In India the supply of efficient and reliable urban transport systems and infrastructure are crucial to sustain a high growth rate. An equally important role of urban transport in India is the alleviation of poverty, both through its indirect effects as a stimulator of poverty reducing growth and through its direct effects on the quality of life of people. In order to address emerging issues of urban governance and infrastructure development and create a forum where experts from India and abroad can share knowledge & experience, CiSTUP recently organised a 3 day Conference titled CiSTUP@ CiSTUP between 18th – 20th October 2010 at J N Tata Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India.

The conference covered as many as 3 plenary sessions, technical sessions and a well laid out exhibition throughout all the days. A plethora of issues within the interdisciplinary and applied research domain of infrastructure, transportation and urban planning were meticulously presented, discussed and debated by the Session chairs, invited speakers, authors and audience. The Conference witnessed the participation of nearly 300 delegates representing various Indian and Foreign academic institutions, Indian Government departments, NGOs, multilateral agencies, consulting firms and the industry.

The plenary sessions were marked by eminent speakers from government, industry and academia. The opening keynote session had an impressive speaker list comprising of senior Indian bureaucrats – Mr. S.K. Lohia, Officer on Special Duty (Urban Transport) Ministry of Urban Development, GoI and Prof. Chandra Bhat, Dept. of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering University of Texas at Austin (USA). Other plenary session speakers included Prof. P. Mujumdar (IISc Bangalore), Prof. Ananth Ramaswamy (IISc, Bangalore), Prof. Dimitrios A. Tsamboulas (National Technical University of Athens, Greece) and Dr. Ashwin Mahesh (IIM Bangalore).

The technical sessions had a series of interesting deliberations on multitude of issues relating to present challenges, opportunities and practical solutions of urban planning, transportation and infrastructure development. A variety of perspectives emerging from a wide range of speakers across government, private and the development sector made for a good hearing and a unique learning experience. The broad spectrum of topics covered through these sessions was rightfully pertinent and suitably relevant to the present developmental needs of Government in India as well as abroad. Apart from this, some special sessions were conducted like video conference workshop with LCPC, France, which showcased OrbGIS, an open source GIS modelling, simulation and planning, measurement and estimation of road skid resistance and simulation of accident scenarios of two wheeled vehicles. Other special sessions were:-

- Building livable cities 2010 (Urban Vision Group)
- Water Infrastructure Session (Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology)
- Data Infrastructure Session (Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology)

Many of the sessions witnessed a thorough brainstorming among the audience and speakers. Accentuated with intriguing discussions, cross cutting issues of urban policy implementation and planning, along with the challenges and successful case studies across the world were openly shared and analysed. Questions, criticisms and appreciations flew thick and hard after each speaker presented his paper during question and answer period that involved the members of audience.
The exhibition of CISTUP@CiSTUP Conference brought different exhibitors from the government and industry, who showcased a range of products and services. The exhibitor list included Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, Lumiplan and Citilabs.

The conference was sponsored by BMTC, DST, KSRTC, BMRCL, CSIR, Lumiplan, CRRI, Citilabs, DULT and Ganjam Jewellers. (Few photos taken on the occasion are sent herewith.)