferences and seminars for government officials and professionals from the region and beyond.

14 During the WUTLS, the LTA Academy will sign four more international MOCs with China's Tsinghua University's School of Civil Engineering; the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP, USA); global Transport Knowledge Partnership (gTKP, UK); and the Institute of Urban Transport and Urban Mass Transit Company (IUTI and UMTC, India). LTA Academy will be promoting collaborative activities with these organisations in areas such as public transport policy and planning; rail transit development and systems; transport demand management; traffic and road management; vehicle licensing and standards; environmentally sustainable transport; and safety management processes. Please refer to Annex B for more details on the four organisations.

15 These collaborative activities will allow the LTA Academy to share its wealth of information and experience with other agencies and build ties with other like-minded organisations in the world.

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LTA Academy Advisory Board

S/No.	Name/Position/Organisation	Country
1	Prof Cham Tao Soon (Chair) Chancellor & Chairman SIM University	Singapore
2	Mr Yam Ah Mee (Vice Chair) Chief Executive Land Transport Authority	Singapore
3	Prof Tony May Research Professor of Transport Engineering University of Leeds	UK
4	Prof Lu Hua Pu Director Institute of Transportation Engineering Tsinghua University	China
5	Mr Om Prakash Agarwal Managing Director Urban Mass Transit Company Vice President, Institute of Urban Transport (India)	Indi
6	Mr Michael Replogle President and Founder Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)	USA
7	Prof Henry Fan Director, Centre for Infrastructure Systems Nanyang Technological University	Singapore
8	Prof Fwa Tien Fang Director, Centre for Transportation Research National University of Singapore	Singapore
9	Prof Phang Sock Yong Prof of Economics Singapore Management University	Singapore

About Tsinghua University

Tsinghua University was established in 1911, originally under the name “Tsinghua Xuetaang”.

Its School of Civil Engineering was founded in 2000, based on two well-known departments in Tsinghua University, namely Department of Civil Engineering and Department of Hydraulic & Hydropower Engineering.

The School of Civil Engineering, with its three integrated departments, offers an undergraduate programme which includes a common training platform called "technology plus management". For scientific research, importance has been attached to fundamental research and engineering applications, with major efforts made to meet national demand and to promote discipline development.

For more information, please visit www.tsinghua.edu.cn/eng

About the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy

Founded in 1985, the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) has become a leading organisation in the promotion of environmentally sustainable and equitable transportation policies and projects worldwide.

ITDP was created by sustainable transport advocates in the United States to counteract the export to developing countries of costly and environmentally damaging models of dependence on the private automobile.

In its first 10 years, ITDP successfully advocated the redirection of lending activity by the World Bank and other multi-lateral institutions away from an exclusive focus on road projects towards more multi-modal transport solutions.

In more recent years, it focused on working with municipalities and non-governmental organisations in developing countries to implement projects that show how air pollution, carbon emissions, traffic congestion and accidents can be reduced, or how the basic mobility of the poor can be improved.

For more information, please visit www.itdp.org.

About global Transport Knowledge Partnership (gTKP)

gTKP's mission is to support sustainable and efficient transport in developing and transition countries by providing free access to the best available information and expertise, as well as free technical advice.

gTKP is an innovative partnership of global organisations, local policy-makers, experts and interested users working to make effective use of international transport knowledge.

It offers access to sector experts and best practice knowledge in road transport.

gTKP's focus on long-term capacity building delivers an effective approach to tackling world transport issues. Its overall goal is to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through transport knowledge.

For more information, please visit www.gtkp.com.

About Institute of Urban Transport, India (IUTI) and Urban Mass Transit Company (UMTC, India)

The Institute of Urban Transport was set up in 1997 with the objectives of promoting and coordinating urban transport in the country. Its name was subsequently changed in July 2001 to Institute of Urban Transport (India). The membership of the institute comprises academics, architects, economists, engineers, transport planners, town planners and professionals from various disciplines.

UMTC was promoted as a joint venture company of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India; Government of Andhra Pradesh; Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation and Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited.

UMTC's focus is to undertake comprehensive transportation planning exercise, develop and promote multimodal, integrated transport systems as well as work towards institutional capacity building.

For more information, please visit www.umtc.co.in.