



COMUNICAT DE PRESĂ

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"Ride Planet Earth" Press Release

Australian Cyclist Reaches Romania on way to Copenhagen Climate Talks

After setting off from Brisbane in August 2008 Kim Nguyen has reached Bucharest, just 2500km from his destination of Copenhagen by December 6

- Cyclists from Europe have begun to join Kim, making up the Cycle Change Convoy that is making its way towards Copenhagen spreading a call to action.
- Kim has so far cycled over 15000km through Australia and Asia in order to get to Copenhagen to tell the world's leader they must take action.
- Kim has set up Ride Planet Earth as he has been travelling, a series of simultaneous cycling actions happening all around the world on 6th Dec 09.
- The Ride Planet Earth event will send a message to governments, business and ordinary citizens that they can and must take action to stop dangerous climate change before its too late.



With only 2 months to go before the vital UN Climate Change negotiations begin in Copenhagen in December, 28 year old Australian, Kim Nguyen, continues his epic cycle journey to Denmark, having been on the road for over 1 year and covering over 15 000km.

Kim's journey began as a solo mission across the continents raising awareness about the impacts of climate change on the developing world. However, over the course of the past year, the journey has developed into a world wide campaign called "Ride Planet Earth", using cycling and sustainable transport events to call for governments, industry and ordinary citizens to take action to stop dangerous climate change.

The campaign will culminate on 6th Dec 2009, the day Kim will arrive in Copenhagen and the day before the negotiations begin. A series of simultaneous cycling events will taking place around the globe will show that ordinary people have the capacity and willingness to take action and call for the world's governments to take action as well.

Regarding the Copenhagen negotiations Kim Nguyen states, "If an agreement is not made that secures the necessary reductions in greenhouse emissions and the means to do so within a suitable time-frame, starting now, the current climate science shows the consequences for the planet will be devastating."



Kim's journey, now coined the "Cycle Change Convoy" as cyclists from across Europe have begun to join him, has taken him through scorching hot deserts, thick jungles of rain forest, the crowded streets of megacities, across giant volcanoes, freezing mountain ranges, through torrential downpours and against gale force winds. Kim has been hampered by broken parts, injuries and illness, and on more than one occasion needed to rely on the hospitality of locals to feed him, provide him with water and help him when lost. During his journey he has been hospitalized 3 times due to heat exhaustion, collapse and fever as well as suffering several falls, one that resulted in 5 stitches in his face. He has cycled through Northern Australia, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, China, Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and has now reached Romania. By the time he reaches Denmark he will have crossed 20 different countries.

Kim states, **"Everyone can have a positive impact and help change come faster. For example you can join the Ride Planet Earth Challenge and ensure at least 25km of your weekly travel is environmentally friendly. This is part of the cycle change we need, to change the way our society interacts with our natural environment, to address climate change in the short and long term."**

Kim hopes that by raising awareness of the current impacts of climate change on some of the world's most vulnerable communities more people will be motivated to act faster. "Throughout the places I have travelled the evidence is clear that climate change is having an impact. Indigenous communities in remote Australia are highly vulnerable to extreme weather. Heat increases and changes in the timing of the monsoon in East Timor, Indonesia, Laos and Thailand have devastated much of the past 3 years of crop yields, making many communities reliant on foreign food aid. Rising sea levels will soon affect many of the smaller islands in Indonesia and the South Pacific. Many rural communities in China face drought and severe water shortages. Water is becoming scarcer in Mongolia and Kazakhstan. These impacts will only worsen if as a global community we cannot reduce global warming."



Links:

Videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64Tz0ZVQDrw>

Photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/rideplanetearth/TheRidePlanetEarthPhotoAlbum?feat=directlink>

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In Romania, Kim met with George CULDA – President of the bateSaua Association and Vice-President of the Romanian Bicyclists' Federation, with Ioana Betianu – Communications Officer WWF Romania, with

Mr. Cristian Lascu, Managing Editor at National Geographic Romania and with the Romanian Minister of Culture, at a public event hosted by the Ministry of Culture at the Romanian Atheneum.

Despre Asociația BATE ȘAUA SĂ PRICEAPĂ IAPA :

Misiunea noastră: ... Implicarea activa în promovarea prin mijloace de comunicare conventionala si ne-conventionala a oricarei forme de turism în sa, cu precadere cele 100% ecologice, adica cel pe bicicleta sau pe cal.

Obiectivele Asociației "BATE SAUA SA PRICEAPA IAPA":.. Schimbarea mentalității cetățenilor României cu privire la utilitatea bicicletei în scopuri utilitare, turistice sau sportive.

Activitățile organizației "BATE SAUA SA PRICEAPA IAPA":

Asociația BATE SAUA SA PRICEAPA IAPA a elaborat o **nouă** strategie în *patru directii* pentru a **dezvolta cultura bicicletei în mediul urban**. Aceste direcții se materializează în patru programe distincte, interconectate:

1. "Cu bicicleta la școală" – program destinat tinerilor în mod direct, părinților și profesorilor în mod indirect;
2. "Cu bicicleta la serviciu" – program destinat adulților, angajatori și angajați;
3. "Cu bicicleta la cumpărături" – program destinat adulților, factorilor de decizie din marile lanțuri de hypermarket-uri și mall-uri
4. "Cu bicicleta la muzeu" – program destinat copiilor, tinerilor și adulților, dar și factorilor de decizie din administrația locală.

În 2007, 2008, au fost inițiate campaniile:

- "VELORUȚIA. O REVOLUȚIE PE DOUĂ ROȚI" – campanie de sensibilizare a ROMÂNILOR pentru încurajarea utilizării bicicletei
- "VELORUȚIA NAȚIONALĂ" – program de promovare, informare și colaborare la nivelul autorităților centrale și locale în patru orașe ale țării (București, Târgu Mureș, Cluj Napoca și Reșița)
- "HARTA VELO" – program de colectare, prelucrare și prezentare a tuturor punctelor de interes pentru bicicliști în orașul București, materializând două situri informative: www.hartavelo.ro și www.velomap.ro

GeoBateȘaua

- Presedinte Asociația « BATE SAUA SA PRICEAPA IAPA »
- Vice-Presedinte FEDERATIA BICICLISTILOR DIN ROMANIA

BATE ȘAUA SĂ PRICEAPĂ IAPA este o organizație nonprofit înscrisă în Registrul Asociațiilor și Fundațiilor sub nr. **61 din 15.07.2004**.

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Donățiile sunt binevenite!

Puteți face donația într-unul din conturile asociației BATE ȘAUA SĂ PRICEAPĂ IAPA:

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BATE ȘAUA SĂ PRICEAPĂ IAPA este afiliată la Coaliția Națională PROVELO și membra fondatoare a FEDERATIEI BICICLIȘTILOR DIN ROMANIA