



ROADS INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Representing Uganda's Road Sector

RIC Issues sheet 1: July 2013

The Roads Industry Council: Representing Uganda's Road Sector

What is the RIC?

Uganda's Roads Industry Council (RIC) is a nine person advisory body for roads related policy and action in Uganda.

RIC began as an advisory body for CrossRoads (an international programme working to improve Uganda's road sector), but over time its role has evolved. Now the RIC focuses more on work to raise awareness of key issues in Uganda's road sector and to suggest the best ways to address them. This includes working to ensure that best bet options are heard by decision makers who can actually bring about change. The Council also still plays a role in guiding the CrossRoads programme on what areas in the country's road sector it should focus.

Who makes up the RIC?

Minister appointed

Appointed by the Minister of Transport, the members of the RIC are deliberately drawn from a wide cross section of Uganda's roads industry.

As a result, the RIC as a whole is well positioned to advise on issues from the point of view of contractors, civil society, and major government bodies like the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT), The Uganda Road Fund, and the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA).

Experts in their fields

The key point about the RIC members, however, is not what organisation each individual is currently connected to, but the large amount of experience each embodies in their own sector. Such levels of experience also mean that each member of the RIC has their own wide ranging network in the roads industry that they can call on to reach stakeholders and decision makers.

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The focus of the RIC

The first two years

Most of the RIC's work over its first 18 months of life focused on guiding the CrossRoads Programme as to what technical interventions to put in place and how to approach them.

Technical interventions

During this period, the RIC supported a range of ground breaking work designed to tackle different weaknesses in Uganda's road sector. Examples range from the development of a challenge fund to encourage Ugandan innovators to find better ways of tackling problems like erosion and roads safety, to 'guarantee funds' used to make it easier for Ugandan contractors to bid for and win roads contracts.

The members of the RIC

The members of the Council are S. Mutabazi (URSSI); Dr. F. Baziraake (URF) – Chairman; Eng. F. Lwanga (UACE); P. Mugerwa (Contractor); Eng. B. Ssebbugga-Kimeze (UNRA) – Vice Chairman; Dr. A. Mugisa (MoWT); E. Kikoni (Uganda Bankers Association); N. Byengoma (UNABCEC); and Dr. A. Mbabazi (UIPE).

The RIC and the CrossRoads Programme

The Roads Industry Council was formed early on in the CrossRoads Programme to act as (i) a guiding and advisory board for CrossRoads and (ii) as a Ugandan platform from which knowledgeable Ugandans can advocate for key changes to improve the road sector.

When forming the RIC, the intention was always to create something with an identity of its own and a life beyond CrossRoads. Currently the RIC sits as part of CrossRoads – which as a Programme will finish at the end of 2014. A key focus of both the RIC and CrossRoads, therefore, is to work to ensure that the Council becomes a self-sustaining body able to continue advising Uganda's road sector long into the future.

Evidence for advocacy

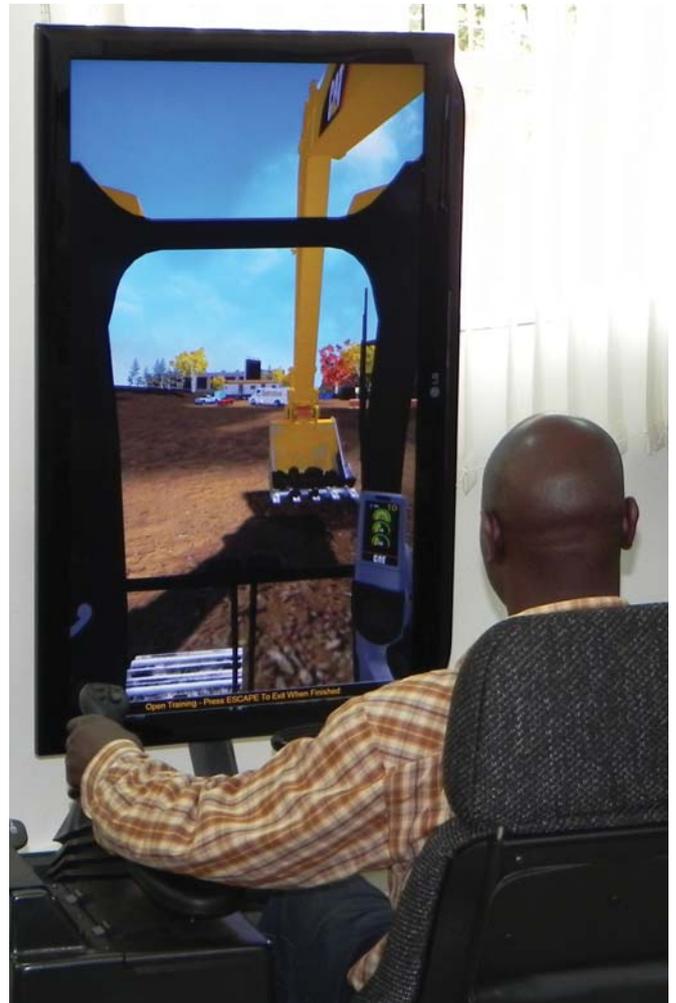
Not only is this work helping us to have an immediate impact, it's giving the RIC the information that they need for fact-based advocacy that will have a long term impact. A good example of this is the equipment survey run by CrossRoads after sign off by the RIC.

One of the largest and most detailed surveys of equipment ever run in Uganda, this intervention has shown that there is enough equipment available in the country to maintain Uganda's roads – the real problem is its distribution and use. This is just one example of concrete evidence building that RIC can base its advocacy work on in order to change the way that Uganda's road sector does business.

Looking ahead

Now that CrossRoads is well established and its technical interventions are well bedded in, the RIC is turning its attention to what is seen as its main roles: (i) raising awareness among the public, private and civil sectors of key problems in the road sector, and (ii) proposing the best ways to address them. CrossRoads continues to provide resources that can be used to commission research on particular issues when the RIC requires it.

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Contact us

To find out more about the RIC and what it does, please contact our Chairman:

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