

imi

One of Popular Mechanics' Top 10
Innovations of 2008



(Photograph by Jose Mandojana)

Next Generation Award

INTELLIGENT MOBILITY INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR

Innovators: Rudy Roy, Ben Sexson, Daniel Oliver, Charles Pyott

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imi

Innovation. Mobility. Empowerment.



TRANSITIONS



● Art Center College of Design



INDIS

imi believes that mobility is a human right.

The initiative was founded as a 501(c)3 nonprofit to empower the 20 million people who need wheelchairs in developing countries. imi creates design partnerships with local wheelchair users to design and distribute the highest quality wheelchairs and mobility devices. imi believes people with disabilities are a tremendous source of innovation and inspiration. They hold within themselves the keys to mobility and self-sufficiency. imi provides the door to opportunity. The results are a new population of empowered individuals who can live lives free from disease, poverty, and exclusion from society.

The Imperative: design wheelchairs with people who use them.



imi : a fresh approach



The Philosophy: everyone deserves a quality mobility device.

imi believes that mobility devices are only truly valuable if they are quality products that can be easily and inexpensively repaired. imi is building an integrated system to capture the long term value its products bring to its clients.

imi addresses the tremendous shortage in appropriate mobility devices by working to scale their production to the tens of thousands annually while maintaining the tenants of good design and local repairability.



Bearings in the front casters can be replaced in any bicycle shop.



Bicycle hubs are used in the rear wheels.



The Product: appropriate for the context. locally repairable.

imi's first product is a light, foldable wheelchair designed with the Transitions Foundation in Antigua, Guatemala. It captures the concept of "appropriate design" by using solid frames and bike tires that easily negotiate the rough terrain found in developing countries. Its bicycle bearings, hubs, and tires, are easy to find and replace at any bicycle shop.

