



## Newsletter June 2009

### The Doctoral Students Group

The Swedish Postgraduate School in Intelligent Transportation Systems (NFITS) has been running since 2007 with a first group of nine doctoral students from six Swedish Universities with different research focus and educational background. Six of the doctoral students are financed within the frame of NFITS while the other three students have other funding. The cooperation within this initiative has shown to be very fruitful for the doctoral students as well as for the senior researchers. A brief presentation of the doctoral students is given below.

<b>Doctoral student, start</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Research area</b>
Gideon Mbiydzeyuy, 2008	Blekinge Institute of Technology	E-transactions
Åse Jevinger, 2009	Blekinge Institute of Technology	Transport and supply chains
Tor Skoglund, 2008	Chalmers University of Technology	Traveller information
Taline Jadaan, 2008	Dalarna University College	Traffic management
Jana Sochor, 2008	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Personal safety
Andreas Allström, 2009	Linköping University	Traffic management
Lars Backåker, 2009	Linköping University	Transport and supply chains
Annika Larsson, 2008	Lund University	Traffic safety
Omar Bagdadi, 2008	Lund University	Traffic safety



Photo: The majority of the doctoral students and senior researchers gathered during one of the first doctoral course seminars at Lund University, Spring 2009.

### Key events 2008-2009

One of the main tasks of the ITS Postgraduate School is to provide courses within the ITS area for doctoral students. The courses are primarily designed for and given to the students within the ITS Postgraduate School but they are also open to others at specific requests.

During 2008 and 2009 the courses *Introduction to ITS* and *Evaluation of ITS applications* have been given and during the fall of 2009 there will be additionally two other courses starting. The course seminars have not just gathered the doctoral students attending the course and the course leaders but also the supervisors have been active and taken part in the course activities, which has been highly appreciated by the doctoral students and important for the group to become strong and to achieve an inspiring research environment.

Several of the doctoral students were participating during the ITS World Congress 2008 in New York, USA. The doctoral students Gideon Mbiydzenyuy and Jana Sochor were also presenting their research projects and published one article each.

Mid-May 2009, the first Annual ITS Postgraduate School Conference took place in Smögen - a small very charming and popular fishing village on the West Coast of Sweden. The conference was held for two days where each doctoral student was presenting his/her research project which was followed by a group discussing of each project. During the conference dinner, the logotype of the ITS Postgraduate School was also launched. It was designed by Annika Larsson, one of the doctoral students from Lund University (see photo below).

Cooperation has been formed with Newcastle University and Prof. Phil Blythe. Prof. Blythe was also invited as a participant and lecturer at the conference in Smögen, see photo below. ITS UK has also initiated cooperation with ITS Postgraduate School, where the doctoral students have been invited to become members of ITS UK.

## Planned activities for 2009

The doctoral students have submitted total nine abstracts to the ITS World Congress 2009 in Stockholm, Sweden. Two new courses will start during the fall and additional information about this will be posted on the website (see below). The ITS Postgraduate School will also be presented at the Annual Swedish Transportation Conference (Transportforum 2010) in Linköping in January 2010 hosted by VTI.

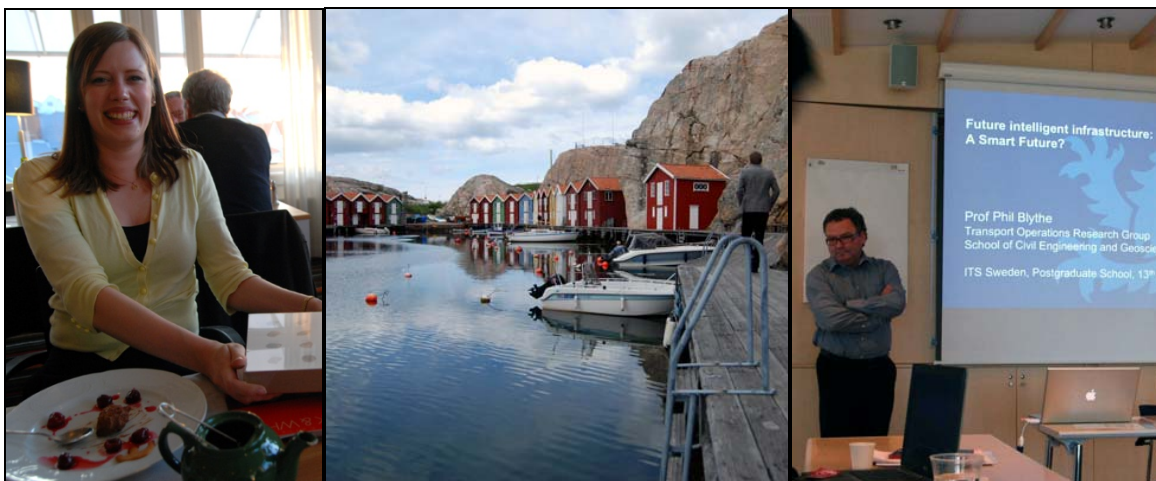


Photo: Left: Annika Larsson, doctoral student from Lund University receives during the conference dinner in Smögen (middle) a token of appreciation for designing the ITS Postgraduate School logotype. Right: Prof. Phil Blythe from Newcastle University was invited to the Smögen conference and gave a very inspiring lecture. Photos taken by Lars Backåker.

## About the Swedish ITS Postgraduate School

The area of Intelligent Transportation Systems and Services (ITS) is known to be multi-disciplinary where different areas of competence meet to achieve sustainable, safe and cost-effective traffic and transport systems. The research frontier in the ITS area has earlier primarily been divided according to the different disciplines while there has been a need for research projects and researchers which go beyond their specific domain with a wider perspective to address relevant issues in a larger context than before. Based on this need of a broaden multi-disciplinary research scope and in conjunction with the discussions of the organization of the ITS World Congress 2009 in Stockholm, the idea of a Swedish ITS Postgraduate School was formed by VINNOVA (The Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems), Banverket (The Swedish Rail Administration) and Vägverket (The Swedish Road Administration) together with ITS-Sweden, a number of Swedish companies and six Swedish universities (Blekinge Institute of Technology, Chalmers University of Technology, Dalarna University College, Lund University, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Linköping University). One of the main purposes of the ITS Postgraduate School is to provide for a good, multi-disciplinary research education based on the different areas of competence of the six universities and to initiate and run research projects highly relevant for the industry and the society defined in cooperation with the companies involved in the ITS Postgraduate School.

The coordinators for the ITS Postgraduate School is Prof. Jan Lundgren and Dr Johanna Törnquist Krasemann at Linköping University.

For more information about the ITS Postgraduate School or how to get in contact with us, please visit our website <http://its.wd6dev.se/Forskarskolan>.