Summary of the 4th International Symposium “Networks for Mobility 2008” in Stuttgart, Germany

The 4th International Symposium “Networks for Mobility 2008,” held on September 25–26, 2008, once again brought together professionals from the fields of science, industry and politics. The symposium was a successful continuation of the multidisciplinary exchange that has been seen in the previous events. “Networks for Mobility” was the premise of the symposium, with an emphasis on major projects.

The symposium allowed for an exchange of transportation system design ideas with influence from neighboring fields such as urban planning, ecology, vehicle technology and economics. Participants from all of these fields were involved in “Networks for Mobility”. They shared their insights and contributed to solving transport challenges in terms of sustainable mobility. The continuous interest was reflected by the consistent numbers of participants: 142 participants from 32 countries.

In the plenary sessions, the following topics were covered:

- Impacts of Mega-Projects
- Improving Urban Life
- Smart Growth and Transportation

Professionals from Japan, Austria, the United Kingdom, Germany and Switzerland presented their latest research and findings. The subsequent discussions among the speakers and participants made clear the relevance of the presentations. The parallel sessions included 36 presentations on the following topics:

- Network Planning and Optimisation, Transport Economics, Energy Consumption and Emissions
- Public Transport Planning, Data Collection and Management, Integrated Land Use and Transport Planning
- Railway Planning and Operation, Traffic State Estimation, Urban and Regional Transport

The great interest in all of the topics from the diverse participants led to a comfortable working atmosphere. Presentations and posters from all fields were enjoyed by all of the participants.

In addition to the presentations, the organizers were happy to display 26 posters that were chosen from a total of 83 submitted abstracts. The proximity of the poster panels, the lecture rooms and the atrium of the venue “SpOrt Stuttgart” encouraged the lively exchange among all of the participants. The same could be said regarding the Warm-up evening in the tower of Stuttgart Central Station, which was held on September 24, 2008. From the tower observation deck as well as from the guided tours of the Stuttgart 21 project exhibition, the participants were informed about the upcoming Stuttgart 21 project. The “Networks for Mobility 2008” program was completed by a tutorial on the “Evaluation of Urban Transportation Investments.”

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